



Parks and Recreation Board Agenda
Department of Public Services
851 South Eton-Conference Room
Tuesday, September 13, 2022
6:30 PM

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of the minutes of:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022(*regular meeting*)
- IV. Agenda Items-Written and submitted by 5pm Monday at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, one week prior to the meeting.**
 - 1. Station #2 Concept Plan
 - 2. South Well Site – Parks along Southfield Road
 - 3. October 11, 2022 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting moved to 7:00pm
- V. Communications/Discussion Items**
 - 1. Strategic Planning Workshop Series
 - 2. Project Updates
 - a. Adams Park Project
 - 1. Save The New Tree, email from Heather Carmona
 - 2. Adams Park-Home Stretch, email from Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services
 - b. Pickleball
 - 1. Birmingham Country Club Sport Court Expansion, letter from Thomas Markus, City Manger
 - 2. Pickleball popularity soars, but expansion at Birmingham Country Club getting pushback, Detroit Free Press Newspaper Article
 - 3. Pickleball, email from Linda Forrester
- VI. Unfinished Business**
- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda**
- IX. Next Regular Meeting – October 11, 2022**

Individuals requiring accommodations, such as interpreter services, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 at least one day in advance of the public meeting.

Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública.

(Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

If you cannot attend the meetings, please contact Connie Folk at the Birmingham Ice Arena (248) 530-1642.

Minutes are available for review at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2300 East Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

The Parks and Recreation Board strives to provide opportunities for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration for present and future generations of residents and visitors through stewardship of natural, cultural and recreational resources. By continuously elevating the beauty and quality of the parks and recreation system of Birmingham, the Parks and Recreation Board will promote health and wellbeing, and strengthen the community.

Should you have any statement regarding the above, you are invited to attend the meeting in person or virtually through

ZOOM: Meeting ID: 981 9146 6679

You may also present your written statement to:

City of Birmingham, Parks and Recreation Board,
851 South Eton, Birmingham, Michigan 48009 prior to the meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2022

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Kyle Goulding
Ross Kaplan
Anne Lipp
John Rusche
Steve Sweeney

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Pam Graham
Ellie Noble

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

ABSENT:

Zachary Miketa, Seaholm High School
Matthew Windsor, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION:

Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator
Brooks Cowen, City Planner

GUESTS:

Linda Forrester, Oz Forrester, and David Young

It was moved by Rusche, seconded by Kaplan, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 12, 2022, regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Kyle Goulding, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp, John Rusche, and Steve Sweeney

Nays,

None

Absent,

Pam Graham and Ellie Noble

Agenda item #1: Request for Art Donation Installation: Tom Fitzgerald – “Khyber” – Art on Loan Application

Carmona opened by introducing Brooks Cowan, City Planner and liaison to Birmingham Public Arts Board.

Cowan stated the sculpture titled “Khyber” is provided as a permanent donation to be considered the property of the City of Birmingham, placed in Fairway Park where the Fairway Trail hits Fairway Drive and will be installed on a standard concrete base, similar to the art installation at the Baldwin Public Library.

Rusche inquired whether an artist’s statement would be included with the piece. Cowan said that the artist would be identified on a small bronze plaque and a more detailed description would be provided online at Bhamgov.org/art.

Kaplan inquired about artwork maintenance because the application for Art in Public Spaces indicated that “Khyber” may require occasional touch ups with high gloss black paint. Cowan replied that the city budgets for maintenance for all art installations.

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Collins to recommend the location of Fairway Park indicated in Exhibit A for the installation of the sculpture “Khyber” by Tom Fitzgerald.

Ayes,	Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Kyle Goulding, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp, John Rusche, and Steve Sweeney
Nays,	None
Absent,	Pam Graham and Ellie Noble

Agenda item #2: Crestview Park- Pickleball Courts Recommendation

PM Laird provided a Request For Proposal (RFP) status update and recommended the Parks and Recreation Board approve single bidder, Goddard Coatings to complete conversion of Crestview Park courts to six (6) pickleball courts and further recommend this project be considered for approval by the City Commission.

PM Laird provided a memorandum which provided project background, status, reviews, fiscal impacts, recommendations, as well as the contractor proposal and related attachments. Goddard Coatings’ proposal did not commit to a September 30, 2022, project completion deadline, due to a backlog of work and committed schedules; however, they did state in their proposal they would do their best to meet such a deadline.

PM Laird stated that Goddard Coatings did not include a provision for an alternate sound dampening fence. PM Laird will be exploring other sound barriers for future installation.

Rusche asked if illustrations would be provided to the City Commission and PM Laird replied that the drawings provided by the prior consultant would be utilized.

Collins wondered if the recent crack repair would be covered by the general maintenance fund.

PM Laird explained when that funding approach had been delayed as a capital project because no funding was available, so bond money was utilized.

Carmona suggested that \$55,000 had been estimated, so despite only having one bid response, the proposal's \$63,750 appears reasonable. PM Laird added known contractors are booked for the season.

DPS Director Wood described the city is pushing the contractor for completion this year and offered that the city has previously had great experience with Goddard Coatings: they have a great local reputation and are a subcontractor in the Adams Park project. Additionally, DPS Director Wood reached out to another contractor to respond to the RFP (for pricing comparison), they indicated they were extraordinarily busy this season yet would try to submit a proposal.

In order to not jeopardize the tight project timing, the plan is to bring the proposal to the next City Commission meeting.

Kaplan asked about receiving a single bid. DPS Director Wood explained that more responses are preferred but single bids are not uncommon.

Collins asked if there had been any noise complaints, and PM Laird and DPS Director Wood indicated that none had been received.

Sweeney said he had used the temporary pickleball courts at Crestview Park and loved them.

Carmona thanked Sweeney for his efforts, advocacy, and feedback.

Linda Forrester stated that she was talking to DPS Director Wood about setting up specific times for group play on the reservation system.

DPS Director Wood stated that the city does not program and the reservation system is used for other facilities and moving forward the reservation system could be used for pickleball reservations but that has not been determined yet.

Linda Forrester suggested an open house and have set aside specific times for group play, e.g., nine o'clock to eleven o'clock in the morning, so that players know when to show up to play in a group.

Carmona stated that Linda Forrester is welcome to do that now; however, the city is not prepared to program pickleball or utilize the current reservation system at this time.

DPS Director Wood stated that during the conversation with Linda Forrester, there would be an evaluation of using the reservation system for reserving pickleball courts on specific times and to communicate through the city social media communications after the Crestview Park tennis courts has been permanently converted to pickleball courts.

Carmona suggested a better understanding of the constraints and role of the City as it relates to procedures and staffing and what would be useful.

Sweeney identified as an avid pickleball enthusiast, two (2) factors with the current temporary pickleball courts at Crestview Park that influence local pickleball players' engagement.

- Limited number of pickleball courts – currently there are two (2) pickleball courts where most pickleball players expect six (6) or eight (8) courts
- Temporary markings over existing tennis court lines

These factors have contributed to local enthusiasts to utilize the Crestview Park pickleball courts as an alternate.

It was moved by Sweeney, seconded by Kaplan to approve the project for Crestview Park pickleball courts with Goddard Coating Company and further, to recommend this project be considered for approval by the City Commission.

Ayes,	Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Kyle Goulding, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp, John Rusche, and Steve Sweeney
Nays,	None
Absent,	Pam Graham and Ellie Noble

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Project Updates

a. Adams Park Project

PM Laird confirmed the project is on track and reviewed construction progress, concept rendering, and current photos. Concrete work has begun, play area is carving out, the basketball court and track and field elements are shaping up, and the beautiful, stately centerpiece tree is in place (located in the central gathering area). Thirty-eight (38) truckloads of debris have been removed and boulders have arrived. The playground equipment is coming soon. The project is on time and should be finished before school begins this year.

Carmona inquired about neighborhood concerns. PM Laird said mostly positive feedback has been received.

Lipp inquired about a ribbon cutting ceremony. PM Laird confirmed that a ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned.

Goulding asked if donations are still being accepted and PM Laird said we still are but none have been received.

Carmona was assured by PM Laird that the City does not anticipate the newly installed Elm to outgrow the circular concrete pad at the base of the tree.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

b. In The Park Concerts – Shain Park

RC Folk shared there have been no cancellations so far this season and the events have been well attended.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Golf Course Updates

Golf Course Report – July 27, 2022

DPS Director Wood reported that the season has been getting better and better thanks to good weather and exceptional teams at both Springdale and Lincoln Hills. Currently, some seasonal workers are heading back to school, so the City is still onboarding and searching for more help.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Carmona asked about the drainage pilot project at Fairway Park to prepare for future bond projects such as Poppleton Park. PM Laird has done several site visits since installation and said the area looks amazing and there is no standing water anymore.

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:

No Public Comments

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

Stacy Vail, Clerical



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: September 8, 2022

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Station #2 Concept Plan

Expressed interest in utilizing the city property located at 1600 W. Maple, otherwise known as Fire Station #2, as a park by surrounding residents the and community prompted a review of the area, discussion and potential viable options for your review. By way of background, please see the attached information on this property.

The attached proposed plan has been provided at no cost by Christopher J Longe, Architect and Interior Design.

Concept Plan Points of Interest - shown on concept plan with correlating keynote numbers:

Pergola Structure and Planting Area Backdrop

- provides a seating and shading area (1) (2) (3)
- screens home to the north
- intentionally set back off of Maple to create and define north end of "outdoor room" (8)
- together with south wall- creates and defines play area (4)

Play area:

- open space (4)

Extension of wall

- south wall extension to semi-enclose park and define south edge (7)
- buffer from traffic, barrier for kids using the play area/chasing ball into W. Maple

Angled wall

- thickened, becomes seating wall (5)

Flower Bed

- corner terminated with flower bed to soften edge created by the intersection of sidewalk/streets (6)

The concept plan is presented for your review, to receive feedback and public input. It should be noted that this project came before us after the Parks and Recreation Bond priority list was set and there is currently no designation of funding for this project, bond dollars or otherwise. A cost estimate has not been determined at this time, as this is the initial public review of potential park features and elements.

As we develop our next five (5) year Parks and Recreation plan in the coming year, we hope to include this area as a future capital project item, and will continue discussions on budgeting, prioritization of this project vs. other identified projects, and donation opportunities and naming rights.

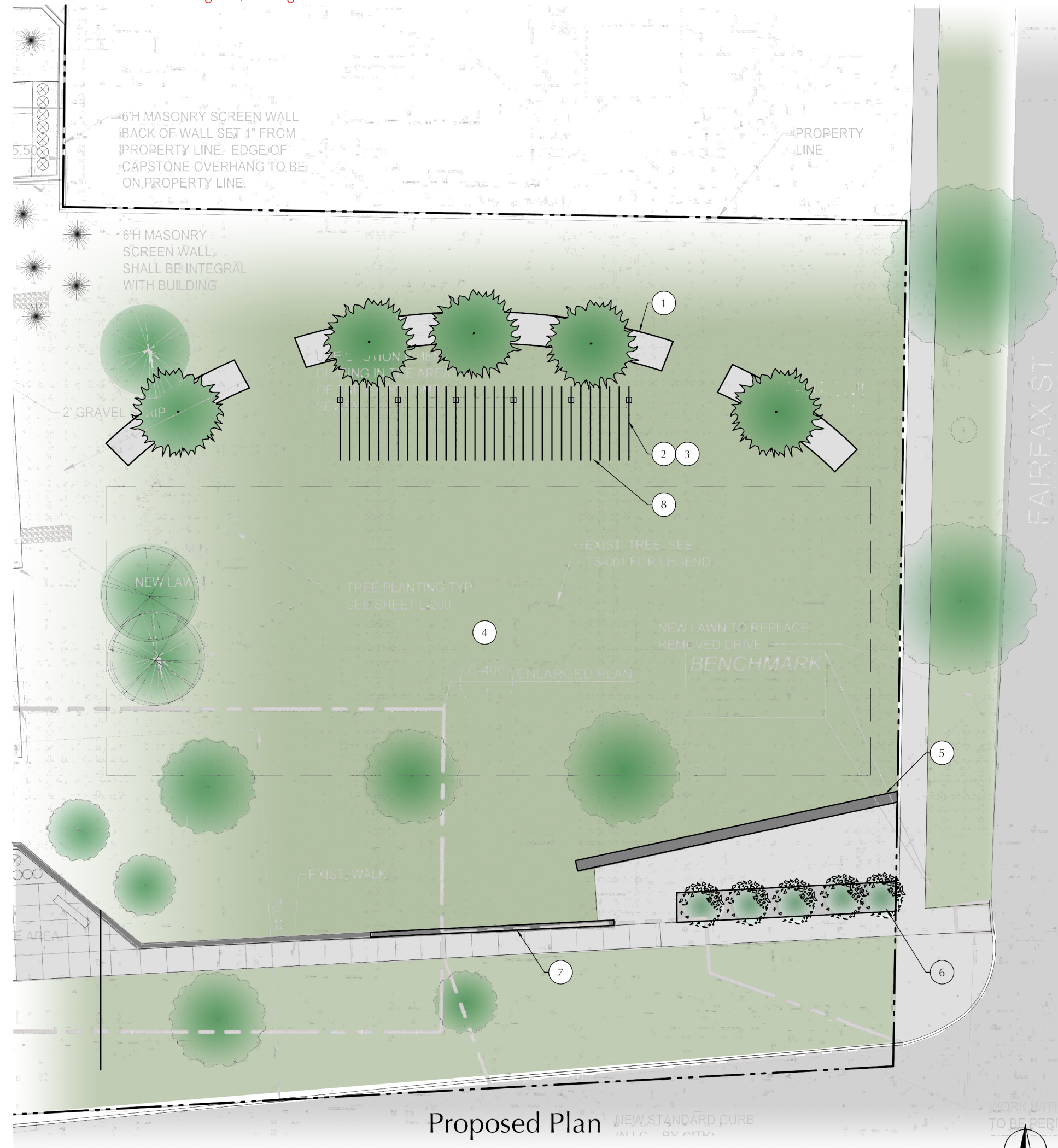
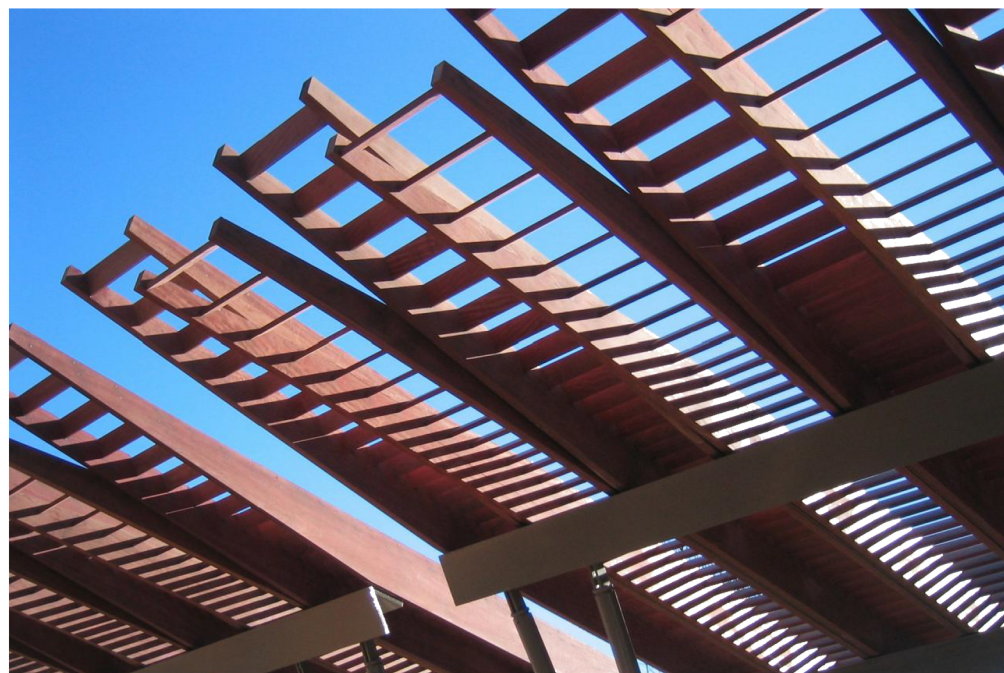
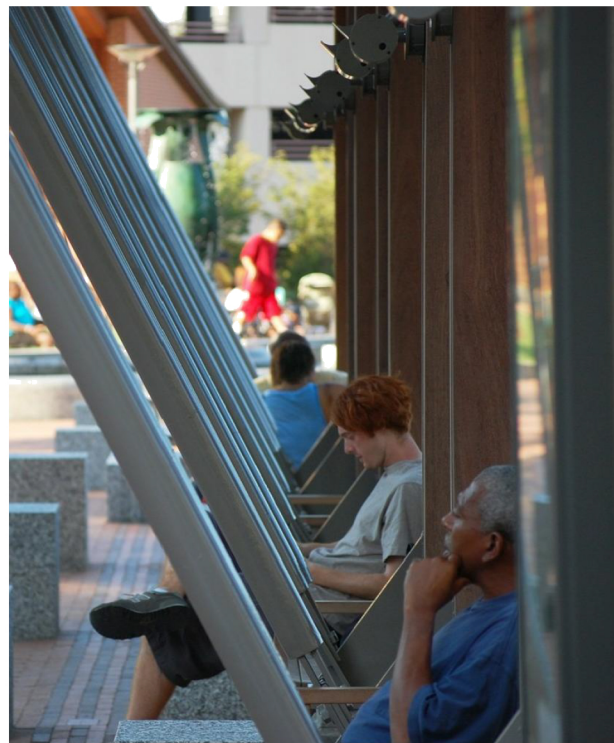
Attachments:

- Proposed Concept Plan
- Background information

CITY PARK
1600 West Maple
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

KEYNOTES:

- ① PLANTING AREA BACKDROP & SCREEN FROM HOMES TO THE NORTH
- ② PERGOLA STRUCTURE IS SEATING AND SHADING AREA
- ③ PERGOLA STRUCTURE DEFINES AND SCREENS FROM HOMES TO THE NORTH
- ④ PLAY AREA
- ⑤ SITTING WALL
- ⑥ FLOWER BED TO SOFTEN THE EDGE CREATED BY THE INTERSECTION OF SIDEWALK & STREET
- ⑦ SOUTH WALL EXTENSION IN COMBINATION WITH THE PERGOLA AND LANDSCAPE SCREENING DEFINES A PLAY AREA FOR FRISBEE, FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, SOCCER, ETC.
- ⑧ PERGOLA IS INTENTIONALLY SET BACK FAR OFF OF MAPLE TO CREATE AND DEFINE "OUTDOOR ROOM" OR PLAY AREA



Proposed Plan

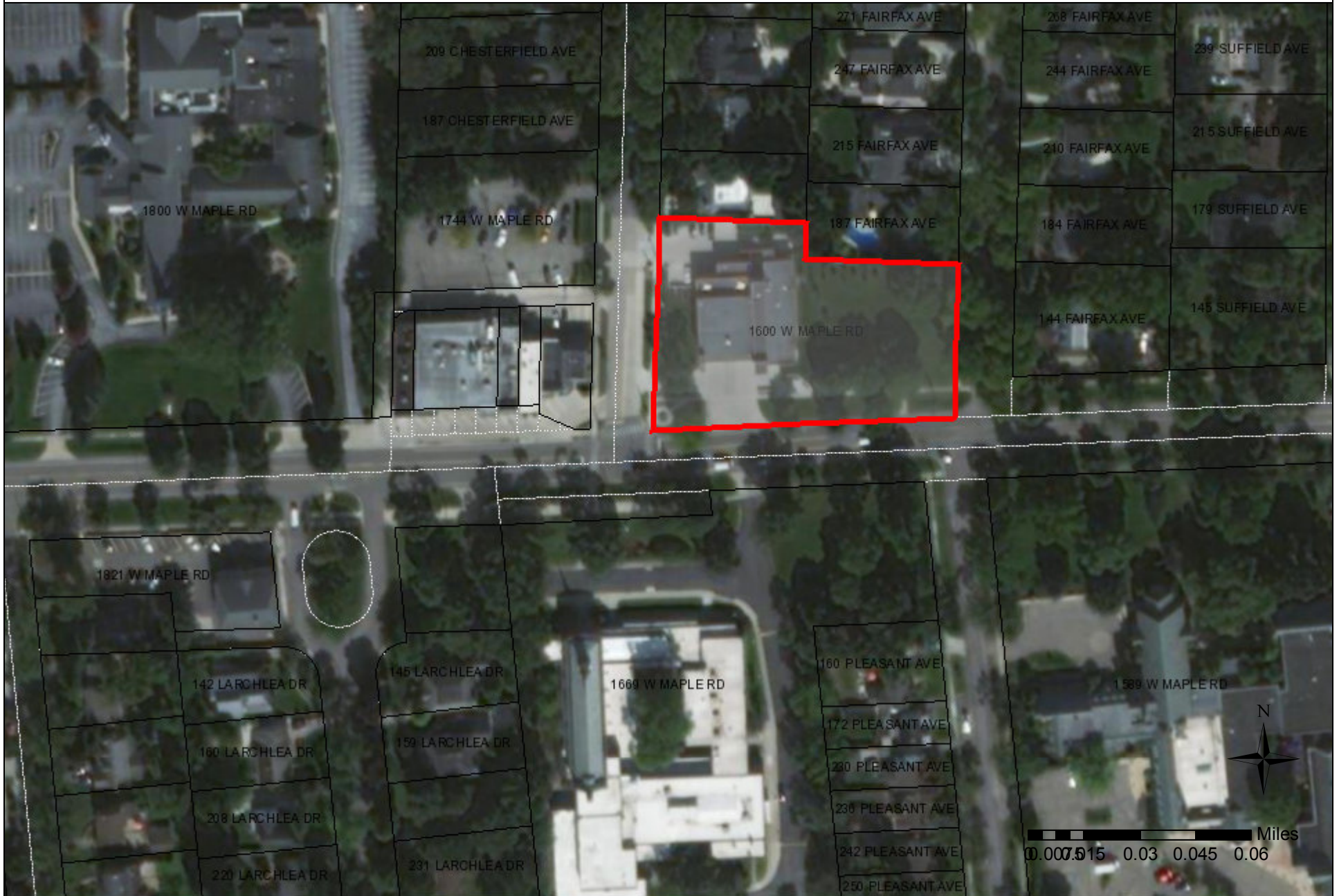
NEW STANDARD CURB
ALL C. BY CITY



Station #2



Station #2





MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: March 30, 2021
TO: Thomas M. Markus, City Manager
FROM: Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services
SUBJECT: Chesterfield Fire Station - Park Designation

INTRODUCTION:

There is interest and ongoing conversation from community members about designating an existing public property (known as the Chesterfield Fire Station) as a City park. In addition, to consider naming the park in honor of a local resident. Last year, a proposal and petition for a new park and playground located at Fire Station #2 was presented to the Parks and Recreation Board at their August 11, 2020 meeting. The Parks and Recreation Board took no action. However, the Administration informed the presenter, Kate Bongiorno that further consideration and communication can occur about this idea after the Parks and Recreation Bond proposal in November 2020.

Some park elements proposed at the corner of this parcel are an all-inclusive playground structure, benches, picnic tables and a gazebo, among other suggestions. There is not a concept plan, to date, for the proposed suggested site amenities. Of course, this would be a good starting point, in order to provide estimated construction costs.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the City property inventory, the Chesterfield Fire Station is a named property for use as a fire station. The location is on Maple Road between Chesterfield and Fairfax. The total area is 1.36 acres. The portion of this property to be labeled as a City Park is on the east side of the new fire station and comprises approximately .60 acres.

This property is zoned Public Property (PP), which is similar to all other public property including those sites classified as parks. There is no Park designation under the Zoning Code. For size comparison purposes, Adams Fire Station is 1.05 acres.

In July 2020, the City Commission identified park and recreation projects to be part of the local ballot proposal for \$11,250,000. The proposal to create a park at Fire Station #2 was presented after projects were included with the Parks and Recreation Bond proposal.

Since the passing of the Parks and Recreation Bond proposal, we are moving forward on several initiatives as part the recommended project priority list. The overall Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified several capital improvements projects at numerous City parks, new playgrounds and improvements to the Rouge River trail system. This proposal is not part of the overall parks and recreation initiatives.

As part of the due diligence in reviewing and making a recommendation back to the City Commission on this issue, the Administration will examine historical records and background information on other similar naming protocols of City parks, facilities and the like. There are examples from the past for which we can draw from as part of this review.

A donation is not being proposed as part of this request, but there is certainly a potential opportunity for donations to be part of any future park development. I have included a copy of the Parks and Recreation Donor Policy adopted in October 26, 2015 by the City Commission.

LEGAL REVIEW:

There is no legal review at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT:

New park and playground located at Fire Station #2 was not part of the Parks and Recreation Bond allocation, since it came up afterwards. Therefore, at this time, this park development is not included in the bond dollar distribution. There has been no funds budgeted in the current fiscal year budget for any park improvements at this site.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

Public input will be ongoing, to be gathered at the Parks and Recreation Board and City Commission meetings. Opportunities to include social media tools for additional feedback about this issue. Communications will be underway between City Administration and various City Departments.

SUMMARY:

Several issues need to be addressed as part of the review by the Parks and Recreation Board. These may include some of the following items. 1. Examine zoning issues and park designation steps. 2. Does this limit or restrict Fire Station uses and future expansion? 3. Review potential site amenities and probable costs, based on size and space restrictions. 4. How do we initiate naming opportunities, review past examples of City Commission actions. 5. How do we go about finding fundraising opportunities? 6. Examine potential financial impact and funding sources.

ATTACHMENTS:

- August 11, 2020 Parks and Recreation Board Agenda Item #2 and meeting minutes
- City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Donor Policy

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:

To refer this matter to the Parks and Recreation Board for their review, discussion and recommended actions about designating a portion of the Chesterfield Fire Station property as a City Park and provide formal park naming procedures. Further, to consider potential park site amenities and budget implications in order to undertake such endeavor.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Proposal for the Birmingham City Commission

1 message

Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 2:28 PM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

fyi

See the attached

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham

Department of Public Services

851 S. Eton, Birmingham, MI 48009

Direct Dial: 248.530.1702

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <Jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2020 at 9:34 AM

Subject: Fwd: Proposal for the Birmingham City Commission

To: Brad Host <bhost@bhamgov.org>, Clinton Baller <cballer@bhamgov.org>, Mark Nickita <mnickita@bhamgov.org>, Pierre Boutros <pboutros@bhamgov.org>, Racky Hoff <rhoff@bhamgov.org>, Stuart Sherman

<ssherman@bhamgov.org>, Therese Longe <tlonge@bhamgov.org>, Tim Currier <tcurrier@bhlaw.us.com>

Cc: Alex Bingham <abingham@bhamgov.org>, Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

FYI - Please note the attached letter and petition received today from a resident in the Quarton Lake neighborhood to make the public property next to Fire Station #2 off Maple into a park and playground. Such requests would be routed to the appropriate board for a review and recommendation, which in this case is the Parks and Recreation Board.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <Jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2020 at 9:28 AM

Subject: Fwd: Proposal for the Birmingham City Commission

To: <katebongiorno@gmail.com>

Cc: Therese Longe <tlonge@bhamgov.org>

Ms. Bongiorno,

Thank you for sharing your petition for the creation of a new park and playground in the Quarton Lake Neighborhood next to fire station #2. As we consider opportunities for improving our parks we will include your petition for consideration as well. This evening the City Commission will be presented with an opportunity for a Parks and Recreation Bond and I will share your petition with them. Per normal protocol, your petition may be directed to the Parks and Recreation Board for review and development of a formal recommendation back to the City Commission to act upon. We can keep you advised as to when the Parks and Recreation Board may consider your petition so you can elaborate on the interest and ideas from your neighborhood.

Best regards,
Joe Valentine

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kate Bongiorno** <katebongiorno@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 10, 2020 at 5:54 PM

Agenda Item #2

Subject: Fwd: Proposal for the Birmingham City Commission
To: <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>, <tlonge@bhamgov.org>

Dear City Manager Valentine,

Please find attached a letter and supporting petition proposing the creation of a new Birmingham City park and playground in the Quarton Lakes Estates neighborhood.

I have previously discussed this idea with City Commissioner Longe and have copied her on this email.

Incidentally, I would be glad to mail or deliver the actual signed petitions with citizens' signatures if it is preferred, but since City Hall is closed due COVID-19, an email and copy of the petition seemed the most efficient means of communication at this time.

Thank you for considering this community project.

Best regards,
Kate Bongiorno

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Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
[City of Birmingham](#)
[151 Martin Street](#)
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

To get the latest information regarding the City of Birmingham, please sign up for our communication tools by clicking here www.bit.ly/bhamnews.

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Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
[City of Birmingham](#)
[151 Martin Street](#)
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

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2 attachments

QLE Playground Petition .jpg
2196K



 **Quarton Lakes Estates Playground Proposal 07.10.20.pdf**
95K

Kate Bongiorno
684 Puritan Avenue
Birmingham, MI 48009

July 10, 2020

Birmingham City Commission
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009

Dear Birmingham City Manager Valentine, City Clerk Allen, and Esteemed Commission Members,

I would like to request and encourage your consideration of the creation of a 15th Birmingham City Playground in Quarton Lakes Estates.

This idea was hatched about a year ago when my friend (and fellow Birmingham resident) and I took our kids to visit all 14 Birmingham playgrounds in one day. It took us six hours and we enjoyed the variety of landscapes and playscapes and the opportunity to explore Birmingham. On our drive home, my kids and I wondered why our neighborhood was missing a neighborhood playground?

I subsequently shared my thoughts with other friends in the neighborhood and one, who I must take a moment to spotlight as one of Birmingham's most loyal citizens, Patricia Andrews, suggested that the greenspace adjacent to the beautiful new Fire Station #2 might be a good location to build a playground in the neighborhood.

I could not agree with her more!

The space next to Fire Station #2 has ample space to create a safe, pleasant, inviting space for recreation and relaxation. It has easy pedestrian and bike access from Fairfax, Chesterfield, and Maple Roads. In addition, it boasts street parking, complimentary nearby local businesses to visit for a snack while playing, a tony new fire station that is well-known by children in the neighborhood, and nice, established features of shade, safe distance from the roads, and access to the Fire Department in case of emergency.

This proposed playground space will offer a wonderful place for community connections!

The churches along Maple Road house many preschools and the playground will offer a welcome option for parents with younger siblings who have a couple of hours to play in between drop-offs and pick-ups at Quarton, West Maple, Hand-in-Hand and First Kids Preschools. For residents who are retired, a beautiful outdoor space with tables and benches will be a terrific location to meet up for coffee and conversation or gather for a game of chess, cards, or dominos with friends and neighbors... and fresh air.

Quarton Lakes Estates is a neighborhood with a population mix of families and retirees. A playground and park will create an ideal space for neighbors who otherwise miss one another due to different schedules and lifestyles to meet and socialize in a casual, outdoor setting. It offers intersections for neighbors to meet and get to know one another, which is vital for creating strong, connected neighborhoods and communities. As I shared this idea with my friends and neighbors, it was equally embraced by the young and the young at heart, individuals with children and those who enjoy being around children.

The creation of Birmingham's 15th playground has tremendous merit at face value, but there is *so much more* potential that comes part and parcel with its construction.

The park could be a great venue for residents to rent for birthday parties, scouts or sports team picnics, or school parties. While offering a safe option for social events, it could also generate a nominal source of revenue to support maintenance costs. Similarly, a structure such as fence or pathway could be constructed through donations and offer a place for residents to donate to their local neighborhood gathering space and "leave their mark" with an inscribed fence plank or brick or stone.

The park could also be a great place for the City to offer exciting, low-cost, high-impact events such as book readings, concerts, or holiday gatherings to promote community... and even spotlight rising poets, musicians, artists, or tastemakers living right next door who might happily share their talents with their neighbors on a sunny afternoon at the park?!

I propose that the space is simple but can impactfully multi-task: picnic tables and benches, garbage and recycling cans, a water fountain, a sandbox or Gaga Pit, a mix of toddler and youth, ADA inclusive swings, a slide, and basic climbing structure. The space could also potentially accommodate a basketball hoop and park exercise equipment that would be equally enjoyed by teenage and adult parkgoers *and* our loyal firefighters during downtime at the Station.

In addition, I suggest adding features that invite community collaboration: small gardens that could be adopted by residents, student groups, or schools; Book Walks that could be guided by friends at the ever-improving Baldwin Library; fairy gardens or nooks broadcasting positive, inclusive messages; a Little Library; a kiosk or message board where the City or residents could post useful, neighborly information (i.e. items for sale, new social groups, events, missing pet notices, etc.); and a hallmark feature to make the playground really unique such as a community-member created Art installation, a fence with love locks, a gazebo, a pine tree where ornaments could be displayed for seasonal holidays, or a take something/leave something surprise box.

The sky's the limit with opportunities to turn the beautiful space flanking Birmingham's impressive new fire station into a place with even more to offer its residents in Quarton Lakes Estates... and the Birmingham community at large!

Upon presenting the idea around my neighborhood this Spring, I was greeted with great enthusiasm by neighbors on many different streets within Quarton Lakes Estates and across all demographics. I have attached a list of residents who similarly support the proposal of a playground in our neighborhood.

Moreover, in these uncertain times, I believe a safe, new, exciting open space, out of doors might be just what Birmingham needs to inspire hope and offer new opportunities for safe social engagement.

On behalf of my neighbors and myself, thank you for your consideration of this community improvement as well as your ongoing dedication to Birmingham, City Manager Valentine, City Clerk Allen, and Councilmembers Longe, Host, Hoff, Baller, Boutros, Nickita, and Sherman.

Sincerely,

Kate Bongiorno

Petition to Create a Quarton Lakes Estates Neighborhood
Playground Adjacent to Fire Station #2

Name	Address	Signature
Kristin Plumb	1841 Melbourne St.	Kristin Plumb
Laura Northamer	1868 Melbourne St	Laura Northamer
Hannah Kessler	575 Kimberly St.	Hannah Kessler
Katie Holder	1882 Melbourne St.	Katie Holder
June Strickland	1832 Melbourne St	June Strickland
MARIANNE WINTERS	1825 MELBOURNE	Marianne Winters
Jennifer Swanson	1777 MELBOURNE ST	Jennifer Swanson
Rob Dale	1755 Melbourne St.	Rob Dale
Erin Mortenson	975 Fairfax St	Erin Mortenson
Jen Genberg	287 Suffield Ave	Jen Genberg

Petition to Create a Quarton Lakes Estates Neighborhood
Playground Adjacent to Fire Station #2

Name	Address	Signature
Kate Bongiorno	1084 Puritan Avenue	Kate Bongiorno
JANE BONGIORNO	684 PURITAN AVE	Jane Bongiorno
^{Patricia Andrews} Patricia Andrews	235 Chesterfield	Patricia Andrews
Keri Robson	993 Suffield Ave	Keri Robson
David Robson	993 Suffield Ave	David Robson
MIKE BARD	916 SUFFIELD AVE	Mike Bard
Sarah Eisenman	916 Suffield Ave	Sarah Eisenman
MELISSA MARK	635 PURITAN AVE	Melissa Mark
Thomas Mark	635 Puritan Ave	Thomas Mark
CYNTHIA LEBON	673 Puritan Ave	Cynthia Lebon
Amanda Schairer	1444 Chesterfield Ave	Amanda Schairer

Susan Conway	998 Brookwood Bham	Susan Conway
William Conway	" " "	William Conway
TRICIA PRAY	607 Pilgrim Birmingham	Tricia Pray
Darleen Mahler	1280 Redding Rd Birmingham	Darleen Mahler
HUGH MAHLER	1280 Redding Rd Birmingham	Hugh Mahler
ANTHONY FOREST	1098 FAIRFAX ST. BIRMINGHAM	Anthony Forest
Mariani Rahman	1757 Winthrop Ln, Birmingham	Mariani Rahman
LISA HOFFMAN	1862 Winthrop Lane	Lisa Hoffman
Jennifer Coertz	316 Puritan	Jennifer Coertz
Luann Host	639 Puritan	Luann Host
Paul Host	639 Puritan	Paul Host
PASCAL BAUER	1791 PINE STREET	Pascal Bauer
William Beachum	701 Puritan	William Beachum

AGENDA ITEM #2: Letter dated July 10, 2020-Requesting a New Park & Playground-Quarton Lakes Estates

Lauren introduced Kate Bongiorno who presented a proposal for a playground in the Quarton Lake Neighborhood next to fire station #2, located on Maple Rd. and Chesterfield Rd. Kate stated it would be a park with a playground that would provide opportunities to the community for recreation activities.

Katie iterated the next steps would include community conversations. The area would include an all-inclusive playground structure, benches, picnic tables and a gazebo.

Lauren stated that the property is about a .5 acre and a continuous part of fire station #2 and is not identified on any of the City of Birmingham maps in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Lauren stated that the timing is good for this type of project.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Parks Bond Opportunity- City Commission Meeting Agenda Item July 20, 2020:

Lauren presented the supporting background information in terms of the park bond opportunity, Language which is strictly a supplement to Annmarie's presentation.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Parks and Recreation Bond –email received from John Rusche

John stated he was motivated on sending the email after watching the deliberations from City Commission and the comments on how does the City Commission even knows that the Parks and Recreation Board is behind the Parks and Recreation bond.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3a Kenning Skate Park, Emails received from Dr. Anna Groebe and Jackie Ruppert

Lauren provided an exchange of communication on different uses of Kenning Skate Park. Lauren stated that staff is looking at other skate parks and once information is available they will be contacted so information maybe share with them once the item returns back to the Parks and Recreation Board. Lauren also stated that the parks rules and regulations will also be forthcoming.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3b Letter regarding Kenning Skate Park-received from Henry Franco

Lauren provided a letter that was received from Henry Franco regarding using scooters in the Lincoln Skate Park.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Donor Policy

Thank you for considering Parks and Recreation in the City of Birmingham for your donation. We welcome donations from individuals, foundations, non-profit organizations and corporations and look forward to working with you.

While donations for our parks will enrich the community, the City of Birmingham recognizes that its open spaces, trails and recreation areas are precious resources. Accordingly, the City of Birmingham desires to protect and preserve the open, tranquil atmosphere of our parks, to protect the natural quality of our trails and to enhance the development of our recreational assets. Therefore, donations for park improvements and recreation programming will be considered with the support of those goals in mind.

I. DONATION CATEGORIES

The City of Birmingham welcomes donations in several categories including:

- a) Park landscaping elements include trees, shrubs and other flora. Donations of all landscaping elements, however, must be approved species and there may be site specific limitations. Please see the City of Birmingham Park Donor Program for further information.
- b) Park amenities for the purchase, replacement or refurbishment and maintenance of park benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, playground components and the like. Although suggestions from donors will be considered for the placement of a donated park amenity, final decisions as to location will be determined by the City of Birmingham. Please see the City of Birmingham Park Gift Donor Program for further information.
- c) Park features include arbors, pavilions, plazas, gardens, and the like. Such features must enhance the park, enrich the experience of park users and be consistent with park planning processes. Accordingly, such proposed donations will only be considered on a case-by-case basis. Donors may contact the City of Birmingham or the Director of Public Services to discuss proposed park features.
- d) Monetary donations, such as cash or negotiable securities, may be used toward the development and general upkeep of park elements, amenities and features. Donors may identify a specific use for the City's consideration, or funds may be used to best meet the needs of the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation projects.

II. DONATION GUIDELINES

In order to have a consistent donor program, the following guidelines endeavor to address both the needs and resource capabilities of the City of Birmingham and the desire of donors to support Birmingham's Parks. Donors should contact the Director of Public Services to discuss donation ideas.

- a) The City wants to ensure the best appearance and aesthetic quality of its parks. Thus, donations should satisfy a true need of an approved park scheme.

II. **DONATION GUIDELINES** *(continued)*

- b) All donations will be reviewed for appropriateness and compatibility with the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Master Plans. The City reserves the right to decline any donation if, upon review, the donation is (1) limited by special restrictions, conditions or covenants which pose unreasonable budgetary or maintenance obligations on the City, or (2) not in the best interest of the City.
- c) Donors may be asked to appear before the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board and/or the City Commission, to present their donation proposal. Public comment and feedback may be considered during the review process.
- d) The City understands that donors may have preferences regarding the choice of design professionals, vendors and contractors, and preferences regarding the location, size, scale, color and materials of donated elements, amenities and features. The City, however, must adhere to the open bid process requirements, if applicable, and to other City policies and goals. Accordingly, final decisions on all details of the proposed donation shall be at the sole discretion of the City of Birmingham.
- e) While the City recognizes the generally good intentions behind any donation, the City, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to decline any gift or donation.
- f) Upon acceptance by the City, any donated element, amenity or feature, becomes City of Birmingham property. The City has an interest in ensuring that all park elements, amenities and features remain in good repair and will provide, at its sole discretion, reasonable maintenance of donated items. The City, however, is under no continuing obligation to repair, replace or maintain perpetual care for any donated item.
- g) The City will make a reasonable effort to notify a donor of any damage, theft or other loss to a donated item and may, at its sole discretion, repair or replace such a donated item to the extent it deems practical, or as described in the original gift agreement, if any.
- h) Because donations to the City of Birmingham may be tax deductible, donors are encouraged to consult with their tax advisor.

III. **DONOR RECOGNITION**

- a) Recognition shall be provided for all gifts given to the City of Birmingham for park improvements, subject to such general policy changes and amendments as may be implemented by the City Commission.
- b) "Naming rights" on any park feature or element are subject to the approval of the City Commission.
- c) All donations will be acknowledged by a letter of appreciation from the City of Birmingham.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Concerns for Parks & Rec Board

1 message

Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 9:27 AM

To: "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

To include the email with my report which I will send to you later.

May Parks Board item.

Thanks!

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham

Department of Public Services

851 S. Eton, Birmingham, MI 48009

Direct Dial: 248.530.1702

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lauren Wood** <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

Date: Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 9:23 AM

Subject: Re: Concerns for Parks & Rec Board

To: Rackeline Hoff <rhoff@bhamgov.org>

Cc: Tom Markus <tmarkus@bhamgov.org>

Good Morning Racky,

I will most certainly share your concerns with the Parks and Recreation Board.

Just so you know, these same issues have been identified by the Administration as items to consider as part of this evaluation.

Thank you again for passing along your ideas. If you think of anything else, please let me know.

Yes, organized youth sports are back on our fields, effective yesterday. All groups are required to sign an acknowledgement of the most recent MDHHS interim guidance for athletics to resume play.

Have a great day!

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham

Department of Public Services

851 S. Eton, Birmingham, MI 48009

Direct Dial: 248.530.1702

Communication/Discussion Item #2b

On Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 10:47 PM Rackeline Hoff <rhoff@bhamgov.org> wrote:

Hi Lauren, when the Parks and Rec Board discusses the possibility of creating a new park next to the Chesterfield Fire Station, please share my concerns re: the following:

1. Safety of locating playground for young children directly on Maple Road
2. Noise from Fire Dept. sirens and weather alerts (first Saturday of every month, March thru September)
3. Parking on neighborhood streets by park users
4. Space needed by fire department

Also, a question -- were the restrictions for organized sports lifted today so they can return to City parks?

Thanks,
Racky

DATE: April 28, 2021

TO: Thomas M. Markus, City Manager

FROM: Paul A. Wells, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Fire Station 2 Park Consideration

The City of Birmingham's Fire Station 2 (previously known as the Chesterfield Fire Station) was rebuilt and opened in October 2018. The Station is situated on a lot of approximately 1.37 acres; half of which is developed. The eastern parcel of the property is an open field with some adult trees. Station 2 is staffed 24/7 with four personnel consisting of three Firefighter/Paramedics and one Lieutenant. These positions staff an advanced life support (ALS) engine and an ALS rescue.

With the possibility of having a park built on the eastern property I have some concerns and requests which I have listed below.

- The fire station can be a busy place with trucks leaving emergent and backing into the station after details or emergency calls. There is concern that a park located directly on the same parcel could lead to unattended children getting close to the emergency apparatus. Additionally, fire trucks do not have lockable doors or keys for the ignition. They are often unattended while fire fighters are inside getting supplies or training.
- Periodically, the fire crews flow the fire engine master streams onto the parcel in consideration. This is an annual requirement to test the fire pump and its capabilities. It is also done for training purposes throughout the year. The amount of water flowed is around 1,500 gallons per minute which can very quickly soak down the area. Hose streams from portable hand lines are also deployed during training into this area.
- The considered park is also close to a very busy roadway. I have concern for unattended children chasing balls into the street.
- With the ever increasing role of the modern firefighter and the possibility of potential unforeseen growth in the department, this property must always remain available to the Fire Department. Future needs may require expansion of the current Station 2, addition of a separate training facility, etc.
- Fire Station 2 also has one of Oakland County's emergency alert severe weather sirens located behind the station. This gets tested 8 times a year and will be extremely loud with its close proximity to the parcel in consideration.

- Station 2 is a secure building and often is not occupied when firefighters are on a detail or emergency call. There are no public restrooms at Station 2. Additionally, there is no access to tap into the Station's sewers or water supply on the east wall to have an outside bathroom for the park. I have concerns that there will be frequent requests to use the bathroom, creating issues due to the lack of public facilities at Station 2.

Birmingham City Commission Minutes

April 26, 2021

7:30 P.M.

Virtual Meeting

Meeting ID: 655 079 760

Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/event/3470/videos/538949933/>

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pierre Boutros, Mayor, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Alexandra Bingham, City Clerk, called the roll.

Present: Mayor Boutros (location: Birmingham, MI)
Mayor Pro Tem Longe (location: Birmingham, MI)
Commissioner Baller (location: Birmingham, MI)
Commissioner Hoff (location: Birmingham, MI)
Commissioner Host (location: Birmingham, MI)
Commissioner Nickita (location: Birmingham, MI)
Commissioner Sherman (location: Birmingham, MI)

Absent: None

Administration: City Manager Markus, City Clerk Bingham, Police Chief Clemence, City Planner Dupuis, City Attorney Kucharek, Planning Director Ecker, Finance Director Gerber, Interim HR Director/Assistant City Manager Hock, Building Official Johnson, City Attorney Kucharek, DPS Director Wood

III. PROCLAMATIONS, CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS, ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS, INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

PROCLAMATIONS

- Proclamation on Mental Health Awareness
- Proclamation on Gun Violence Awareness

APPOINTMENTS

04-115-21 Appointment of Larry Bertollini to the Architectural Review Committee

The Commission noted that Larry Bertollini was not able to attend the present meeting, but has been a member of the ARC since 2012.

MOTION: Nomination by Commissioner Host:

though there may not be flexibility in the building's parameters on the applicant's part, the City must still either approve buildings that adhere to ordinance or grant variances from the ordinances.

Public Comment

Mr. Canvasser additionally asked the Commission to indicate when the agreements in the proposal would be re-addressed.

Commissioner Nickita said the Commission's regular consideration of the item over a number of months indicates its intention to try and work out a mutually beneficial agreement with the applicant.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Nickita
 Mayor Pro Tem Longe
 Commissioner Host
 Mayor Boutros
 Commissioner Hoff
 Commissioner Baller
 Commissioner Sherman

Nays, None

04-123-21 2021 Initial Screening for Bistro Applicants - Spring

PD Ecker reviewed the item. She noted that Maple & One would be pursuing a SLUP amendment instead of a bistro license.

Commissioner Sherman recommended The French Lady re-apply in Fall 2021 given that there were two other bistro reviews pending and one with a scheduled public hearing.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Hoff:
To take no action on the bistro application for The French Lady at this time.

In reply to Commissioner Nickita, PD Ecker concurred it would be useful to give the fall bistro applicants a 90-day time limit for submitting their documentation moving forward so that it was more clear how many bistro licenses might be available for the spring applicants.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Sherman
 Commissioner Hoff
 Commissioner Baller
 Mayor Pro Tem Longe
 Commissioner Host
 Commissioner Nickita
 Mayor Boutros

Nays, None

04-124-21 Chesterfield Fire Station - Park Designation

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Baller:
To refer this matter to the Parks and Recreation Board for their review, discussion and recommended actions about designating a portion of the Chesterfield Fire Station property as a City Park and provide

formal park naming procedures. Further, to consider potential park site amenities and budget implications in order to undertake such endeavor, and to take into consideration the needs of the Chesterfield Fire Station.

Commissioner Hoff said she would send her list of concerns about this proposal to DPS Director Wood for consideration by the Parks and Recreation Board.

Commissioner Nickita recommended that Parks and Recreation Board consider how this proposed park would fit within the City's system of parks overall.

Commissioner Baller expressed interest in Commissioner Hoff's concerns, said he concurred with Commissioner Nickita, and said that this item might be a good opportunity for the City to utilize the Bang the Table tool or other ways to facilitate collaboration on the discussion between the Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Sherman
 Commissioner Baller
 Mayor Pro Tem Longe
 Commissioner Host
 Commissioner Nickita
 Mayor Boutros
 Commissioner Hoff

Nays, None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

04-125-21 Unimproved Streets Policy Modifications

Consulting City Engineer Surhigh summarized the item. In reply to Commissioner Hoff, he stated that an expression of interest would be solicited from residents once the Engineering Department completes its unimproved streets rankings.

CM Markus added that the City would provide the residents of unimproved streets with an estimate of the approximate costs of improving their street. He said this process moves the City more towards initiating the process of improving streets versus only waiting for resident petitions as was done in the past. He also stated that assessments would occur as part of the process, and that it was unrealistic to imagine the City would be able to fund the entire process.

Commissioner Baller ventured that residents often care more about the condition of the street's surface than the condition of the water lines or sewers. Consequently, he recommended that the Engineering Department weigh the former criterion more heavily than the latter in its ranking system.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Hoff, seconded by Commissioner Nickita:
To follow up on the unimproved streets workshop in regards to unimproved street policy modifications.
(Complete resolution in agenda packet)

Mayor Pro Tem Longe said she was in support of the resolution as it would help clarify the likely costs and help inform future City policy on the matter.

Mayor Boutros commended Consulting City Engineer Surhigh for his work on the item.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 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: Petoskey, MI)
Pam Graham	(location: Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)
Ross Kaplan	(location: Birmingham, MI)
Ellie Noble	(location: Birmingham, MI)
Dominick Pulis	(location: Birmingham, MI)
John Rusche	(location: Birmingham, MI)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

R.J. Carrel, Groves High School
Alison Chapnick Groves High School
Kyle Sayers, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION:

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

GUESTS:

Anne Lipp, Cindy Rose and David Young

It was moved by John Rusche, seconded by Dominick Pulis to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 regular meeting as amended.

ROLE CALL VOTE:

Ayes,	Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Ross Kaplan, Ellie Noble, Dominick Pulis and John Rusche
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Nays, None

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Pickleball Sites – Public Input

Carrie presented to the Parks and Recreation Board a pickleball presentation. Carrie pointed out five potential locations of new pickleball courts which were Crestview Park, Lincoln/Eton Corner (Kenning Park), Poppleton Park, St. James Park and West Lincoln Well.

Carrie stated that there are two options to either provide new pickleball courts or to convert tennis court(s) into pickleball court(s).

2

Carrie stated that staff reviewed all the City of Birmingham Parks and took into consideration spacing requirements, other programmed activity, proximity to other nearby parks with tennis courts, nature of park- active/passive and other items that the public might not be aware of.

Carrie stated other considerations such as parking, ladder leagues (6 to 8 courts needed), ADA- curb cuts, sidewalk up to and surrounding, site furnishings- tables, spectators, restrooms, proximity to nearby residences- sound attenuation/visual separation, tennis players, other current park activity, new vs. converting existing tennis courts.

Carrie showed the Parks and Recreation Board how new pickleball courts would fit at each of the five locations either for new pickleball courts or converting the existing tennis courts.

Carrie stated that \$150,000 has been estimated in constructing six to eight new pickleball courts.

Carrie stated that the new Engage Birmingham survey System was used for public input. Carrie will provide to the board an update on the rankings at the June Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Carrie reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the 2020 tennis reservations that were reserved through our Parks and Recreation software at the seven City of Birmingham tennis courts.

Ross Kaplan said **it's his opinion that** ~~to be cautious with~~ the number of tennis reservations reported **are** since only 25-30% of Birmingham residents actually **make making tennis** reservations.

Pam asked if the staff had look at the possibility of using the tennis courts for both pickleball and tennis as a shared use.

Carrie stated the staff would have to explore the possibility of a shared use for both pickleball and tennis.

Carrie stated that at a future Parks and Recreation Board meeting a recommendation will be brought to the board for approval for a pickleball location and that tonight's meeting is just to receive feedback.

3

Dominick stated that the board may want to have a conversation about pickleball and splash pad together so that the board can make more of a holistic assessment of all the facilities and make the best determination for the residents.

David Young stated he is not an advocate of converting tennis courts to pickleball courts and the city should build new ones and the online tennis reservations is not necessarily the true reflection of demand for tennis.

David stated frequently he will show up at the tennis court and there are people just playing at the tennis court casually, so he thinks staff should look at the total demand rather than the reservation demand. David stated he would advocate building new pickleball courts.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2a-2d: Fire Station 2 Park Designation Request (City Commission Report dated March 30, 2021)

Lauren stated there is interest and ongoing conversation from community members about designating an existing public property (known as the Chesterfield Fire Station) as a City park.

In addition, to consider naming the park in honor of a local resident. Last year, a proposal and petition for a new park and playground located at Fire Station #2 was presented to the Parks and Recreation Board August 11, 2020 meeting.

The Parks and Recreation Board took no action. However, the Administration informed the presenter, Kate Bongiorno that further consideration and communication can occur about this idea after the Parks and Recreation Bond proposal in November 2020.

