

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2015

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Bordman, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross, Bill Wiebrecht

MEMBERS/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Ross Kaplan, John Meehan and Art Stevens

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

GUESTS: Larry Bertollini, Scott Cusimano, Jay Grossman, Dave Palmeri, Cindy Rose, Melanie Weiss

It was moved by Bill Wiebrecht, seconded by Ryan Ross that the minutes of the December 2, 2014 regular meeting be approved.

Yeas - 4 (Pat Bordman, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross and Bill Wiebrecht)

Absent-3 (Ross Kaplan, John Meehan, Art Stevens)

Nays – 0

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Nomination of 2015 Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson/ Vice-Chairperson

Bill Wiebrecht nominated Pat Bordman as Chairperson; Pat accepted the nomination.

Yeas - 4 (Pat Bordman, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross and Bill Wiebrecht)

Absent-3 (Ross Kaplan, John Meehan, Art Stevens)

Nays – 0

Bill Wiebrecht nominated Therese Longe as Vice-Chairperson; Therese accepted the nomination.

Yeas - 4 (Pat Bordman, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross and Bill Wiebrecht)

Absent-3 (Ross Kaplan, John Meehan, Art Stevens)

Nays – 0

Therese turned the meeting over to Pat Bordman.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Birmingham Little League Proposal

Ryan stated that he worked with city staff on preliminary budget figures for reconstruction of the ball fields at Kenning Park and he then presented budget figures to the Birmingham Little League. The Birmingham Little League has written a proposal letter stating the Birmingham Little League has authorized a financial commitment to phase two of Kenning Park in the amount of \$219,000.

Dave Palmeri stated that the current estimate was \$218,000 but at this time the Birmingham Little League is committing \$219,000 for Kenning Park field improvements.

Pat asked Lauren that even though a donation will be received that the project would still have to be bid. Pat asked what would happen if the bid comes in higher then would the Birmingham Little League withdraw their donation.

Dave stated again that the Birmingham Little League is committing \$219,000 for the Kenning Park field improvements.

Pat asked if Dave could explain the bullet points in the Birmingham Little League Proposal.

Dave addressed each bullet point written in the Kenning Park financial commitment that was addressed to the Joe Valentine, City of Birmingham Manager and Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services.

- Usage and permits defined by a long term agreement protecting our investment

Dave stated obviously the Birmingham Little League has been working with the City of Birmingham for a very long time and there has been a lot of cooperation through the years in regards to the use of the fields and certainly investments.

PAGE 3

Dave stated the the point that he is trying to make is with this large amount of an investment that the Birmingham Little League is looking for something to state that the Birmingham Little League can continue with schedule and permits that the Birmingham Little League has been accustomed to over the last fifty years, which is primary the use of Kenning fields during the season and obviously post and pre-season activities.

Dave stated if the Birmingham Littles League teams are not on the Kenning fields the Birmingham Little League will not claim the rights to the Kenning fields or if permits are not issued to Birmingham Little League during a particular time.

Dave said that the Birmingham Little League would like to have the schedule that the Birmingham Little have had in the past and try to get something in writing considering the size of the monetary contribution for the improvements of Kenning fields.

Bill asked Dave would it be better to say continuation of a long term usage of Kenning fields, because in general that is the idea that the Birmingham Little League is trying to achieve. Bill stated in other words the Birmingham Little League is making the donation on the assumption that the Birmingham Little League will be continuing the usage of Kenning fields on a long term basis.

Dave stated that the Birmingham Little League had made investments to baseball fields located at the Birmingham Public Schools but yet the Birmingham Little League no longer has the ability to use them. Dave stated so obviously Birmingham Little League does not want to make a large investment for the Kenning fields and not be able to use them.

Therese stated that for some historical context that this issue came up the last time that the Birmingham Little League was in front of the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board many years ago talking about improving Kenning fields.

PAGE 4

Therese stated that it is important that the Parks and Recreation Board distinguish now as the Parks and Recreation Board did then with the fact to clarify that is a donation, that generally legally with the IRS when a donation is made defined benefits do not accrue to the donor, or to any one individual.

Therese stated the Birmingham Little League was rightfully concerned then and is rightfully concerned now that if the Kenning fields are improved that the Kenning fields will be more attractive to other users who might want to show up and stake a claim to the Kenning fields.

Therese stated that the correct way to frame it would be that the donation is given with the expectation that the relationship preferences, customs related to the permitting and scheduling and use of Kenning fields will continue as they have previously that there will be no more favor awarded but no less favor awarded.

Therese stated with some room for conversation in this area the Birmingham Little League, City Manager and the City of Birmingham attorney can come up with some language that codifies that expectation that Birmingham Little League is not purchasing, renting or owning the improved Kenning fields but the Birmingham Little League would not be expected to invest in the fields then be displaced by others, so the Birmingham Little League would have less use then they currently have.

Dave agreed with Therese's statement on having this type of framework that could be used and that would be beneficial to everybody.

- Maintenance of infields

Dave stated with the grass infields there needs to be a determination on who will be responsible for the maintenance. Dave stated that the Birmingham Little League is willing to maintain the infields and it does not mean that the Birmingham Little League is not appreciating the maintenance that is done by the City of Birmingham.

PAGE 5

Dave stated that he looks as it in being a way to get some good volunteer involvement from the Birmingham Little League and putting forth a certain amount of work and effort.

Therese stated to Dave that he would have to negotiate with the City Manager some sort of a docent type arrangement like seen in **public** gardens and libraries. Therese stated that there is precedence historically about volunteers maintaining public spaces and public areas. Therese stated that the City of Birmingham would have to make sure that the arrangement was not in any violation of any current employee contracts. Therese stated that the Parks and Recreation Board could not vote **to approve** this particular item as it relates to the maintenance of the infields.

- Field Naming rights

Dave stated that naming rights would have to be determined by the donation received and the outline for making the determination by the City of Birmingham. Dave stated maybe it could be just plaques that would be attached to the new backstops at Kenning. Dave stated that instead of field naming rights it could be stated as a plaque donation of the actual diamonds for donor recognition.

Bill stated an idea maybe of naming the Kenning fields or putting something entering the fields, "Home of Birmingham Little League" and then naming the actual fields, such as Timothy King Field or Billy Gee Field who were both part of the Birmingham Little League, that is something that Birmingham Little League Board might considered.

Pat stated that this financial obligation is depended on how the City of Birmingham reacts to the donation and the ideas to be incorporated into an agreement.

Bill stated he is glad to see that this is the first time the Birmingham Little League has gone to the second step. In the past, the Birmingham Little League proposals have dropped off the table but this time it looks like something that could come to fruition.

PAGE 6

- Retaining 4 fields at Kenning Park

Dave stated that retaining the four fields is keeping in line with the original Kenning Park Master Plan to retain four fields in regards to the space at Kenning Park. Dave stated assuming this moves forward this could create more groups that could come forward to assist and to create a phase three to the Kenning Park Master Plan. Dave stated that he wanted to make sure that four fields remain at Kenning Park.

Therese asked Lauren if the Kenning Park Master Plan shown this evening had been officially accepted and or endorsed by the City Commission. Lauren stated that she would have to verify if the Kenning Parks Master Plan was approved by the City Commission.

Therese stated to Dave that perhaps you could ~~refrain~~ **reframe** your statement in a way you're not saying there can't be any changes to the Kenning Park Master Plan but that it would be contingent and desired to retain the fourth field but Birmingham Little League is not going to dictate the location of the fourth field at Kenning Park.

Bill stated a formal motion on endorsing the Kenning Park financial commitment from Birmingham Little League would be the next step.

It was moved by Ryan Ross, seconded by Bill Wiebrecht to endorse the proposal for the authorize financial commitment for the conceptual relocation and construction of fields two and three at Kenning Park and to accept the donation from the Birmingham Little League.

Yeas - 4 (Pat Bordman, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross and Bill Wiebrecht)

Absent-3 (Ross Kaplan, John Meehan, Art Stevens)

Nays - 0

Lauren stated there has been no discussion with Joe Valentine, City Manager on the letter received from Birmingham Little League. Lauren stated that the Parks and Recreation Board would be updated on the progress of the proposal presented this evening.

PAGE 7

Therese stated that when this financial commitment letter goes to the Birmingham City Commission that the caveat and the spirit of the conversation that occurred about the continuation of the relationship, the idea but not the location of the fourth field and the changing of naming rights to donor recognition be transmitted to the City of Birmingham Commission so that the Birmingham City Commission understands that these items were point of discussion and not dictates and this be conveyed to the City Commission.

Larry stated that he is very happy that the Birmingham Little League is going to make a commitment to the City of Birmingham for Kenning Park.

AGENDA ITEM #3- Letter Dated December 4, 2014 from Bill Wiebrecht as it relates to the minutes of the joint meeting with the City Commission and Parks and Recreation Board on September 15, 2014

Bill stated following the September 15, 2014 joint meeting with the City Commission there were some efforts to correct errors that occurred in the minutes and first time he received a call from Joe Valentine stating that the minutes could not be changed once the City Commission approves them.

Bill stated that he could submit a report to City Commission which reviews the issues and states the issues as they actually have been discussed and approved at the joint meeting.

Bill stated he has attempted to create an interim report on the various issues that the Parks and Recreation Board had discussed at the joint meeting and what the Parks and Recreation Board course of action might be for each of the parks and he had submitted the interim report to the Parks and Recreation Board members and would like to have any corrections or changes to the interim report.

PAGE 8

Bill stated that he would like to have Lauren submit the interim report to the City Commission so that the interim report would be made part of the City Commission record and once part of their record then the errors that might have occurred in the previous minutes the issues are restated in a way that in effect corrects those issues.

It was moved by Therese Longe, seconded by Ryan Ross that the Parks and Recreation Board support Bill 's interim report in as much the interim report clarifies and adds substantially to the work that was accomplished in the joint meeting between the City Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board and is a useful tool for helping the Parks and Recreation Board to move forward with public understanding of the Parks and Recreation Board priorities as the Parks and Recreation Board begin to discuss these items for Long Range Planning.

Yeas - 4 (Pat Bordman, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross and Bill Wiebrecht)

Absent-3 (Ross Kaplan, John Meehan, Art Stevens)

Nays – 0

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1 -Summer Programs @ BIA

Connie stated that there will be some summer programs to be held at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena from June 1, 2015 – August 1, 2015.

Connie stated that she is working with the director from Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC) to offer joint programming for pickleball and a Senior Expo.

Connie stated she is also working with a driving school to rent the conference room for the summer and also putting together a new activity called fowling. Fowling is a hybrid game that combines the equipment of American Football and bowling into one sport with a similar layout as horseshoes and corn hole.

Connie stated these programs will be discussed at future meetings with the Parks and Recreation Board and City Commission.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3 - City Parks-Project Priority and Donor Program

Lauren stated that the report was a continuation of the last month's report for City project priority.

Lauren stated that a Donor Recognition Program brochure is being created and will be brought back to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Lauren stated that there will be an upcoming workshop for the Parks and Recreation Board on a Donor Recognition Program brochure and donation policy.

Lauren stated the Long Range Planning meeting will be on Saturday, January 31, 2015 and to check the City of Birmingham for the exact time.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4a-Golf Rounds Comparison 2011-December 31, 2014

No action was required by the Parks & Recreation Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Therese asked Lauren if there was any update on the Little Library Project. Lauren stated she has ~~heard anything~~ **not heard anything**.

Cindy stated that the sculpture for Barnum Park will be installed in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat stated that there will be future discussion on promoting the City of Birmingham Parks

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Pat stated that the next meeting will be held on February 3, 2015 at 6:30 pm at DPS.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator