

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2018

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona, Ross Kaplan,
Therese Longe, John Meehan, John Rusche,
Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: CeCe Cousins, Seaholm Student
Jakob Sayers, Seaholm Student

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

PRESENTER: Patrick M. Funke, Michael J. Dul & Associates

GUESTS: Ellie Noble, Cindy Rose and David Young

It was moved by John Rusche, seconded by Bill Wiebrecht the minutes of the Tuesday, July 10, 2018 regular meeting be approved.

Yeas – 7 Heather Carmona, Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, John Rusche,
Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

AGENDA ITEM #1 –Barnum Park Shade Structure Request

Lauren stated that David Young has a donor that would like to donate funds for one Barnum Park shade structure. Lauren stated that the City of Birmingham has budgeted for ~~one~~ **two** shade structures at Barnum and **one of them** ~~that the other~~ would be purchased by donor dollars.

Lauren stated that there are currently two shade structures at Barnum Park and this would complete the Barnum Park Shade Structure plans.

David Young stated the donor is a ~~creditable~~ **credible** source. David stated that if there were any monies left, ~~if~~ additional seating could be purchased for Barnum Park.

It was moved by Therese Longe, seconded by Bill Wiebrecht the Parks and Recreation Board wishes to endorse the donation and request that the City Commission consider supporting the second shade structure.

Yeas – 7 Heather Carmona, Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, John Rusche,
Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

AGENDA ITEM #2 –345 Hawthorne Landscape Proposal

Carrie discussed with the Parks and Recreation Board a Landscape Plan Proposal for 345 Hawthorne.

Carrie reminded the Parks and Recreation Board that two previous landscape proposals have been presented to the Parks and Recreation Board and that both were approved and occurred once the Department of Public Services issued a Tree and Shrub Permit in accordance with the Tree Preservation Ordinance for such work on public property.

Carrie introduced Patrick M. Funke from Michael J. Dul & Associates who presented to the Parks and Recreation Board the propose 345 Hawthorne Landscape Plan Proposal.

Ross Kaplan asked about the City of Birmingham steps that being shown on the proposed landscape plan. Patrick stated that the steps are made from natural stone and would not be touched.

John Rusche stated that he has one question for the City attorney, regarding maintaining the 20 – 25 ft. ~~in~~ of the park property. John asked ~~does~~ that over the years **does this then** suddenly become the property of the homeowner.

Patrick stated that is referred as adverse possession at that point. Patrick stated the homeowner just wants to make the improvement and it's not his client's intent to adversely possess this property in the future and if his client needs to sign something, they would do so.

Therese asked if the homeowner across the street has been notified. Patrick stated that they have not been contacted. Therese stated that would be neighborly.

Carrie stated that the previous Landscape Proposal Plans are maintained by the property owners such as irrigation and replacement of plant material and the City of Birmingham does not maintain these properties.

Carrie stated that the homeowner would have to obtain through the Department of Public Services issued a Tree and Shrub Permit in accordance with the Tree Preservation Ordinance for such work on public property.

It was moved by John Rusche, seconded by Lilly Stotland to approve the landscape project next to 345 Hawthorne, along park property which is part of the City trail system in Linden Park and in the right-of-way along Hawthorne Street, as submitted. Furthermore, John Rusche stated "the city attorney should review the language pertaining to adverse possession on this project and to submit to the City Commission for their consideration and approval of the same."

Yeas – 7 Heather Carmona, Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, John Rusche
Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

**AGENDA ITEM #3 –Appointments To The Parks and Recreation Board Sub-Committees
Vacant Spot for Ice Arena Sub-Committee**

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Vacant Spot for Master Plan Sub-Committee

Therese Longe nominated Heather Carmona to the Master Plan Sub-Committee

Yeas – 7 Heather Carmona, Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, John Rusche
Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

Vacant Spot for Kenning Park Sub-Committee

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

AGENDA ITEM #4 –2019 Scheduled Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates

It was moved by Lilly Stotland, seconded by Bill Wiebrecht to approve the 2019 scheduled Parks and Recreation Board meeting dates as corrected.

Yeas – 7 Heather Carmona, Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, John Rusche
Lilly Stotland and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

AGENDA ITEM #5 –Buckingham City Property Fence Proposal

Carrie shared with the Parks and Recreation Board the background of the International Transmission Company (ITC) owns right of way along the power lines running alongside the Railroad at Buckingham and Cambridge, the site of city property, in December of 2015.

Carrie stated that ITC cleared woody trees and shrubs that provided a buffer between the city property and the RR tracks. As a response, for safety purposes, the City had a 220 ft. in length, 6 ft. tall chain link fence installed. A composite wood gate was also installed to allow access by ITC and also Canadian National (CN) railroad. The intent was to add landscaping on the City property side of the chain link fence.

Carrie stated that Canadian Thistle invaded the area, on both sides of the chain link fence, covering city property, ITC right of way and CN RR property. The city has been working to eradicate the thistle before any landscaping is installed. However, due to the thistle being located on railroad property in addition to city property, each time an application of weed control is applied; permission must be granted through the railroad, which is an extensive process. Additionally, along the RR that abuts Derby middle school, the neighboring property to the north, Canadian Thistle is thriving and when it's seeding, the wind from passing trains transfers millions of seedlings back onto the treated area. It is truly a never ending task without any good results.

Carrie stated that the proposal is to install a wooden fence in place of the chain link fence. The existing fence posts can remain, they will be covered with wood boards and the fabric from the chain link fence will be salvaged and repurposed for fencing needs throughout park and city property. The wooden fence will block the view of the unsightly RR property and help to prevent some of the seedlings of Canadian thistle. It will be more aesthetically pleasing, and we will continue to monitor and control the thistle on City property. If feasible, the City will add native plants along the fence as a next step.

Therese stated that the roots from the Canadian thistle will work its way under the fence. Carrie agreed that this would occur. Therese asked if the City of Birmingham could compel CN RR to maintain their property. Carrie stated that there has been no movement with CN RR.

Heather stated that eventually the Canadian thistle will continue to return.

Lauren stated that the department has been working with the homeowners to make the area nice.

Carrie stated that the department could just mow the area and to keep the area aesthetically pleasing.

The Parks and Recreation Board took no action on this item.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1 Ryan Ross Resignation Letter

Lauren presented to the Parks and Recreation Board Ryan Ross resignation letter.

The Parks and Recreation Board took no action on this item.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2a Kenning Park Ballfield Construction-Bid Opening

Lauren stated that the City of Birmingham will not be awarding the project as anticipated due to the overpriced bid amount and as the result of only one complete bid submitted.

Lauren stated the project will be re-bid this fall.

The Parks and Recreation Board took no action on this item.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3b Barnum Park

Carrie updated the Parks and Recreation Board Late last fall, we began the maintenance project of grading the soccer area and crowning the ball field, including adding new topsoil and infield product. The contractor had a punch list to address this spring, and began work again in late May/early June due to an unusually late start to spring. The area remains fenced off so there is no foot traffic and we will keep this soccer field out of play this fall, as the contractor will need to apply a weed control product and also more seed to touch up areas. The softball field will remain closed as well, as the outfield area is affected.

Carrie stated that the no mow areas have been treated with weed control.

Carrie stated that requests for proposals went out to prospective contractors late May for the Barnum Arch Landscape enhancements. Carrie stated that only one (1) contractor submitted a proposal and the proposal was incomplete, only the brick work was included.

Carrie stated that the City will not be proceeding with the work as proposed but that the concrete work will be scheduled with the sidewalk replacement program through our engineering department and the entire approach to the arch will be replaced. The steps up to the arch will be addressed as part of the project as well. Bench pads on either side of the sidewalk approach will be added.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3a Finance Report-Golf Course

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

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3b Golf Course Report

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

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4 2018 In The Park Concert Series

Connie stated to the Parks and Recreation Board that the last concert would be on Wednesday, August 15, 2018.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5 Re-Cap of Pickleball at Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, Summer 2018 (verbal)

Connie stated that pickleball has concluded and that department will be meeting with Chris Braun from NEXT to discuss the program and to adjust the hours for the 2019 season.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6 Update from Master Plan Sub-Committee (verbal)

Therese stated that there has been one Master Plan Sub-Committee meeting to discuss a layout and a process of looking at items in part A that has been identified in the Parks and Master Plan and staff have been working on specific pricing for these items and then analyze the items in part B to see if there were any items that would be moved up and the next step would be to plot those out by some type of geographic distribution or by priority.

Therese stated for example the Birmingham Ice Arena is sooner **rather** than later because of the systems failing and then what the City of Birmingham can accomplish because of time periods because the bond issue requires the City to complete projects in specific time period. Therese stated that a process would have to be laid out on engaging the public.

John stated that the Master Plan Sub-Committee would be meeting once a month and will be reporting back to the Parks and Recreation Board.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

Therese asked Lauren regarding the consent agenda K that was on Monday, August 13, 2018 City Commission Agenda. Lauren stated that the item pertained to a linear park adjacent to the railroad tracks on the east side of the district. Lauren stated that the item was pulled from the City Commission Agenda.

Lauren stated that the item would be forthcoming to the Parks and Recreation Board.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No public comment.

John Meehan stated the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 6:30 pm at DPS.

John Meehan adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

Approved