

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 7, 2017**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross, Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Meehan and Art Stevens

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:** Ben Gould, Groves Student  
Joey Kummer, Seaholm Student

**ADMINISTRATION:** Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services  
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager

**GUESTS:** Nasseem Kamin, Margaret Kowal, Cindy Rose and John Rusche

Therese welcomed Ben Gould from Groves High School and Joey Kummer from Seaholm High School to the Parks and Recreation Board.

It was moved by Bill Wiebrecht, seconded by Ross Kaplan that the minutes of the February 7, 2017 regular meeting be approved.

**Yeas – 5** Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross, Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

**Nays – 0**

**Absent-2** John Meehan and Art Stevens

**AGENDA ITEM #1 – Trail Connection Location-Lower Baldwin**

Lauren stated that this a follow-up to the original report from the July 12, 2016 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on porous pave trail connection at Lower Baldwin.

Lauren stated that Community Development Department has been reviewing crosswalk options including trail connectivity for W. Maple Road at this designated location and in turn evaluated possible alternatives for trail connections.

Lauren stated that Lauren Chapman, Assistant City of Birmingham Planner has looked into options to connect the Quarton Lake Trail (north of Maple) and the Linden Park Trail (south of Maple) across West Maple Road.

Carrie reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the proposed location for the proposed application for the use of porous pave at Lower Baldwin.

Lauren stated that the Parks Board should determine the preferred alignment of trail connections from the public sidewalk to the trail networks, both north and south of W. Maple.

Bill Wiebrecht stated that it has been about ten years since there has been discussion on installing a pedestrian bridge to allow for the crossing Maple Road.

Ross Kaplan suggested on shifting the trail on the north side of Maple Road

Carrie reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the Trail Connection –North and South of Maple report that was prepared by Lauren Chapman, City of Birmingham Assistant Planner. Lauren Chapman provided four different options of bridges and all would be ramps. Carrie stated that costs were also provided in the report.

Carrie stated that another option would be an at-grade crossing island on W. Maple Road at Baldwin Road and could be constructed to allow safe pedestrian crossing for trail users between the Quarton and Linden trails. Such a crossing island is estimated to cost approximately \$50,000.

Carrie stated that the crossing island would be affordable, accessible, and consistent with the MMTP. Crossing islands would be beneficial for pedestrians and cyclists.

Therese stated that the location shown is the only feasible location that considers existing guard rails, turning movements, and sight distance issues.

Therese stated that location also conflicts with the turning movements to an existing driveway on the south side of the street and if the City wishes to pursue this option, it is suggested that some form of driveway relocation agreeable to the homeowner would be required.

Therese asked when would the Parks and Recreation Board determine the preferred alignment of trail connections from the public sidewalk to the trail networks, both north and south of West Maple.

Lauren stated that there has not been a time table set for the pedestrian crossing.

It was moved by Lilly Stotland, seconded by Bill Wiebrecht to endorse and support the Planning Department recommendation for an at-grade pedestrian crossing on W. Maple Road just west of Baldwin Road. Further, to support pursuing the trail connection south of Maple Road from the sidewalk to the bridge at Lower Baldwin modifying the original July 12, 2016 staff proposal to a westerly connection.

**Yeas – 5** Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, Ryan Ross, Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

**Nays – 0**

**Absent-2** John Meehan and Art Stevens

**COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS #1-2017 Student Appointments For The Parks and Recreation Board**

Lauren provided to the Parks and Recreation Board information on the 2017 student appointments to City of Birmingham Boards and Commissions.

**No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2- City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board Roster**

Lauren provided the updated City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board Roster that includes the student representatives.

**No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3- Invasive Species Removal Update**

Carrie stated over the past several years, DPS has coordinated invasive species removal work in park areas throughout the city.

Carrie stated that this spring at Barnum Park, the "no-mow" natural areas have been infected with invasive Canada thistle and invasive clover, this was a monumental problem last year especially. Carrie stated that a contractor that specializes in prescribed burns, David Borneman, was consulted and advised that Barnum is a good candidate for a "burn".

Carrie stated that a notification letter will be sent to the neighbors and Homeowners Association presidents. The Birmingham Fire Department is aware of this project and will have a truck assigned to monitor the burn. David Borneman's personnel come equipped with safety equipment and water tanks as well.

Carrie stated that the department looks forward to a positive results from prescribed burning and hopes to expand this program in the future to other natural areas in the City including Quarton Lake and Booth Park.

Cindy Rose stated that the prescribed burn is an excellent idea.

**No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4-Media release For the Naming Contest of the Free Little Library at Barnum Park**

Carrie stated that the notice is out and the office will be receiving entries until March 27, 2017.

**No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5-Communication received from Phyllis Clark regarding Donation from Marshall Lasser-Basalt Stones Installation at Quarton Lake**

Lauren stated that a communication was received from Phyllis Clark in support of the donation from Marshall Lasser.

**No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6-**The City Commission Budget Session will be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Lauren stated to the Parks and Recreation Board the City Commission Budget session date and time.

**No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7a-**DPS Open House-Saturday, May 13, 2017 (10am-2pm)

Lauren stated to the Parks and Recreation Board the DPS Open House date and time.

**No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7b-**2017 Rouge River Day Clean-Up-Saturday, May 20, 2017 (9am-12pm)

Lauren stated to the Parks and Recreation Board the 2017 Rouge River Clean-Up information.

**No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7c-**City of Birmingham Ice Show

Lauren stated to the Parks and Recreation Board the 2017 City of Birmingham Ice Show information.

**No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Therese stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 6:30 pm at DPS.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm  
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator