

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2013

John Meehan, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at 851 S. Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ross Kaplan, Ryan Ross, Therese Longe, John Meehan, Dominick Pulis, Art Stevens, Bill Wiebrecht and Hannah Gould, Student Representative

ADMINISTRATION: Lauren Wood, Director of DPS and Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager

GUESTS: Patricia Bordman, Anne Bray, Howard Christie, Rita Dunker, Heidi Kreindler, Tristan Kreindler, Marshall Lasser, Jim Page, Cindy Rose, Elise Schostak, Elise Stoller, Stuart Stoller and Vicki Walsh

PRESENTER: Laura Gruzowski, Hubbell Roth and Clark

It was moved by Bill Wiebrecht, seconded by Dominick Pulis, that the minutes of the July 2, 2013 meeting be approved as corrected.

Yeas – 7 (Ross Kaplan, Ryan Ross, Therese Longe, John Meehan, Dominick Pulis, Art Stevens and Bill Wiebrecht)

Nays – 0

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Quarton Lake Management Plan-

Lauren introduced Laura Gruzowski from Hubbell Roth and Clark to discuss the Quarton Lake Management Plan. Laura stated that the City of Birmingham and HRC have been monitoring the situation at Quarton Lake regarding aquatic vegetation since 2005.

Laura stated the dredging operation was performed in 2002 -2003 and shortly thereafter HRC did see an increase in aquatic vegetation at the time it was primarily curly leaf pond in mill foil which is common when sediments are removed from a lake. Laura stated that allowing more sunshine into the lower depths of the lake and compounding the situation with the very hot summers has caused an increase in aquatic vegetation.

Laura stated that after speaking with mechanical and chemical contractors and other professionals HRC would like to try mechanically harvesting.

Laura stated that mechanically harvesting is most cost effective and takes approximately two weeks for removal.

Laura stated that HRC would like to get the Parks and Recreation Board support so that it can be placed on the September 23, 2013 City Commission agenda so that the harvesting could begin this fall.

Laura stated that with HRC doing the multi-year dredging operation this would deter future aquatic vegetation growth.

Stuart Stoller stated that he overlooks the lake and has seen the evolution of the lake for at least 40 years. Stuart states that several of the residents that live on the lake use the lake for ~~their~~ **the** irrigation of their lawns.

Stuart stated that since the dredging has been conducted the aquatic vegetation has multiplied.

Patricia Bordman stated that chemical treatment should not be used on the removal of the lily pads.

Anne Bray stated that the city should receive a second opinion from another engineering company.

It was moved by Therese Longe, seconded by Bill Wiebrecht, to recommend to the City Commission to approve mechanical treatment and discourage the use of chemical treatment for Quarton Lake. Further, recommend a review of the overall ecosystem including the impact of the dam on this system.

Yeas – 7 (Ross Kaplan, Ryan Ross, Therese Longe, John Meehan, Dominick Pulis, Art Stevens and Bill Wiebrecht)

Nays – 0

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Linden Park Donation Project- Quarton Lake Management Plan-

Lauren stated that she had been working quite some time with Marshall Lasser who is in the audience. Lauren stated that Marshall will speak to his proposal. Since the report was submitted to the Parks and Recreation Board the gift has increased to \$30,000 from Marshall. The project will be a joint project with the City funding almost half of the project.

In addition, to the \$30,000 it could be another \$30,000. The rock/conifer garden is **would be located at Linden Park in the northeast corner of the park. The department has taken into account the underground infrastructure. The proposed project is very close to the existing playground at Linden Park. Lauren stated that a park bench and trash receptacle might need to be relocated.**

Lauren stated that the project is very interesting and detailed. Lauren stated that Jim Page from Michael J. Dul and Associates is in the audience tonight and have been assisting with this concept plan for Marshall and the city.

Marshall stated that rock/conifer Japanese garden will also have Japanese Maples, hostas, ground cover and boulders. Marshall stated that he and Michael J. Dul, Ray Rogers and Tom McDaniels visited American Aggregates and handpicked the boulders that will be used for the project.

Marshall stated it will take about three to four years for the project to take shape but will be a beautiful project. Marshall stated that there will be some tree screens associated with the project to screen houses on Brandon and the utility pole on the north end of the park so that it will create a countryside setting.

Dominick asked how conducive the garden is for small children playing in the rock/conifer garden. Dominick stated the garden is close to the play structure. Dominick asked will the garden encourage or discourage play in the proposed garden.

Marshall stated that there will be a screen of trees between the garden and play structure. The boulders are no different than the boulders at Booth Park.

Marshall passed around his phone that had photos of the boulders that he is proposing for the project.

Ross stated that if Marshall had been in contacted with schools for educational experiences.

Marshall stated that the trees and boulders will be labeled so that the project will become an educational value for children and adults.

Dominick asked why this park, why this display.

Marshall stated this is his semi-retirement project. Marshall stated that if this project is approved and moves forward he would like to do the same project in Linn Smith Park.

Anne Bray asked why Japanese Maples are being used. Anne asked that more thought should be put in on the proposed project because of the effects it could do to the wildlife habitat.

Anne stated that native plantings to Michigan should be used.

Therese stated the priority of city dollars should be spent accordingly. Where is the \$25,000 being taken out of the City budget? Therese stated if \$25,000 is being used for this project what other needed projects will be placed on hold.

Therese stated that donor gifts are lovely but they sometime drive agendas rather than the other way around.

Lauren stated that the City Commission would have to make a budget amendment for this project.

Lauren stated that Marshall wanted to donate towards other parks which would have included ponds and other small gardens.

Heidi Kreindler stated that Linden Park is a dump. Heidi stated that Marshall's gift is gracious.

Patricia Bordman stated that she does want to have non-native plants used in this proposed project.

Lauren stated Marshall wanted this project to begin in 2013 and that this item will be taken to the September 23, 2013 City Commission meeting.

Therese stated that the city has accepted donations when they have been paid for in full. Therese stated that she has a concern this is a bad precedent to support this at the Parks and Recreation Board level when it obligates city dollars outside our normal organizational process.

Marshall stated the maintenance will be low for the rock/conifer garden.

Marshall stated that he would like to continue donating to the City of Birmingham parks.

Art Stevens stated that this project should be sent to City Commission for approval.

The Parks and Recreation Board stated that no action on this item be taken.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – The 2014 Scheduled Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates was furnished.

It was moved by Therese Longe, seconded by Art Stevens, that the 2014 Scheduled Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates be accepted.

Yeas – 7 (Ross Kaplan, Ryan Ross, Therese Longe, John Meehan, Dominick Pulis, Art Stevens and Bill Wiebrecht)

Nays – 0

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1 – An e-mail was furnished on Dredging Work at Quarton Lake - Lauren furnished the board with the e-mail stating that the work has been completed.

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2a – City of Employee Golf Tournament – Lauren furnished the City of Employee Golf Tournament Flyer.

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2b – Golf Course Financials – Lauren furnished the Golf Course financials.

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2c – Golf Course Report – Lauren furnished the golf course report created by Jacky Brito, Golf Course Manager.

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3 – Follow up Items and Project Updates – Lauren furnished the Parks and Recreation Board with a Follow-Up Items and Projects Updates.

Art stated that Kenning Parking lot needs to be repaired and should be considered a Kenning Parking Lot Restoration Plan.

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

John stated that the next meeting will be held on October 1, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator