

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2016

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Therese Longe, John Meehan, Ryan Ross, Art Stevens and Bill Wiebrecht

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ross Kaplan and Lilly Stotland

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Nichole McMaster

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

GUESTS: BW McClure and Martha Jeshurun

It was moved by Art Stevens, seconded by Ryan Ross that the minutes of the August 2, 2016 regular meeting be approved as corrected.

Yeas – 5 Therese Longe, John Meehan, Ryan Ross, Art Stevens and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

Absent – 2 Ross Kaplan and Lilly Stotland

RECOGNITION OF FORMER PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS: Therese stated that recognition should be given to Jane Folk and Richard Purnell who were former Parks and Recreation Board members and who had recently passed away.

AGENDA ITEM #1-2017/2018 Scheduled Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates

It was moved by John Meehan, seconded by Ryan Ross to approve the 2017/2018 scheduled Parks and Recreation Board meeting dates.

Yeas – 5 Therese Longe, John Meehan, Ryan Ross, Art Stevens and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

Absent – 2 Ross Kaplan and Lilly Stotland

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1- Donation Program Correspondence dated August 25, 2016 from Mr. Joseph A. Valentine, City Manager

Therese stated that Lauren Wood, Joe Valentine, Commissioner Patty Bordman and herself met Mr. Marshall Lasser on August 25, 2016 to hear formally again Mr. Lasser's ideas about the use of stones and future donations involving stones to a City of Birmingham park.

Therese stated that an agreement was made that the City of Birmingham is not considering a water feature, but should stones work in one of the City of Birmingham parks, that the city would be happy to entertain a proposal.

Therese stated that there was discussion of some opportunities near the corner of Woodward and Poppleton or near the historical museum trail head.

Therese stated that Mr. Lasser was going to review both areas and if there was an interest that Mr. Lasser would return to discuss the locations with the Parks and Recreation Board.

Lauren stated the only other option would be Quarton Lake because there are rocks located there and a setting that Mr. Lasser would be comfortable in keeping with his proposed donation.

Lauren stated that she is meeting with Mr. Lasser at Quarton Lake to see if there are any areas that fit his desired proposed rock donation.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2- ITC Railroad on Canadian thistle (*verbal*)

Carrie stated at the August 9, 2016 Parks and Recreation Board meeting there was discussion about the Canadian thistle where the railroad property is adjacent to the Buckingham property. Carrie stated a contractor has cut and chemically treat the thistle on City of Birmingham property.

Carrie stated that she is in communication with the railroad and working to receive a permit for the contractor to also treat the area adjacent to the City of Birmingham property to void any traveling of the seedlings.

Carrie stated that future plantings will take place once the Canadian thistle is eradicated.

Therese asked if there are any plans to educate the community on Canadian thistle.

Lauren stated that information about Canadian thistle will be placed on the website.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3- Crowdfunding Grants-Identify Opportunities

Lauren provided the Parks and Recreation Board Crowdfunding Grants information.

Therese stated the City of Birmingham is an eligible applicant based on the criteria. Therese asked if the grant is annually and if there is there is an end date.

Therese stated the choice of project is **of the** utmost importance to get something that the organization would be interested in. Therese stated that once the project has ben accepted the project has sixty (60) days to raise the amount of money needed for the project or the project will not be funded.

Therese stated that an item needs to be chosen in a park such as accessible play equipment in Poppleton Park or adding WI-FI to a City of Birmingham location. The project would have to benefit a large number of people other than just Birmingham residents or have to benefit an underserve population and it does not have to be extraordinary to receive approval for the Crowdfunding.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4a- Golf Course Financial

Lauren provided the Parks and Recreation Board the golf course financials.

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4b- Golf Course Report

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

No action was required by the board.

Lauren stated that Lincoln Hills Golf Course will close on Sunday, October 16, 2016 and will offer foot golf at Lincoln Hills Golf Course. Lauren stated that Springdale Golf Course will remain open weather permitting.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5- Project Updates (*verbal*)

Carrie stated that the Floyd Street project plan is not yet finalized but the 6 ft. high chain fence will remain.

Lauren stated that the dredging at Quarton Lake is winding down. Lauren stated that the contractor is recommending that the City of Birmingham does not treat for lily pads this fall at Quarton Lake but should continue the program although the area will become smaller and less costly.

Lauren stated that the DEQ will not allow the City of Birmingham to treat the lily pads near the shoreline.

Carrie stated that a naming contest rules will return to the Parks and Recreation Board for a naming of the Little Library that is located at Barnum Park.

Therese stated that the contest should be open to both residents and non-residents.

Carrie stated that she would like to receive more information from the Parks and Recreation Board on the porous pave project that needs to come back to a future Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Therese asked if moving forward would porous pave be used in future projects. Therese stated that if the Parks and Recreation Board agree with City of Birmingham administration on the use of porous pave at the proposed location that the report will have to support the decision of using porous pave.

Lauren stated that in the past there have been discussions of bridges and there are Parks and Recreation Board agendas and minutes to reflect the discussions.

Lauren asked if the Parks and Recreation Board would like to have the administration proceed in designing a bridge. Lauren stated that a location has not been determined and there are no available dollars.

Lauren stated there was a discussion about the Bates Street extension, which was one example but there has not been any further discussion in months.

Lauren stated at the City Commission meeting during the porous pave discussion it was mention of an idea of a potential pedestrian bridge that would go over Maple Rd. which revisits one bridge that is called out in the Trail Master Plan.

Lauren asked the Parks and Recreation Board to brainstorm and what is the Parks and Recreation Board's consensus on bridges.

Therese stated short of an identified funding source or a donor who would like to work on a bridge that both the pedestrian bridge and the Bates Street extension would be valuable bridges, but neither one of them are ones that the Parks and Recreation Board solely initiate and could take the lead on because they are both dependent on other community developments, going hand to hand.

Therese stated that the Linden Park and Linn-Smith bridge have been dropped and the Bates Street extension would be the most benefit to the parks system because it would link the downtown part to the other side and then there could be an art fair that exists for example in two locations.

Therese stated because it requires the Bates Street extension project to move forward and all the DEQ permits and it is dependent on the business development that is proposed for that area which is currently being worked on.

Therese stated that the Parks and Recreation Board should be at the table when the Bates Street extension project moves forward and the RFP should envision that a bridge someday be a part of the plan.

Theresa stated that part of awarding the contract to a developer that the Parks and Recreation Board would call for some consideration for a developer to contribute some of the work and some of the cost to producing just like they are talking in City of Detroit about when large projects are going to have a community benefit component. Therese stated that the Bates Street extension could be discussed in that same fashion so that whoever comes to table says yes.

Therese stated for the exchange for this economic opportunity a developer would be willing to help improve the access to the City of Birmingham Park system for the community.

Lauren stated that would benefit the project to promote that area.

Therese stated the pedestrian bridge over Maple will have to be the same idea, it has to have a reason to exist, it has to have a beginning and an end and Therese does not think that is Parks and Recreation Board dependent either.

Therese stated the pedestrian bridge was envisioned as part of the trail system but the project is out of our bailey wick as an independent park project because it is not a park.

Therese stated the City Commission would have to assign the Parks and Recreation Board to work on the project, decide it is a priority, and decide that the City Commission wants to raise money or ask the Parks and Recreation Board to look at the project.

Therese stated at this point the project is something that should start because the project is not in the long term budget process at all.

Therese told Lauren she could facilitate the conversation with Joe Valentine or Paul O'Meara as for drawing the RFP to have it as a contextual statement in the RFP that the City of Birmingham envisions that this development will include X and would be interested in developers that would be working with the City of Birmingham.

Therese stated that Bates Street extension could be introduced in the next go around of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, call it out as a priority but there is no money to start designing and no context to which it would exist until the parameters of the Bates Street extension are determined.

John Meehan stated that the concept is in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan but not with the Bates Street extension.

Lauren stated the strategically the department has been handling the maintenance of the trail system.

Lauren stated that the porous pave was installed in a section of the trail system. Lauren stated that additional signage is called out in the trail plan other than that are there other items or suggestions from the Parks and Recreation Board they envision along the trail.

Lauren stated the items that have been discussed could be dove tailed into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan other than budgeting for capital projects for the new fiscal year.

Bill stated that the Maple Rd. pedestrian bridge is a long dream away.

Carrie Laird then added as another update that the department would like to offer a dog park open house which will be held during a week night. Carrie stated the open house would allow for comments from the current users on possible updates and suggestions for the dog park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Bill asked if there were any updates on Poppleton Park Plan.

Lauren stated that a plan was just received and has a few minor changes so that the plan will be brought back to the October Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Martha Jeshurun stated that she had moved back to the area and wanted to know the update of Poppleton Park.

Therese stated that there was a formal public meeting in February to discuss Poppleton Park amenities and proposed amenities.

Therese stated that the consultant took the suggestions and comments to develop a concept plan. Therese stated that there is no intention to turn Poppleton Park into a Kenning Park. Therese stated there was discussion on adding parking from Woodward but not entering into the neighborhood, adding a soccer area, benches and upgrading the playground to an ADA accessible.

Martha stated that Poppleton Park would be a good spot for a community garden for all ages to enjoy. Martha stated that exercise equipment area would also be a nice feature to Poppleton Park.

Therese stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm at DPS

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator