

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 2016

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Art Stevens and Lilly Stotland

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Nichole McMaster

ADMINISTRATION: Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

GUESTS: Jeff Barrett, Brian Beaudet, Patty Blair, Anne Bray, Peter Bray, Jack Burns, Marcia Kaline, Glen Maylath, Steven Olinek, Todd Ralph, Gordon Rinschler and Matt Sullivan

It was moved by Bill Wiebrecht, seconded by Ross Kaplan that the minutes of the September 13, 2016 regular meeting be approved as corrected.

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

Nays – 0

Absent – 2 Art Stevens and Lilly Stotland

AGENDA ITEM #1-Review of Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

Carrie Laird stated that Poppleton Park is just over 17 acres and is considered a community park which serves the neighborhood and the entire community. Carrie stated that Poppleton Park has a softball diamond and the infield was renovated in 2014, tennis courts that were resurfaced in 2010, playground equipment, beautiful open space, park amenities and a parking lot.

Carrie stated that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified Poppleton Park as a potential improvement area. Carrie stated some of the goals were to analyze the athletic field for maintenance and improvements, analyze parking, possible installation of a basketball court and updating the playground equipment.

Carrie stated that as the result of a joint meeting of the City Commission and Parks and Recreation Board from September 15, 2014 Poppleton Park was highlighted as a priority. Carrie stated that a public workshop was held in February and the Poppleton Concept Site Plan was developed based on input received from the community and user groups.

Carrie stated that the Poppleton Concept Site Plan is a tool to assist in the City of Birmingham planning efforts going forward.

Therese Longe stated that the City of Birmingham categorizes the parks in three categories; the city has mini-parks which are the little well sites; neighborhood parks; which are meant to serve a smaller radius of their neighborhood such as Pembroke or Howarth Park and then community parks which are acreage parks that are meant to serve the community as a whole which would serve a three mile radius. Therese stated that are ten (10) community parks which are Allan House, Hunter House, Barnum, Booth, Kenning, Lincoln Hills Golf Course, Poppleton Park, Shain Park, Springdale Golf Course and Quarton Lake.

Carrie stated that the Poppleton Park Concept Plan calls for a new universally accessible play area for all ages and abilities. Carrie stated that there is a five to twelve area and also a two to five area with a picnic shelter situated in between. Carrie stated there are also many places for benches and gathering spots around the playground area.

Carrie stated another interesting feature would be a sunning berm, which is a piece of lawn to sit on to watch the children play. Carrie stated that there would be a walkway around the entire park which would be a ½ mile. Carrie stated that new trees would be planted, drinking fountains, new landscaping, another shelter located near Woodward Avenue and then the multi-use level play area that would include improved drainage and another walkway around the open space area which is 1/3 of a mile. Carrie stated that the walkway would have mileage markers and then parking that is situated only along Woodward with no access to the interior of Poppleton Park and would also have a berm.

Carrie stated by the new playground instead of installing parking on the interior of the park, the parking was designed in such a way that there is a curb cut for handicap parking close to the play area.

Therese Longe stated that the Poppleton Plan was developed in taking in consideration the input that was received from the Public Workshop in February and in consideration of the needs that cross the parking system for the City of Birmingham. Therese stated that the Parks and Recreation Board try to look at all the City of Birmingham Parks as a whole and have each one of them fill a niche area and to meet the needs of the immediate neighbors and the community parks ~~of~~ serve the surrounding community.

Therese stated that advice was received from M.C. Smith Associates and the MDOT Consultants who stated to the Poppleton Park Sub-Committee that the City of Birmingham's Poppleton Park existing parking conditions underserves the existing users with the fifteen (15) spots which serve the current use for baseball and the play area.

Therese stated that the neighbors made it clear that there was no interest in a solution such as the one that is at Barnum where there is a pod that intrudes into the park. Therese stated the compromise to provide handicap parking near the play area which was strongly recommended by both M.C. Smith and MDOT would be a necessary feature going forward if the City of Birmingham were to do some grant writing or Crowdfunding to support the Poppleton Park. Therese stated that the parking lot has three (3) handicap parking spaces identified in the curb cut off located off of Oxford.

Glen Maylath asked if the play area would be located in the same location of the existing play area. Glen stated that he would like the area to stay natural and would not like to have the parking off of Woodward Avenue.

Jack Burns stated that the parking off of Woodward would solve a lot of the parking problems that goes with the ball diamond which is a plus but the minus is that ingress and egress off of Woodward. Jack stated that Woodward is a federal highway and now suddenly the city is opening it to as much parking as possible. Jack stated that he is unaware of the proposed programming but police patrol would have to be involved plus a solution for shutting the parking down during evening hours.

Carrie stated that there have been several options discussed on how to close the parking from Woodward during non-use times.

Peter Bray stated that Poppleton Park should be left well enough alone.

Anne Bray stated that the Poppleton Park Concept plan shows too many concrete paths around the park and what will happen to the trees that are shown being removed around the proposed universally accessible play area.

Steven Olinek stated he would like to see less programming, less hardscapes, parking as it is, perhaps something that takes in consideration the wildness of Poppleton Park.

Steven stated that he has concerns about the drainage in the back of Poppleton Park. Steven stated that the parking off of Woodward is overkill.

Patty Blair stated she would like to see more information on the portable toilet enclosure and what the enclosure will look like. Patty asked that there should be fewer paths around Poppleton Park and ask that the proposed walkway by Abbey should be re-evaluated.

Therese stated that the plan for the portable toilet enclosure would be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board and that the enclosure would have three sides, shrubbery and no roof.

Patty stated that she is concerned with the number of proposed parking spaces along Woodward.

Therese stated the number of parking spaces was provided by MDOT.

Jeff Barrett stated the Poppleton Park Concept Plan looks very nice and that the Parks and Recreation Board took in all the comments from the February meeting. Jeff stated that he is concerned about the number of parking spaces proposed off of Woodward Avenue.

Matt Sullivan stated that how nice the City of Birmingham Parks are maintained. Matt stated that the Poppleton Park is underutilized and that proposed concrete paths will encourage runners, walkers and mothers with strollers since the City of Birmingham is considered a Walkable Community. Matt stated that he is concerned about the number of large trees that will be removed.

Brian Beudet stated that he is not in favor of having all the concrete paths around the park. Brian stated that he is concerned about the number of parking spaces proposed off of Woodward Avenue but is in favor of the parking off of Woodward instead of entering the neighborhood.

Gordon Rinschler stated that he likes the general concept of the Poppleton Park Concept Plan. Gordon stated that he likes the paths around the park but would not recommend concrete but crush limestone. Gordon stated that he likes the parking off of Woodward Ave. Gordon stated that the area located near Madison needs to be a natural plantings like what is near Wimbleton.

Therese stated that the next steps would be for the Parks and Recreation Board if they are so moved to approve a resolution to support and endorse the Poppleton Park concept plan, considering some revisions perhaps to the pathways and the concerns of the neighbors as they have been given to us tonight and then the concept plan would be forward to the City Commission along with the Adams Park Plan for which the Parks and Recreation Board approved on August 9, 2006.

Therese stated both concept plans would be included in the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Therese stated that it would be a few years before the projects would actually begin.

It was moved by Bill Wiebrecht, seconded by Ross Kaplan to support and endorse the Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan as presented on October 5, 2016 and forward to the City Commission for their consideration.

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

Nays – 0

Absent – 2 Art Stevens and Lilly Stotland

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1- Dog Park Open House – October 18, 2016 (5:30pm-7:00 pm)

Connie provided a flyer with the information for the upcoming Dog Park Open House on October 18, 2016.

Connie stated that there will be an aerial of the park so that suggestions can be taken for improvements for the Lincoln Hills Dog park.

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2a- Golf Course Financial

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

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2b- Golf Course Report

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

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3- Project Updates (*verbal*)

Carrie stated that bids will be received for Pembroke regrading and seeding project.

Connie stated that a donation was received from the Birmingham Bloomfield Soccer Association for the Crestview Park regrading and seeding project that was completed in Spring of 2016.

Carrie stated that there are no new updates on Manor Park or the Floyd project.

Carrie stated that at Martha Baldwin would not occur since project was not approved by DEQ since Martha Baldwin is located so close to the Rouge River.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Therese asked how the Little Library Project was going. Connie stated that the Barnum Park Little Library has been registered with the Little Library and can be viewed from their website.

Carrie stated that the naming contest will occur in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Therese stated that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 6:30 pm at DPS

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator