

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2021

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. for the virtual meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Carmona (location: Birmingham, MI)
Susan Collins (location: Birmingham, MI)
Pam Graham (location: Birmingham, MI)
Ross Kaplan (location: Birmingham, MI)
Anne Lipp (location: Birmingham, MI)
Ellie Noble (location: Birmingham, MI)
Dominick Pulis (location: Birmingham, MI)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Rusche

ADMINISTRATION:

Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services
Jacky Brito, Golf Course Manager
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

GUESTS:

Steve Carrel, Gary Piotrowicz, Brandon Reinkensmeyer
Cindy Rose, Robert Runco and Zack Warson

It was moved by Susan Collins, seconded by Ross Kaplan to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021 regular meeting as amended.

ROLE CALL VOTE:

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Pam Graham, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp,
Ellie Noble and Dominick Pulis

Nays, None

AGENDA Item #1 Annual Golf Report

Jacky Brito reviewed the 2020 Annual Golf Report. Jacky reported that the golf courses had an explosive year and how thankful she was for her staff and the golfers. Jacky stated that the golf courses finished the season with a net surplus of \$259,335.

Jacky stated that the resident memberships increased by 134, or 8%, and non-residents increased by 20%, a total of 167 new memberships. Jacky with the uncertainty in spring and people were not sure if they should play or not, we offered a \$25 COVID-19 discount off the Non-Resident and Business memberships. This discount was applied to 918 memberships that totaled \$22,950, and was well received by all. The same discount will be offered again for the 2021 golf season.

Jacky continued through the golf report and discussing the junior golf program, food and beverages revenues and expenses and how COVID-19 affected these two categories. Jacky stated most of the golf course projects were put on hold, but was excited to have the patio completed at Springdale.

Jacky shared the following Capital Improvements for 2020/2021:

Springdale

- Renovate and Add New Cart Paths (Abutments on all bridges, #4, #5 and #2)
- Extending Cart Path to Wash Carts – Damage from COVID
- Installing New Tee Signs
- Installing a New Bathroom (Fabricated Building) with Cement Pad
- Begin the Process for Irrigation System

Lincoln Hills

- Install Enclosure for Garbage Dumpsters in Parking Lot
- Beautify Clubhouse and Bathroom Beds
- Add Drainage on #4
- New Entrance Sign
- Build Up Putting Green

Jacky stated the main focus always revolves around membership, and with the abundant new members during COVID-19, the need to create activities, tournaments, leagues and lessons to connect these new golfers to the game were important.

Ross and Dominick commented on a great job on the golf course report and what a nice job the staff did at the golf courses.

It was moved by Anne Lipp, seconded by Ross Kaplan to accept the 2020 Annual Golf Report and recommend it to be forward to the City of Birmingham commission.

ROLE CALL VOTE:

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Pam Graham, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp,
Ellie Noble and Dominick Pulis

Nays,

None

AGENDA ITEM #2: Adam’s Park Design Consult Proposal

Carrie stated that the City of Birmingham is moving forward on some projects with the approval of the Parks and Recreation Bond from November of 2020. Carrie stated that in the packet is the Parks and Recreation Bond Priority List, identifying projects in order to determine the bond amount and ultimately bond ballot language for consideration.

Carrie stated that Adams Park is included in Schedule I of the Priority List. In 2016, the City requested a concept plan for Adams Park designed by Michael J. Dul & Associates that was presented and accepted at a Parks and Recreation Board meeting and received by the City Commission. The concept plan was a result of public input, meeting with neighborhood groups and Roeper School.

Carrie stated the work includes the consultant providing a base map from survey information provided by the City, a preliminary development plan proposed design for park elements such as play equipment and landscape beds, and a preliminary cost estimate for budgeting purposes.

Carrie stated the Department of Public Services recommends awarding the Adams Park Master Plan Design to Michael J. Dul & Associates in the amount not to exceed \$7,675, which includes \$175 allotment for reimbursables.

Dominick asked if there were any opportunities to move faster on the Adams Park project.

Carrie stated there needs to be time to meet with the stakeholder groups, have input sessions for the public and approval from the Parks and Recreation Board and City Commission and that bidding in the fall is appropriate.

Pam asked if there is a plan to discuss with the stakeholders of Roeper Schools to find out their expectations of Adams Park prior to engaging Michael J. Dul & Associates. Carrie stated that there will be discussion with Roeper School.

Ross stated that Roeper did commit in 2016 understanding that times have changed. Lauren stated that administration will be reaching out to representatives from Roeper. Lauren stated that there is a cooperative agreement between the City of Birmingham and Roeper for their use of Adams Park.

It was moved by Dominick Pulis and seconded by Ross Kaplan to recommend the Adams Park Design Consultant project award be to Michael J. Dul & Associates. Further, to forward this project to be considered for approval by the City Commission.

ROLE CALL VOTE:

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Pam Graham, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp,
Ellie Noble and Dominick Pulis

Nays,

None

Cindy stated that just knowing that Adams Park project is on the docket for the upcoming year is wonderful and it does take time and there are procedures in place that has to be followed.

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Long Range Planning Items
Parks and Recreation Bond Timeline/Birmingham Ice Sports Arena**

Lauren provided the Parks and Recreation Board the documents that were discussed at the Long Range Planning meeting.

Dominick requested that the documents related to the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena be cleaned up to represent the current path moving forward for the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena project.

Lauren stated that the documents and the website will be reviewed and be cleaned up to represent the project at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Capital Projects Sub Committee Report- January 5, 2021

Susan reviewed the report with the Parks and Recreation Board.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: Ice Arena Finance Report, period ending- December 31, 2020

Lauren provided to the Parks and Recreation Board an ice arena financial item which will be provided to the Parks and Recreation Board going forward. Lauren stated that both revenue and expenses are both down because of COVID-19 restrictions and the arenas closure due to COVID-19.

Susan asked that if the department is tracking the loss because of the closure due to COVID-19.

Lauren stated that administration has been tracking the losses and will give an update to the Parks and Recreation Board members at a future meeting.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4: Ice Arena Project Update (verbal)

Lauren stated that plans will be provided to the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board for review.

~~Anne reiterated that 70% of the Park Bond approval was slated for the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena improvements and the Birmingham Ice Arena. Anne stated that the parks bond proposal language explicitly stated that the funds would be used to renovate the ice arena, the city website earmarked that figure for the rink and the residents of the city voted for that parks bond proposal for more than 70% of the vote.~~

~~Anne stated that the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena is not a special interest facility as stated by a member of City Commission and it is used by a large variety of individuals.~~

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

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5: Staying Informed about the Parks and Recreation Bond

Lauren shared with the Parks and Recreation Board information the City of Birmingham website that shows primed information sites related to the Parks and Recreation Bond and the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena.

Lauren shared with the Parks and Recreation Board on how to sign up for the City of Birmingham constant contact that is used to send out messages on a variety of topics and important updates to individuals who are signed up.

Robert Runco stated as the president of the Birmingham Hockey Association the association will be available for any assistance that might be needed. The Birmingham Hockey Association represents approximately 400 families that participate in the association and skate at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6: Lots of fun outdoor activities in Birmingham, Downtown News Magazine

Lauren provided to the Parks and Recreation Board an article regarding outdoor activities in Birmingham.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Robert Runco stated how excited the hockey community is and if there is anything the association can assist with the association will.

Steve Carrel president of Birmingham Unified High School Hockey Booster Club stated how excited the organization is and they are also here to assist and are also supportive of the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena.

Pam asked if the City of Birmingham has ever offered an incentive on completing a project early.

Lauren stated that there has been a history of either penalizing a contractor or giving a bonus on construction projects. Lauren stated that it might cost more but that is a good idea.

Brandon Reinkensmeyer member of the Birmingham Hockey Association, a past player of Birmingham Hockey Association and he now has a son in the hockey program and a daughter in the skating club of Birmingham and is very excited on the project.

Zack Warson, Birmingham Varsity Unified High School Hockey Coach wanted to echo the excitement of the athletes and how very trying year of a year the players have had with all the setbacks and are all looking forward to next season with all the new renovations to the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena.

Gary Piotrowicz, past president of Birmingham Unified High School Hockey Booster Club and past president of the Birmingham Hockey Association wanted to reiterate the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena is a community ice arena and that the teams are from the Birmingham area.

Heather Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, ~~February~~ **March 2, 2021** virtually at 6:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator