

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2014

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Bordman, Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, Ryan Ross, Bill Wiebrecht and Scott Cusimano, Student Representative

MEMBERS/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Art Stevens and Alex Cross, Student Representative

ADMINISTRATION: Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services and Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

GUESTS: Anne Bray, Dorothy Conrad and Cindy Rose

It was moved by Bill Wiebrecht, seconded by John Meehan that the minutes of the October 7, 2014 regular meeting be approved as corrected.

Yeas - 6 (Pat Bordman, Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, Ryan Ross and Bill Wiebrecht)

Absent-1 (Art Stevens)

Nays – 0

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Parks and Recreation Mission Statement Draft Review

Therese stated that the current Parks and Recreation Board Mission Statement is on the bottom of the Parks and Recreation Board Agenda and reads:

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.

Therese stated that Pat requested a change to the current Parks and Recreation Board Mission.

Pat's proposed Mission Statement would read:

The Birmingham Parks & Recreation Board is dedicated to enriching the quality of life in our community by preserving and enhancing natural areas, urban forests, open spaces and waters within our park system; by partnering with community organizations to facilitate access to recreation programs; by renewing and developing our public parkland and play areas through the application of safe design principles; and by providing an atmosphere of inclusion by offering universal access for the enjoyment by all ages and abilities of our parks and recreational facilities.

It was moved by Bill Wiebrecht, seconded by John Meehan to approve the revised Parks and Recreation Board Mission Statement.

Yeas - 6 (Pat Bordman, Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, Ryan Ross and Bill Wiebrecht)

Absent-1 (Art Stevens)

Nays – 0

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Little Library Project

Lauren stated that the department was approached by Jason Abrams on providing two Little Library projects to be installed at St. James Park and Barnum Park. Lauren stated that the Little Library projects would be sponsored by Abrams International of Keller Williams, a locally owned and operated business.

Therese stated that the little libraries are stocked with books that can be borrowed and shared. Therese stated that there are a lot of library networks in other cities and that Pat found a Little Library Project on Pine Street. Therese asked if the Little Library Project would be forward to the City Commission, and are there any zoning issues for placement of the libraries in the City of Birmingham parks. Lauren stated if this project was endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Board the project could move forward.

Therese stated that the proposed sign on the Little Library house could be smaller.

Ross stated that there should be no exterior plaque on the Little Library house. Ross stated that the design of the Little Library houses should be approved by the Parks and Recreation Board.

John asked if the Little Library Project has been discussed with Baldwin Public Library or the Baldwin Library Board.

Therese stated that the Little Library Project needs more research and some questions to the city attorney about infringement, and an overture to the Baldwin Library and that this project should be forward to the City Commission once more research has been done and the Parks and Recreation Board has had more discussion.

Cindy stated she saw this type of project in Petoskey. Cindy stated that she has a concern about advertising on this type of project.

Dorothy state that this project should be forward to the Baldwin Library Board.

Therese stated that the Little Library project should be forwarded to the Library Board to understand their comments and suggestions.

Lauren stated that since the Parks and Recreation Board would like to explore the project further she will contact Jason Abrams to discuss the Parks and Recreation board concerns which are maintenance of the Little Library houses and advertising on the Little Library houses. Lauren stated that Little Library project would be routed to other City departments for input and approval.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1 – Final 2015 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2 – Quarton Lake Update

Lauren stated that the lily pads at Quarton Lake did not get treated and the company performing the project recommended to the City of Birmingham hold off treating of the lily pads until spring. Lauren stated she would keep the Parks and Recreation Board updated as the project moves forward.

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3 – Approved September 15, 2014 Joint Birmingham Commission/Parks and Recreation Board Minutes

Bill distributed to the Parks and Recreation Board proposed changes he had made to the approved September 15, 2014 Joint Birmingham Commission minutes.

Lauren stated she would submit the suggested changes to the minutes to Joe Valentine, City Manager.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4a – Golf Course Financials

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4b – Golf Course Report

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5a – Mr. Russ Dixon: E-mail received regarding a suggestion for the corner of Booth Park Entrance.

The Parks and Recreation Board members discussed the email received about the placement of a trolley at the corner entrance of Booth Park. The Parks and Recreation Board stated that there is plenty of programming at Booth Park and further items would over crowd Booth Park. Other concerns also included maintenance and safety issues for such an element in Booth Park.

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Therese would like to discuss as an outcome from the Parks and Recreation joint meeting with the City Commission what preparation does the Parks and Recreation Board need to do, or what Lauren might suggest that would be helpful in identifying the priority and budget items that would be discussed at the Long Range Planning meeting.

Therese stated that a bridge connecting Linden Park and Linn Smith Park would be one item. Therese stated an engineering consulting fee about moving the entrance and adding parking at Poppleton Park would be another item and budgeting for crowning and maintenance of the open space and fields.

Therese stated a line item for Adams Park from discussion with the neighbors surrounding Adams Park and Roeper schools about their priorities so the budget items are realistic.

Pat stated another budget item would be universal access playground apparatus.

Lauren stated that the Long Range Meeting is a meeting with City Commissioners held in January. Lauren stated that this year's Long Range Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2015. Lauren stated at the Long Range Plan meeting there will discussion on forecasting out five years and developing some priorities that the Parks and Recreation Board and discussions that had occurred with the City Commission.

Lauren stated that she has met with staff to brainstorm to figure out what would be next with Manor Park, Poppleton Park and Adams Park, as part of the planning and budgeting process.

Lauren stated she had a meeting with the Adams neighborhood group on October 22nd and out of that meeting, Roeper, the neighborhood groups and city staff will schedule another meeting to discuss ideas for Adams Park.

Lauren stated that Adams is more operational and maintenance items. Lauren stated there could be potential funding from Roeper School but that has not been discussed yet.

Lauren stated for Poppleton Park a consultant could be hired to lay-out a park plan, an informal plan not a full blown master plan. Since Poppleton Park already has a lot of uses currently to see how additional programming would fit. If re-grading behind the softball field would take care of the ponding problems then there could be potential soccer. In addition more playground, parking and change the ingress and egress to the entrance to Poppleton Park.

Lauren stated that at the December Parks and Recreation Board meeting there will be an Agenda item for discussion on priority items that the Parks and Recreation Board would like to be discussed at the Long Range Planning meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No items

Therese stated that the next meeting will be held on December 2, 2014 at 6:30 pm at DPS.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator