

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 6, 2016

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ross Kaplan (arrived @ 6:35 pm), Therese Longe, John Meehan and Bill Wiebrecht

MEMBERS ABSENT: Art Stevens, Ryan Ross and Lilly Stotland

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Nichole McMaster

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

GUESTS: Janet Barry, John Barry, Patty Blair, Rick Blair, Anne Bray, Margaret Desmond, Christine Fields, Lisa Kaminski, Marshall Lasser, Kelton McBride, Donald O'Leary, Eleni O'Leary, Stan Olinek and Ray Rogers, Rockworks, Inc.

Therese stated that since there is not a quorum that the minutes would not be approved until the fourth Parks and Recreation Board member arrives. Therese stated that there will not be a decision made on Poppleton Park and that the items listed under Communication/Discussion Items are only communications.

Therese stated the discussion on Poppleton Park will be led by the City Manager on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the city commission room at city hall.

Therese stated that if anyone would like to stay and make a comment about Poppleton Park that may be done after the Parks and Recreation Board has concluded the regular business under Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda.

It was moved by John Meehan, seconded by Ross Kaplan that the minutes of the November 1, 2016 regular meeting be approved as corrected.

Yeas – 4 Ross Kaplan (arrived @ 6:40 pm), Therese Longe, John Meehan and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

Absent – 2 Art Stevens, Ryan Ross and Lilly Stotland

AGENDA ITEM #1-Fee Increases For Springdale Shelter

Connie stated that the department is requesting a rental rate increase for the Springdale Shelter that will take effect January, 2017. Connie stated that the last rate increase for the rental of Springdale Shelter occurred in 2005. Connie stated that a survey was conducted from other surrounding communities which have the same shelter capacity as Springdale Shelter.

It was moved by John Meehan, seconded by Bill Wiebrecht to approve the department's recommendation on the fee increases for the rental of Springdale Shelter which will take effect January, 2017.

Yeas – 4 Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

Absent – 2 Art Stevens, Ryan Ross and Lilly Stotland

AGENDA ITEM #2-Proposal from Marshall Lasser-Rock Installation at Quarton Lake
Carrie stated to the Parks and Recreation Board that Marshall Lasser and Ray Rogers have provided the follow up information for his previous donation proposal of placement of large boulders at Quarton Lake Park as requested by the Parks and Recreation Board from the November 1, 2016 meeting.

Carrie stated that a letter from an engineer, the engineer's analysis, cross section mounting detail and plan view mounting detail are included. Carrie stated that a site plan to show the exact location at Quarton Lake has been provided.

Therese stated that the site plan has an error about the street name. Therese stated that it should be Lake Park not Lakeside. Therese stated that since there are only four Parks and Recreation Board members attending that a vote would be deferred until the January 10, 2017 Parks Board meeting so that there will be a full hearing and also allowing for the proper notification to be sent to the Quarton Lake neighborhood.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1a- Emails received for Poppleton Park
Lauren stated attached are a variety of emails in the Parks and Recreation Board Packet concerning Poppleton Park Concept Plan and Poppleton Park in general.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1b- Memorandum to Birmingham To Community Members on Poppleton Park

Lauren stated that memorandum was written to community members that was used to answer questions and concerns received by emails or individuals she had spoken with on the Poppleton Park Concept Plan.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1c- Hometownlife newspaper articles

Lauren provided to the Parks and Recreation Board newspaper articles written on Poppleton Park Concept Plan.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1d- Downtown magazine article

Lauren provided to the Parks and Recreation Board newspaper article written on Poppleton Park Concept Plan.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1e- Birmingham Patch articles

Lauren provided to the Parks and Recreation Board newspaper articles written on Poppleton Park Concept Plan.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2- Email-Upcoming Meeting Dates -Poppleton Park Concept Plan

Lauren provided to the Parks and Recreation Board the email that was sent out regarding the upcoming Poppleton Park Concept Plan meeting that is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2016 in the commission room at 6:30 pm to garner more information on the concept plan.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3- Capital Projects for 2017-2018 – Proposed Carrie provided the Parks and Recreation Board the proposed capital projects for 2017-2018 which will be presented at the budget hearing.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4- Golf Course Report

Lauren announced to the Parks and Recreation Board that Springdale Golf Course will be closing on Wednesday, December 9, 2016.

Lauren also provided the Parks and Recreation Board the golf course report.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5- Pickleball Request

Connie presented to the Parks and Recreation Board a request that was received from Mr. Forrester for pickleball for an outdoor court. Connie stated that the pickleball could be placed as an item for the upcoming Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Connie stated that she would contact Mr. Forrester to inform him that this would be an item to be placed in the revised Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Ross Kaplan asked that if an evaluation could be made on tennis reservation requests verses actual use of the City of Birmingham public tennis courts.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Carrie confirmed that the Little Free Library has been removed from Barnum Park and will be reinstalled in the spring and that the naming contest will be wrapped up at that time before an additional Little Free Library is constructed and installed.

Carrie stated that the outdoor Barnum Ice Rink has been installed and that it has been filled.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

Therese stated that Shain Park look spectacular this year and the staff at the Department of Public Services did a great job and to please pass on the comment to the staff.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Lisa Kaminski stated she was very disappointed that the meeting scheduled for December 8, 2016 could not be moved to January. Lisa stated that she wanted to know how the parking lot would be controlled after the park closes for the day. Lisa asked if additional police would be patrolling Poppleton Park.

Therese stated that currently residents are able to contact the police department with issues at the parks. Therese stated that currently when parks are closed the parking lots can be chained.

Therese stated that the eighty-eight (88) spot parking lot number was never a fixed number it was suggested by MDOT as the maximum number of parking spots that could go there.

Therese stated that at the presentation at the October Parks and Recreation Board meeting it was clearly stated that MDOT suggested that number and it is just a place holder and it is not anything that has been endorsed, confirmed or suggested.

Lisa Kaminski asked why has there never been "No Parking" signs placed on the eastside of Oxford to protect those property owners.

Therese stated that item is not under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Board. That item would go to the Parking Advisory Board.

Therese stated that there are conversations between the departments and boards but that request would be a neighbor initiated process that would go to the Parking Advisory Board first and then to the Parks and Recreation Board to see if it would negatively impact the park.

Therese stated that the Parks and Recreation Board have read all the e-mails that have been received and the Parks Board members only wants what is best for Birmingham further discussion on the parking will take place at the December 8th meeting. Therese stated that the additional parking spots discussion came from the meeting that was held in February where the people who came who lived on Oxford said, "They no longer wanted people parking on the street or driving through the neighborhood."

Therese stated that there are several emails that would prefer that the park not be accessed through the neighborhood. Therese stated the parking lot was a concept based on the February meeting comments.

Lisa Kaminski respectfully requests that the Parks and Recreation Board withdraw the Poppleton Park Concept Plan.

Bill Wiebrecht stated that Poppleton Park is the most popular park in the City of Birmingham, not considering the golf courses but between Poppleton Park and Kenning Park for outdoor activities on an annual basis if you were to count users Poppleton Park is the most popular park in the City of Birmingham.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: (continued)

Lisa Kaminski stated that it is nearly impossible to cross Woodward Avenue to visit the downtown area.

Patty Blair stated that a letter was written to Ms. Wood on the issues of removal of trees, the potential parking lot off of Woodward, the over excessive walk-way around Poppleton Park, the width of the walking path proposed around the softball diamond, the proposed two picnic shelters and the locations of the portable toilets.

Patty Blair asked that Poppleton Park be kept as green and natural as possible.

Christine Fields stated that there was no input from the neighbors that live in the Poppleton Park neighborhood for the Poppleton Park Concept. Christine stated that there is no need for additional sidewalks as proposed in the concept plan.

Therese stated that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6:30 pm at DPS.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator