



Parks and Recreation Board Agenda

Department of Public Services

851 South Eton-Conference Room

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

6:30 PM

I. Call to order

II. Approval of the minutes of : Tuesday, March 7, 2017 (*regular meeting*)

III. Agenda Items-Written and submitted by 5pm Monday at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, one week prior to the meeting.

1. Naming Contest Free Little Library for Barnum Park
 - a. Naming Contest Finalists
 - b. Naming Contest Winner

IV. Communications/Discussion Items

1. Springdale Shelter Concrete Project (*verbal*)
2. Proposed 2017-2018 Capital Projects
3. The City Commission Budget Session will be held on Saturday, April 22nd at 8:30 am at City Hall Commission Room
4. City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board Roster
5. Pickleball Request Received March 21, 2017
6. Articles
 - a) Vinsetta Garage owner's new bistro plans move forward
 - b) Duggan official: Detroit should sell golf courses
7. Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Solicit Contractual Services
8. Upcoming Department Events:
 - a) DPS Open House-Saturday, May 13, 2017 (10am-2pm)
 - b) 2017 Rouge River Day Clean-Up-Saturday, May 20, 2017 (9am-12pm)
 - c) City of Birmingham Ice Show
 - Friday, May 19th (7:00 pm), Saturday, May 20th (7:00 pm)
 - Sunday, May 21st (2:00 pm)

V. Unfinished Business

VI. New Business

VII. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda

VIII. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 2, 2017(DPS)

IX. Adjournment

Individuals requiring accommodations, such as interpreter services, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 at least one day in advance of the public meeting.

Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública.
(Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

If you cannot attend the meetings, please contact Connie Folk at the Birmingham Ice Arena (248) 530-1642.

Minutes are available for review at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2300 East Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

We the Parks & Recreation Board of Birmingham will help other organizations and agencies to plan and share family activities in helping to prevent the desires and need to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco by providing recreational programs for all ages, and to encourage recreational life styles.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2017

Therese Longe, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at 851 S. Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross, Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Meehan and Art Stevens

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Ben Gould, Groves Student
Joey Kummer, Seaholm Student

ADMINISTRATION: Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager

GUESTS: Nasseem Kamin, Margaret Kowal, Cindy Rose and John Rusche

Therese welcomed Ben Gould from Groves High School and Joey Kummer from Seaholm High School to the Parks and Recreation Board.

It was moved by Bill Wiebrecht, seconded by Ross Kaplan that the minutes of the February 7, 2017 regular meeting be approved.

Yeas – 5 Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross, Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

Absent-2 John Meehan and Art Stevens

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Trail Connection Location-Lower Baldwin

Lauren stated that this a follow-up to the original report from the July 12, 2016 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on porous pave trail connection at Lower Baldwin.

Lauren stated that Community Development Department has been reviewing crosswalk options including trail connectivity for W. Maple Road at this designated location and in turn evaluated possible alternatives for trail connections.

Lauren stated that Lauren Chapman, Assistant City of Birmingham Planner has looked into options to connect the Quarton Lake Trail (north of Maple) and the Linden Park Trail (south of Maple) across West Maple Road.

Carrie reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the proposed location for the proposed application for the use of porous pave at Lower Baldwin.

Lauren stated that the Parks Board should determine the preferred alignment of trail connections from the public sidewalk to the trail networks, both north and south of W. Maple.

Bill Wiebrecht stated that it has been about ten years since there has been discussion on installing a pedestrian bridge to allow for the crossing Maple Road.

Ross Kaplan suggested on shifting the trail on the north side of Maple Road

Carrie reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the Trail Connection –North and South of Maple report that was prepared by Lauren Chapman, City of Birmingham Assistant Planner. Lauren Chapman provided four different options of bridges and all would be ramps. Carrie stated that costs were also provided in the report.

Carrie stated that another option would be an at-grade crossing island on W. Maple Road at Baldwin Road and could be constructed to allow safe pedestrian crossing for trail users between the Quarton and Linden trails. Such a crossing island is estimated to cost approximately \$50,000.

Carrie stated that the crossing island would be affordable, accessible, and consistent with the MMTP. Crossing islands would be beneficial for pedestrians and cyclists.

Therese stated that the location shown is the only feasible location that considers existing guard rails, turning movements, and sight distance issues.

Therese stated that location also conflicts with the turning movements to an existing driveway on the south side of the street and if the City wishes to pursue this option, it is suggested that some form of driveway relocation agreeable to the homeowner would be required.

Therese asked when would the Parks and Recreation Board determine the preferred alignment of trail connections from the public sidewalk to the trail networks, both north and south of West Maple.

Lauren stated that there has not been a time table set for the pedestrian crossing.

It was moved by Lilly Stotland, seconded by Bill Wiebrecht to endorse and support the Planning Department recommendation for an at-grade pedestrian crossing on W. Maple Road just west of Baldwin Road. Further, to support pursuing the trail connection south of Maple Road from the sidewalk to the bridge at Lower Baldwin modifying the original July 12, 2016 staff proposal to a westerly connection.

Yeas – 5 Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross, Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht
Nays – 0
Absent-2 John Meehan and Art Stevens

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS #1-2017 Student Appointments For The Parks and Recreation Board

Lauren provided to the Parks and Recreation Board information on the 2017 student appointments to City of Birmingham Boards and Commissions.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2- City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board Roster

Lauren provided the updated City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board Roster that includes the student representatives.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3- Invasive Species Removal Update

Carrie stated over the past several years, DPS has coordinated invasive species removal work in park areas throughout the city.

Carrie stated that this spring at Barnum Park, the “no-mow” natural areas have been infected with invasive Canada thistle and invasive clover, this was a monumental problem last year especially. Carrie stated that a contractor that specializes in prescribed burns, David Borneman, was consulted and advised that Barnum is a good candidate for a “burn”.

Carrie stated that a notification letter will be sent to the neighbors and Homeowners Association presidents. The Birmingham Fire Department is aware of this project and will have a truck assigned to monitor the burn. David Borneman’s personnel come equipped with safety equipment and water tanks as well.

Carrie stated that the department looks forward to a positive results from prescribed burning and hopes to expand this program in the future to other natural areas in the City including Quarton Lake and Booth Park.

Cindy Rose stated that the prescribed burn is an excellent idea.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4-Media release For the Naming Contest of the Free Little Library at Barnum Park

Carrie stated that the notice is out and the office will be receiving entries until March 27, 2017.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5-Communication received from Phyllis Clark regarding Donation from Marshall Lasser-Basalt Stones Installation at Quarton Lake

Lauren stated that a communication was received from Phyllis Clark in support of the donation from Marshall Lasser.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6-The City Commission Budget Session will be held on Saturday, April 22nd

Lauren stated to the Parks and Recreation Board the City Commission Budget session date and time.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7a-DPS Open House-Saturday, May 13, 2017 (10am-2pm)

Lauren stated to the Parks and Recreation Board the DPS Open House date and time.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7b-2017 Rouge River Day Clean-Up-Saturday, May 20, 2017 (9am-12pm)

Lauren stated to the Parks and Recreation Board the 2017 Rouge River Clean-Up information.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7c-City of Birmingham Ice Show

Lauren stated to the Parks and Recreation Board the 2017 City of Birmingham Ice Show information.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Therese stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 6:30 pm at DPS.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting 3/7/2017



NAME THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Fall of 2016 the owl flew from its perch at Barnum Park for the winter. In early spring it shall be returning to its perch on the southeast corner of Barnum Park.

The City of Birmingham is looking to give the owl a name that will house books for all ages to "take a book or to leave a book".
Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share.

The City of Birmingham Department of Public Services in cooperation with the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board is now accepting name submissions for "The Little Free Library" located at: Barnum Park, 746 Purdy

All entries must be submitted by mail or in person to the City of Birmingham Department of Public Services, Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager, 851 South Eton, Birmingham, MI 48009

Entries will be accepted February 27, 2017 – March 17, 2017

Contestant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Current Birmingham School Attending: _____
(If Applicable)

Current Grade: _____
(If Applicable)

Contact Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Little Free Library Name Entry: _____

Explanation of Name Choice: _____

The City of Birmingham Department of Public Services in cooperation with the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board is now accepting name submissions for "The Little Free Library" located at: Barnum Park, 746 Purdy

Contest Rules

- All entries must be submitted by mail or in person on an official entry form to the City of Birmingham Department of Public Services. Forms are available at the City of Birmingham Department of Public Services office or online: www.bhamgov.org
Mailing information: City of Birmingham Department of Public Services
Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
851 South Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
- Entries will be accepted February 27, 2017 – March 17, 2017.
- Contestants must be residents of the City of Birmingham or a student of the Birmingham School District and may be of any age. City of Birmingham employees and their immediate family members are ineligible. City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board members and City Commission members and their immediate family members are also ineligible.
- Suggestions for the Little Free Library name must not infringe on any trademarks or licensed products.
- If more than one person submits the name chosen by the Parks and Recreation Board, a random drawing of the duplicate entries will determine the Grand Prize winner.

Selection Process

- The City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board will select three finalists for the "Little Free Library" and then will select the winning name for the "Little Free Library".
- The "Little Free Library's" name and contest winner will be announced at the Tuesday, April 11, 2017 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.
- The Contest Winner's Name will be placed on a plaque that will be installed on the "Little Free Library" located at Barnum Park.



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: April 3, 2017
TO: Parks and Recreation Board Members
FROM: Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services
SUBJECT: Capital Projects for 2017-2018 - Proposed

As part of the budget process, the Department of Public Services submits proposed budget requests for the upcoming fiscal years to the City Manager. These are recommended expenditures and may not become part of the final budget. The Capital Improvement Project items for budget years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 are listed below. These are items over and above regular department operational expenditures.

2017-2018

\$15,000 Barnum Park Soccer Field Improvement
\$20,000 Barnum Ball Field Improvement
\$25,000 Drinking Fountains - Parks
\$25,000 Trail & Mile Markers
\$35,000 Benches/Trash Receptacles/Bike Racks Downtown Streetscape

2018-2019

\$25,000 Trail & Mile Markers
\$25,000 Drinking Fountains - Parks
\$35,000 Benches/Trash Receptacles/Bike Racks Downtown Streetscapes
\$30,000 New Backstops (St. James and Poppleton)

2019-2020

\$25,000 Drinking Fountains – Parks
\$600,000 Rouge River Pedestrian Bridge
\$35,000 Benches/Trash Receptacles/Bike Racks Downtown Streetscapes

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Article II, Section 78

Objectives: The Parks and Recreation Board shall promote a recreation program and a park development program for the City. The Board shall recommend to the city commission for adoption such rules and regulations pertaining to the conduct and use of parks and public grounds as are necessary to administer the same and to protect public property and the safety, health, morals, and welfare of the public.

Seven members, Three-year Terms, Appointed by the City Commission

Members must be electors of the City of Birmingham

Meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

| Last Name | First Name | Home Business E-Mail | Appointed | Term Expires |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Gould 816 S. Bates | Ben | (248) 396-0007 <i>bengould723@gmail.com</i> | 2/27/2017 Student Representative | 12/31/2017 |
| Kaplan 635 Oak | Ross | (248) 645-6526 <i>rkaplan@neumannsmith.com</i> | 10/22/2007 | 3/13/2020 |
| Kummer 592 Oakland | Joseph | (248) 792-7136 <i>jkummer2327@gmail.com</i> | 2/27/2017 Student Representative | 12/31/2017 |
| Longe 1253 Yosemite | Therese | (248) 258-6744 (313) 745-0138 <i>tmquattro@gmail.com</i> | 3/29/2004 Chairperson | 3/13/2019 |

| Last Name Home Address | First Name | Home Business E-Mail | Appointed | Term Expires |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Meehan 656 Chester | John | (248) 644-5923 <i>john.meehan@att.net</i> | 3/18/2002 Vice Chairperson | 3/13/2020 |
| Ross 1872 Derby | Ryan | (248) 705-6465 <i>ryan.countryside@gmail.com</i> | 5/21/2012 | 3/13/2018 |
| Stevens 1243 Ruffner | Raymond | (248) 514-3740 <i>art2953@gmail.com</i> | 4/15/1996 | 3/13/2018 |
| Stotland 698 Hanna | Lilly | (248) 433-3148 <i>lstotland@vescooil.com</i> | 12/7/2015 | 3/13/2019 |
| Wiebrecht 1714 Torry | William | (248) 703-6503 <i>whw989@wowway.com</i> | 10/14/1991 | 3/13/2018 |

PICKLEBALL in BIRMINGHAM

Proposed pickleball facilities in Birmingham. Revised 3/9/17

Birmingham is rich in leisure activity opportunities with a 26 public parks plus Quarton Lake and the woodchip path along the Rouge River. Sport/recreation areas, in addition to school property that is open to the public, include baseball/softball diamonds, Ice Arena, skate park, two 9-hole golf courses, 16 tennis courts, Birmingham Racquet Club, Forest Hills Swim Club, fitness clubs/gyms, NEXT and even a dog park.

.Pickleball is a fast growing racquet sport that combines skills of platform & traditional tennis, played on a 20x44 foot court using a paddle & plastic whiffle ball. Origin of the name is debated! The national pickleball association is USAPA & the local group is SMPA, Southwest Michigan Pickleball Association which started in Royal Oak.

Beverly Hills, Rochester, Troy, Royal Oak & other communities have either or both outdoor & indoor pickleball courts. Birmingham has one pickleball court open to the public at NEXT in a gym shared with a grade school so access is limited. The Ice Arena offered courts Jun 1 thru Aug 1. These temporary courts are greatly appreciated, but do not address the need for all-season courts.

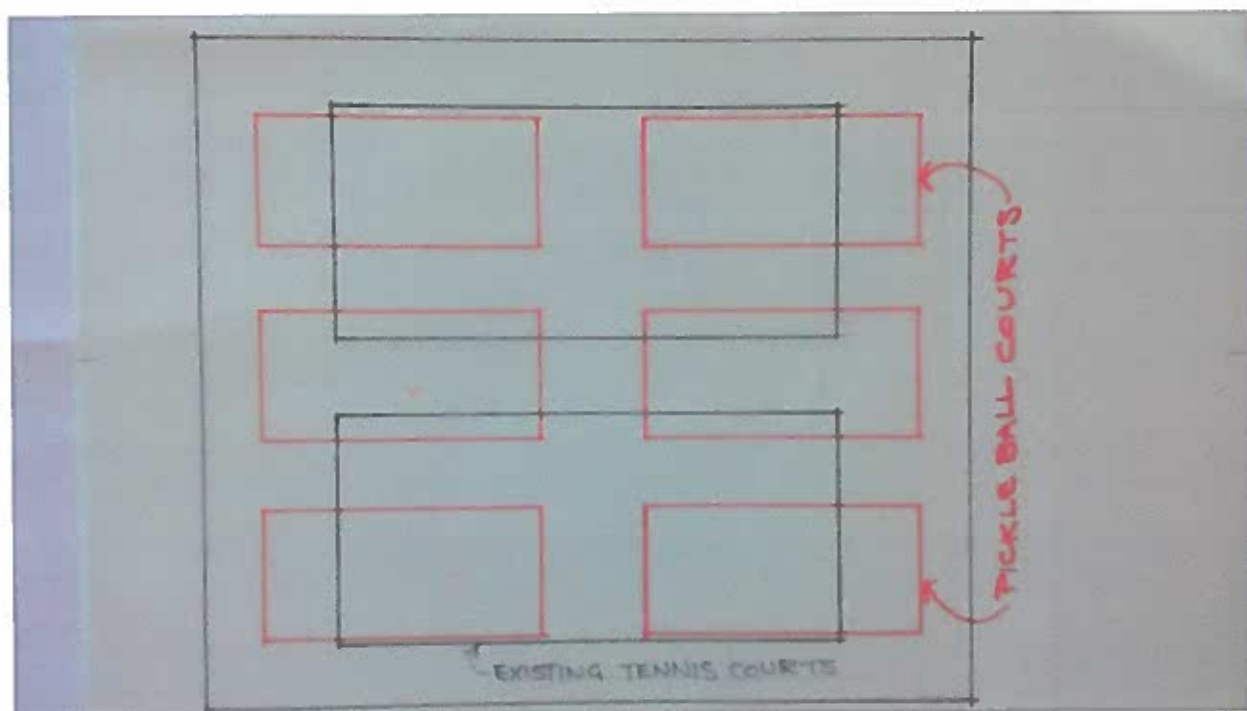
Existing tennis courts at Oak Blvd & Glenhurst Drive.

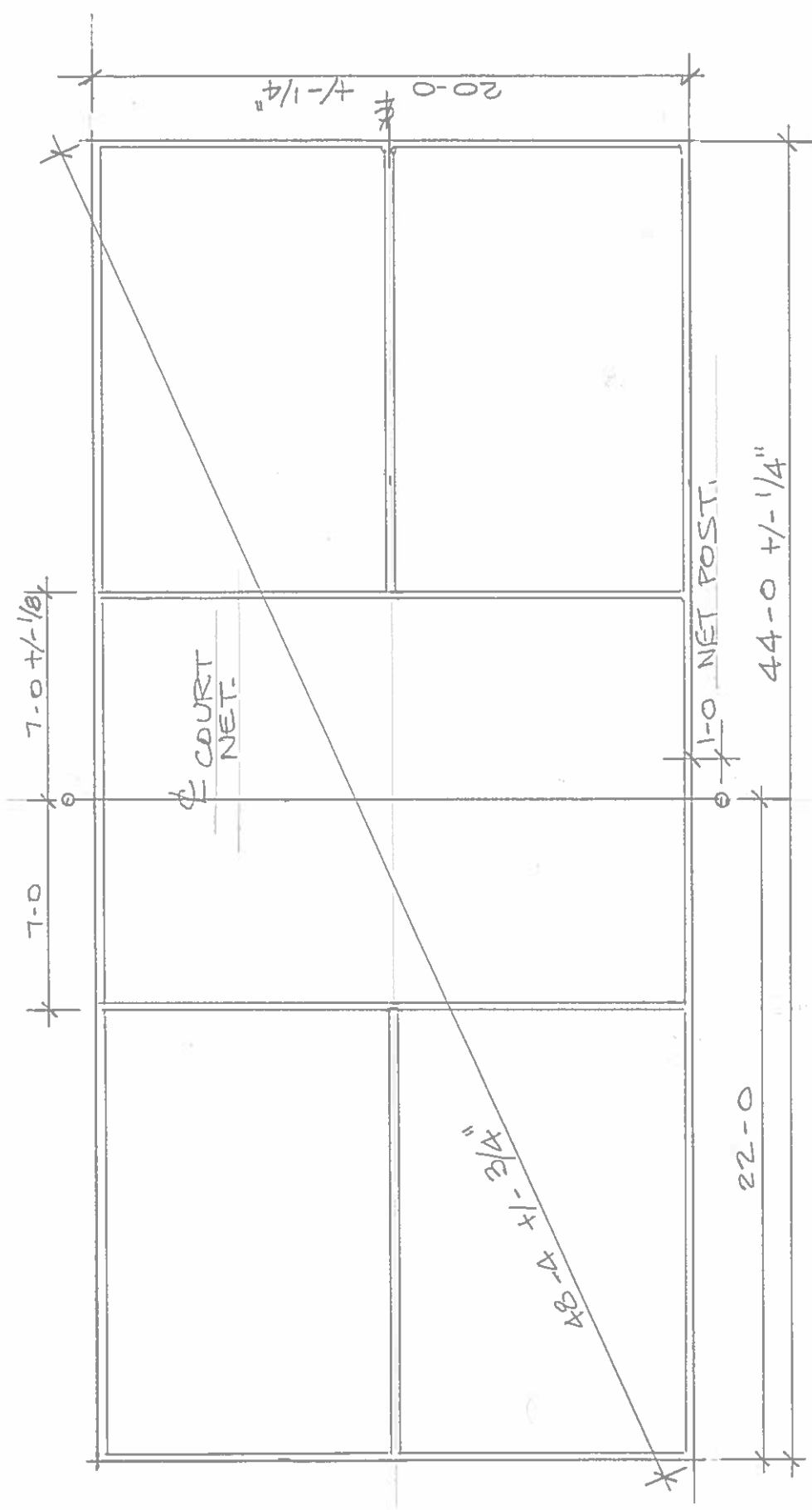
The most cost-effective method is to convert this existing 2-court tennis surface into a 6-court pickleball venue.

Remove tennis nets, repair the freeze-damaged playing surface as required, paint over lines on playing surface, add pickleball lines, posts & nets. Tennis net posts can be pulled from their sockets & posts inserted into those sockets to support a low fence to separate pickleball courts.

Ample street parking is available. A water fountain is on site.

Exterior fencing is perfect for pickleball. This conversion will permit a potential of 24 pickleball players v 8 for tennis.





DIMENSIONS INCLUSIVE OF LINES. 3/16" = 1-0
 LINE WIDTH 2"
 NET HEIGHT 36" AT POSTS 34" AT CENTER.

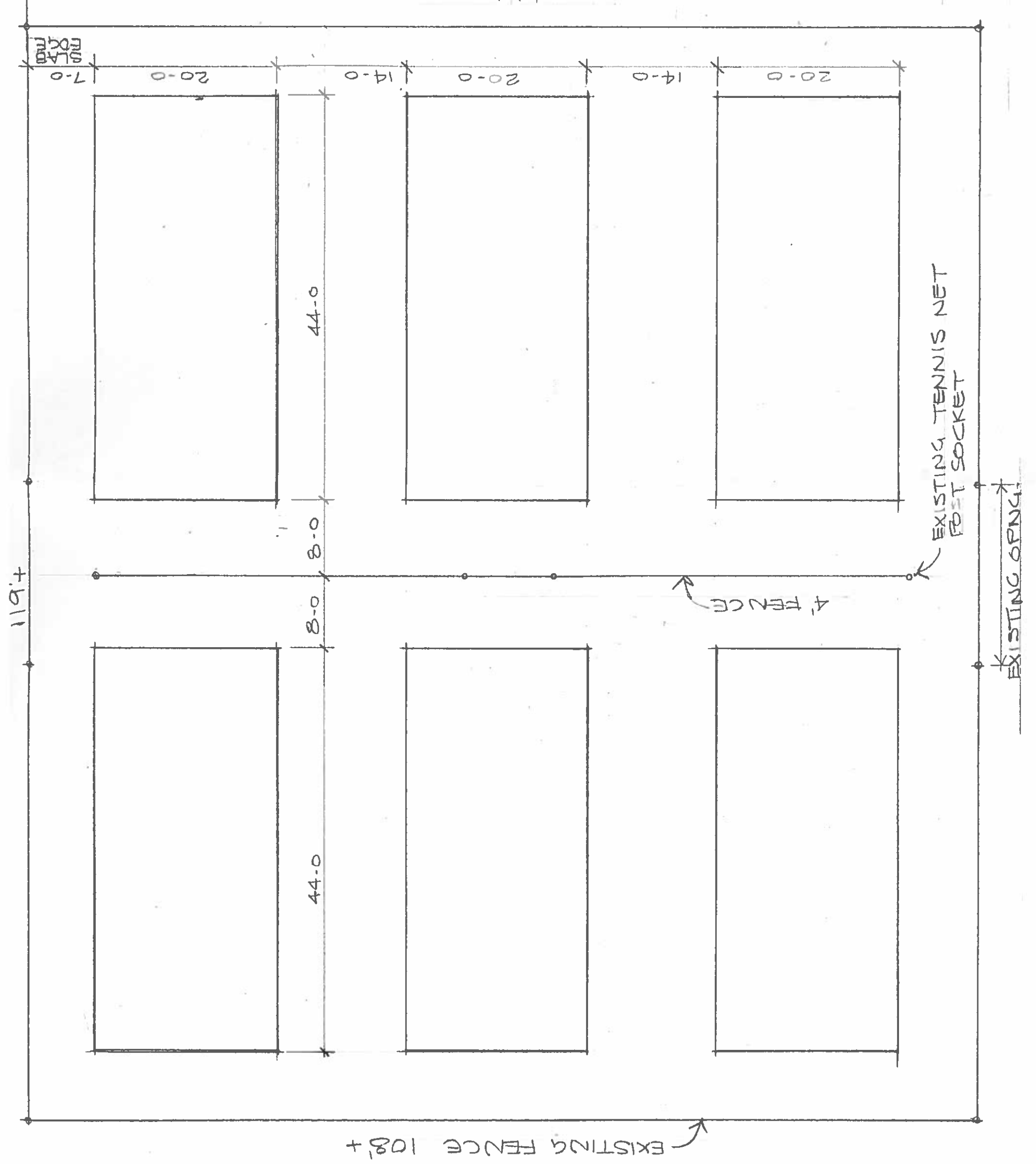
TYPICAL PICKLEBALL COURT
 PER USAPA

3/11/17 OZ FORRESTER



PROPOSED
PICKLE BALL
COURTS ON EXISTING
TENNIS SURFACE
AT GLENHURST &
OAK BLVD.

OZ FORRESTER
3/10/17
3/32=1-0



Vinsetta Garage owner's new bistro plans move forward

Jay Grossman, hometownlife.com

2:49 p.m. ET March 10, 2017



(Photo: Krieger/Klatt Architects)

Restaurateur Curt Catallo is aiming for something big, bold and gritty with his plans to open a new bistro called Lincoln Yard in Birmingham's Rail District.

Catallo, owner of the wildly successful [Vinsetta Garage](http://vinsettagarage.com/) (<http://vinsettagarage.com/>) in Berkley, along with the [Union Woodshop](http://www.unionwoodshop.com/) (<http://www.unionwoodshop.com/>) in Clarkston and the [Fenton Fire Hall](http://www.fentonfirehall.com/) (<http://www.fentonfirehall.com/>), is planning to refurbish a former school bus garage at 2159 Lincoln Road and convert it into a neighborhood bistro.

The project received unanimous site plan approval Wednesday at the Birmingham planning board meeting, and is now slated to go before the city commission in late April for final approval.

"If it's anything like Vinsetta Garage, you know they're going to be lining up at the door," planning board member Robin Boyle said of the project. "I see this as a game-changer."

The Rail District in Birmingham extends along Eton Street from Lincoln to Maple roads. It's one of the fastest-growing areas in Birmingham, with new condos and businesses popping up each week. The district is home to Big Rock Chophouse and [Griffin Claw microbrewery](http://www.griffinclawbrewingcompany.com/) (<http://www.griffinclawbrewingcompany.com/>), along with the popular Whistle Stop diner.

But it's lacking a true bistro.

"This is exactly what we're looking for in this area," planning board member Stuart Jeffares said. "You have the ice rink and ball fields across the street ... and there's plenty of parking in the area."

Read more:

[Michigan's newest hamburger joint is a classic](http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/2017/02/02/michigans-newest-hamburger-joint-classic/97383454/)

[\(http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/2017/02/02/michigans-newest-hamburger-joint-classic/97383454/\)](http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/2017/02/02/michigans-newest-hamburger-joint-classic/97383454/)

[Northville Township Papa Vinos, two others, bid addio](http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/2017/02/28/northville-township-papa-vinos-two-others-bid-addio/98356426/)

[\(http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/2017/02/28/northville-township-papa-vinos-two-others-bid-addio/98356426/\)](http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/2017/02/28/northville-township-papa-vinos-two-others-bid-addio/98356426/)

[Vinsetta Garage owner proposes Birmingham bistro](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKFwjxNG-t8zSAhXs34MKHVMACsQQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hometownlife.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2F2016%2F10%2F13%2Fvin-garage-owner-proposes-bistro-birmingham%2F91975756%2F&usg=AFQjCNF2s8bRpB1rtFZEFaqBff2i0WsvyQ)

[\(https://www.google.com/url?](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKFwjxNG-t8zSAhXs34MKHVMACsQQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hometownlife.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2F2016%2F10%2F13%2Fvin-garage-owner-proposes-bistro-birmingham%2F91975756%2F&usg=AFQjCNF2s8bRpB1rtFZEFaqBff2i0WsvyQ)

[sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKFwjxNG-](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKFwjxNG-t8zSAhXs34MKHVMACsQQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hometownlife.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2F2016%2F10%2F13%2Fvin-garage-owner-proposes-bistro-birmingham%2F91975756%2F&usg=AFQjCNF2s8bRpB1rtFZEFaqBff2i0WsvyQ)

[t8zSAhXs34MKHVMACsQQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hometownlife.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2F2016%2F10%2F13%2Fvin-](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKFwjxNG-t8zSAhXs34MKHVMACsQQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hometownlife.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2F2016%2F10%2F13%2Fvin-garage-owner-proposes-bistro-birmingham%2F91975756%2F&usg=AFQjCNF2s8bRpB1rtFZEFaqBff2i0WsvyQ)

[garage-owner-proposes-bistro-](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKFwjxNG-t8zSAhXs34MKHVMACsQQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hometownlife.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2F2016%2F10%2F13%2Fvin-garage-owner-proposes-bistro-birmingham%2F91975756%2F&usg=AFQjCNF2s8bRpB1rtFZEFaqBff2i0WsvyQ)

[birmingham%2F91975756%2F&usg=AFQjCNF2s8bRpB1rtFZEFaqBff2i0WsvyQ\)](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKFwjxNG-t8zSAhXs34MKHVMACsQQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hometownlife.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2F2016%2F10%2F13%2Fvin-garage-owner-proposes-bistro-birmingham%2F91975756%2F&usg=AFQjCNF2s8bRpB1rtFZEFaqBff2i0WsvyQ)

Catallo told the board this is his first project in Birmingham, and he's aiming to develop and design the restaurant in a way that fits in with the gritty character of the Rail District, which was once considered the industrial part of Birmingham. He's even planning to line the roof with shipping containers.

"It has the industrial backbone that we want to celebrate," he said about the project.

Each year, the Birmingham City Commission can award a maximum of two bistro licenses, which allows a restaurant to obtain a Class C liquor license from the state. To qualify as a bistro, a restaurant must have no more than 65 seats indoors, plus seasonal outdoor dining and a full-service kitchen.

What separates Lincoln Yard from the other bistros in Birmingham are the 132 outdoor seats that Catallo is proposing. In comparison, the Townhouse in downtown Birmingham currently has the largest outdoor dining section with 76 seats.

Planning Board member Janelle Boyce even suggested that Catallo might want to cut down on the outdoor seating, which will be located in the front and rear and on the rooftop of the building.

"I think this is great and I think it's going to do really well," Boyce said. "But by far this is the biggest bistro we're going to have ... the idea of a bistro is a smaller establishment — and this isn't it."

But overall, the planning board thinks the project is a critical element in activating the south end of the Rail District, along with offering more dining choices in the area.

The two other projects vying for the second bistro license are Whole Foods Market that's going up at 2100 E. Maple Road, along with an Asian-style restaurant called Adachi that's being proposed for the historic 1878 Peabody Mansion at 325 S. Old Woodward.

Both projects have merit: the Whole Foods proposal is unique in the sense it incorporates a bistro inside a traditional big-box store, while Adachi would activate the unoccupied Peabody Mansion, which is on a visible corner in the heart of the downtown.

jgrossman@hometownlife.com

[Fullscreen](#)

586-826-7030

Birmingham's Peabody Mansion

Twitter: @BhmEccentric

Read or Share this story: <http://www.hometownlife.com/story/life/food/2017/03/10/vinsetta-garage-owners-new-bistro-plans-move-forward/99010302/>

\$360 SAVINGS

OVER TWO YEARS

Internet 100

+ Cable

SHOW ME SAVINGS!

WOW! 

Certain restrictions apply. Offer subject to change. ©2017 WideOpenWest Finance, LLC.

Duggan official: Detroit should sell golf courses

Christine Ferretti, The Detroit News

5:17 p.m. ET March 14, 2017



(Photo: Detroit News file photo)

Detroit — A top official with the Duggan administration said he's hoping to get the post-bankrupt city out of the golf business and rid itself of its four municipal courses.

Charlie Beckham, who oversees recreation as group executive for the city's Department of Neighborhoods, said city officials should study the prospect of unloading at least some of the courses as interest and investment in them have declined in recent years.

"It's just not a profitable business to be in. Bankruptcy has forced us to look at those kinds of activities for the city that are not servicing a large portion of the population," Beckham said. "It's hard to justify."

If Detroit did opt to sell, the process would require Detroit City Council approval and it wouldn't be simple. Two city courses — Rackham in Huntington Woods and Palmer Park — have deed restrictions that require permanent use of the sites as golf courses, he said.

A survey last year found the city would need to pour \$5-6 million to get all the courses, which also include Rouge Park and Chandler Park, into proper shape.

In the interim, the administration sought bids for a short-term management contract to tend the courses and run them. The City Council rejected the proposal Tuesday by a 6-3 vote, citing concern over the short duration of the deal, conditions at the courses and a lack of specifics on what the city intends to do with them longer term.

The one-year agreement was slated to go to Robert James Golf, a firm that's part of Oakland Township-based Vargo Golf Co. Vargo has held the management contract for the city's courses for the last six years, and most recently has been working under a one-year agreement with Detroit that expires later this month.

The courses typically open in April, but without a contract, the fate of this season is uncertain.

"We're going to try to figure something out, but right now that's the status," Beckham said.

A similar controversy over management of the courses erupted last year when a plan for a 10-year agreement was ultimately scrapped. The administration instead put forward a one-year extension with Vargo to ensure the courses would be open on time.

"It's like fool us twice, and we're the fool," said Councilman Gabe Leland, who pressed for a longer agreement to guarantee investment in the city's courses. "I don't know why we are back here again kicking the can down the road. It's the golfers that lose out at the end of the day."

Councilman Andre Spivey said council already gave the administration a year to evaluate potential course sales or future improvements.

"This is not an acceptable operation of city government," he said. "We had plenty of time to do this, guys. You dropped the ball."

Get your first 3 months of **the trusted Detroit News** for

50% OFF
TRUTH. LIGHT. FACTS.

UNLOCK MY SAVINGS
([HTTP://OFFERS.DETROITNEWS.COM/SPECIALOFFER?](http://offers.detroitnews.com/specialoffer?GPS-SOURCE=BEAGILMARCH&UTM_MEDIUM=OVERLAY&UTM_SOURCE=EXCHANGE&UTM_CAMPAIGN=MARCH&UTM_CONTENT=AGILITYZ)
GPS-
SOURCE=BEAGILMARCH&UTM_MEDIUM=OVERLAY&UTM_SOURCE=
EXCHANGE&UTM_CAMPAIGN=MARCH&UTM_CONTENT=AGILITYZ

Tuesday's outcome is like déjà vu for the city's courses. All four were shuttered for several months prior to last year's season as officials worked on a resolution to concerns over the prior management proposal.

The council ultimately approved a short-term deal with Vargo that restored management of the courses last March. The existing agreement runs out March 21. At that time, insurance liability concerns will force the company to remove its equipment, Vargo said.

"At this point, the courses will be closed. They will not open," Beckham said Tuesday afternoon. "There's no way to do a new contract now and have the courses open next month when leagues start."

The city twice previously sought bids for 10-year agreements to operate, manage and renovate the courses. Last year, a bid was awarded to newly formed Motown Golf Management, but concerns were later raised over the company's lack of management experience, the length of the proposed contract and its capacity to invest.

Motown and Robert James Golf both bid on the latest one-year agreement. The Vargo-owned firm was the recommended vendor because Motown did not meet the financial or experience requirements, officials said.

The contract reviewed Tuesday would have had Vargo handle upkeep of the greens, fairways, fencing, landscaping and other maintenance on the golf courses and covering utility costs.

Vargo would have been obligated to pay the city 1 percent of its profits — or \$25,000 — if sales reached \$2.5 million, according to contract terms.

City revenue last year for the golf courses was about \$42,000. That's down from about \$104,000 the prior year, and \$125,000 in the three fiscal years before that, city documents show.

Beckham said the revenue dropped because a portion went toward settling a \$442,000 water bill Vargo had for the courses.

Rob Vargo, who owns the companies, did not comment after Tuesday's meeting. Last week, he told a council subcommittee the courses needed a number of repairs and he intended to invest at least \$50,000.

"Six years ago, Vargo inherited a mess," he said. "We did the best we could with the funding that was allocated for these golf courses."

Beckham said the municipal owning of golf courses is being examined elsewhere, too in Oakland County and Wayne County, which owns two, one of which it may soon sell.

County Executive Warren Evans said this month that Wayne County hopes to sell Warren Valley Golf Course as part of its recovery plan.

The course's operations have been privatized for years, and Evans noted it's "limped along ever since." A sale, he said, could yield \$1.8 million and millions more in property taxes from a planned development on the Dearborn Heights site.

"The municipal owning of golf courses is something everyone is looking at," Beckham said. "Everybody is trying to sell their courses."

cferretti@detroitnews.com

Read or Share this story: <http://detne.ws/2mGUjlb>



Get your playground
quote now! 



DPS Open House 851 S. ETON Birmingham, MI 48009

Saturday, May 13, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Fun for the entire family with booths
on composting and maintaining lawns,
equipment displays plus hotdogs and
refreshments for all.

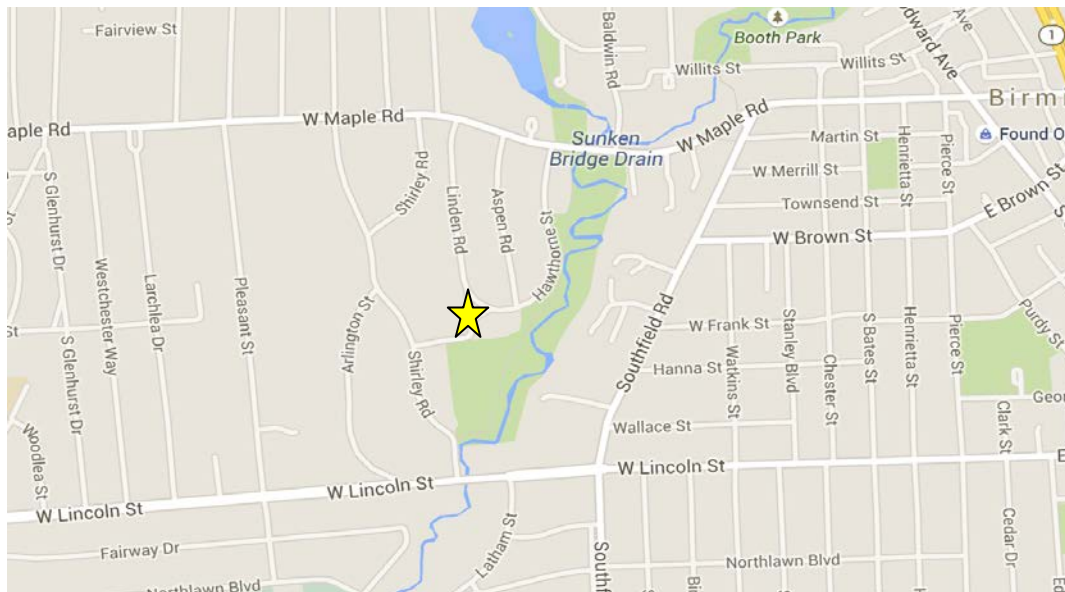




Linden Park
Saturday, May 20, 2017
9:00 am – to noon
Registration begins at 8:30 am
Lunch will served at Noon

This year's activities:

- Removal of Invasive Species.



Recommended items to wear & bring:

- Boots or sturdy shoes
- Long pants & long-sleeve shirt
- Hat
- Sunscreen

Volunteers should dress according to prevailing weather conditions.

Mosquito repellent, gloves and bags will be provided.

Volunteers Needed

Community, churches, schools, environmental groups, scout troops and neighborhood associations are invited to help remove invasive species along the Rouge River.

***Anyone who wishes to volunteer is asked to call
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator at (248) 530-1642.***





Proudly Presented By The City of Birmingham

May 19, 2017 • FRIDAY • 7:00 PM

May 20, 2017 • SATURDAY • 7:00 pm

May 21, 2017 • SUNDAY • 2:00 pm

Communication/Discussion Item #8c

TICKETS GO ON SALE:

Monday, May 1, 2017

at the Birmingham Ice Arena

2300 East Lincoln, Birmingham, MI

3-Day Pass Pricing:

Senior (Over 55) \$25 Adult (19-54) \$31 Student (13-18) \$25
Children (6-12) \$19 Children (5 and younger) FREE

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SENIOR (Over 55) | Regular Advance Ticket \$10 | At The Door: \$12 |
| ADULT (19-54) \$31 | Regular Advance Ticket \$12 | At The Door: \$14 |
| STUDENT (13-18) \$25 | Regular Advance Ticket \$10 | At The Door: \$12 |
| CHILDREN (6-12) \$19 | Regular Advance Ticket \$8 | At The Door: \$10 |
| CHILDREN (5 and younger) | FREE | |