Lauren stated to the board that in addition to the August 11, 2020 Parks and Recreation Board Agenda Item #2 and meeting minutes, City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Donor Policy, also included is the City Commission Report dated March 30, 2021, email received from Commissioner Rackeline J. Hoff, memorandum from Fire Chief Paul Wells and the City Commission draft minutes of April 26, 2021.

Lauren stated that moving forward staff would have to do some research on evaluating the proposed property, how much space that is available, what would it take dedicate or earmark as a park. The public property is designated as a fire department.

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting 5/11/2021

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Since this project was brought to the August 11, 2020 Parks and Recreation Board meeting it was not considered part of the allocation of the bond and was not one of the priority projects. The project will be ongoing and the Parks and Recreation Board will be given intermittently updates as this project moves forward.

John stated that the idea is wonderful and the concept of the park is interesting but finds it difficult to overcome the comments from Fire Chief Paul Wells and Ms. Hoff. If the development of that park had picnic tables and things that may be suitable for adults that would be an interesting idea. But to encourage children to come to a park that is right on a busy street as Maple is not a great idea.

Susan stated that she loves the idea of a new park but would like to reiterate John's comments that Maple is a very busy street especially since Maple has been reduced down to two lanes and would be concerned having children playing at the proposed park. Susan likes the idea about placing some seats at the proposed park location.

Dominick also in agreement with the concerns as stated in particular from the fire chief. Dominick asked if it would make sense to consider that location for pickleball as it perhaps skews towards older users and would alleviate younger children playing near a busy road but not sure however if this addresses the consideration of the fire chief for future expansion, hose drainage and training.

Heather stated she agrees with the comments made by John, Susan and Dominick. The idea and the premise behind the neighborhood wanting to do something to activate that space should be commended but believe that are some options and flexibility not only safety, to install some benches and trees and not to make a large investment into the area because of possible future expansion but to make it a respite area instead of a place to play.

Pam asked that staff contact Kate Bongiorno and give an update on the progress of the proposed park. Lauren stated that there continues to be communication with Kate, although **Kate is no longer a Birmingham resident.**

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: 2021-2022 CIP

Lauren provided to the Parks and Recreation Board the recommended 2021-2022 CIP for Department of Public Services.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting 5/11/2021

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4 Capital Projects Sub-Committee Report-May 5, 2021

John reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the Capital Projects Sub-Committee Progress Report.

John stated that demolition is still continuing at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena and the fencing was erected on May 6th. Ball players will enter on east side near skate park.

John stated that city staff has met with representatives from neighborhood associations: Birmingham Estates and South Poppleton and Roeper School regarding Adams Park. John stated that Roeper School will assist with the cost.

Michael J. Dul & Associates will revise the concept plan and bring it back to the associations, Roeper, then to the P&R Board by late summer, city commission approval September/October with final bidding and contractor selection with construction beginning in May or June 2022 in coordination with Roeper.

John stated the City of Birmingham has launched a new online engagement platform designed to encourage public input called Engage Birmingham (engage.bhamgov.org).

John stated that the Parks and Recreation has already discussed pickleball but when potential locations are consider a posting "public notice" signage at the courts to gather more public opinions would be recommended.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5: Birmingham Ice Sports Arena Construction Update

Carrie provided the Parks and Recreation Board pictures of the demolition of the Birmingham Ice Arena.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6: Ice Arena Finance Report, period ending –March 31, 2021

Lauren provided the information to the Parks and Recreation Board

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7: Immediate Release-Birmingham Launches New Online Engagement Platform for Community Input

Lauren provided the information to the Parks and Recreation Board

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting 5/11/2021

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COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #8: Parks and Recreation Roster

Connie provided the information to the Parks and Recreation Board

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #9: Rouge River Clean-Up, May 15th

Connie provided the information to the Parks and Recreation Board

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #10: Quarton Lake Garlic Mustard Pull, May 16th

Connie provided the information to the Parks and Recreation Board

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #11: Email dated April 14, 2021, Re: Park Suggestions

Lauren provided the information to the Parks and Recreation Board

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #12: Parks in Mt. Clemens and Rochester Hills to be enhanced with new features and playgrounds, Metro Detroit

Lauren provided the information to the Parks and Recreation Board

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #13: Trail Sub-Committee

Pam stated that she and Ross met with city staff to discuss the trail sub-committee responsibilities and to learn about the priorities of the improvements, such as improving the connectivity, accessibility and improving the signs and maps to help users navigate the parks better and a way to publicize the parks.

Pam learned about some limitations that the city has and there are protective wet lands. There are some coordinated efforts with the Birmingham Museum and Multi-Modal. Pam is looking forward having an on-site meeting. Ross added some additional historical information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

Ann stated that she had spoken to some people in the skating world regarding offering Learn To Skate (LTS) classes in the summer. Anne stated that the LTS classes are reduced about 1/3 of participation in the summer after contacting two ice arenas.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No Public Comments

Heather Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 virtually at 6:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

approved



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: September 6, 2022

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services

SUBJECT: South Well Site – Parks along Southfield Road

INTRODUCTION:

The Department of Public Services (DPS) was asked to examine and report on the history of the designation of both parcels as park property and status of the two City owned parcels along Southfield Road. These are referred to as the South Well Site, which is broken into two small parcels, located at the SW corner of both Southfield Road and Wakefield and Southfield Road and Southlawn.

BACKGROUND:

The southernmost property next to Market Square is .17 acres consisting of Lots 301, 302, 303 and north ½ of Lot 304. Historically referred to as Southfield Well Site. It was conveyed to the City of Birmingham in August of 1940 for the purpose of a well site. The City parcel located at the SW corner of Southfield Road and Southlawn is .52 acres consisting of Lots 291 to 298. Conveyance occurred in February of 1941 for the purpose of a well site. This property reverted to public use ten (10) years from the conveyance date. The well sites no longer exist. There are no deed restrictions identified with either property.

Dating back to March of 1980, we found some activity with the Planning Board and City Commission about rezoning the property (Southfield Well Site) next to Market Square from Public Property (PP) to Neighborhood Business (B-1). The Planning Board recommended that Southfield Well Site be retained in its Public Property classification and be referred to the Parks and Recreation Board for consideration as a permanent park.

The City Commission meeting of March 31, 1980 held a public hearing to rezone Southfield Well Site to B-1. The motion by the City Commission was to take no action on the proposed rezoning of this property. Comments reflected by the City Commission was to keep the property as a green area.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2000-2005 lists all former well sites, see attachment, as part of the park inventory. These are all classified as Mini-Parks, based on the National Recreation and Park Association criteria and definitions. The parks along Southfield Road as part of this report have remained designated as Mini Park in every Parks and Recreation Master Plan, to date.

The City Commission adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on June 26, 2000. Every five years an updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan is prepared and adopted by the City Commission. The current plan is the 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Public property often becomes incorporated into community Parks and Recreation Master Plans and in turn is designated as park property. Park space can remain passive open space or active recreational space.

SUMMARY:

Based on the research of both public property spaces along Southfield Road, referred to as South Well Site, we have determined the property is City owned and is officially designated as a Mini-Park in the Parks and Recreation Master Plans over the past twenty-two years based on the City Commission adoption of each Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Many of the designated City parks in the park system are strictly open space recreation areas; as they do not have any site furnishings or play equipment. Going forward the Parks and Recreation Board will consider other public property locations to be included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as Public Recreation Facilities.

The DPS will be updating the current Parks and Recreation Master Plan next year and numerous public forums are always hosted by the City to gather input and foster the ongoing information exchange to create the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We actively engage the Neighborhood Associations and other stakeholders and groups during this process. Often included with our planning and budgeting process is generating plans and designs of public property. These will then be included in the next Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. South Well Site
2. 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Map 2 Parks and Recreation Inventory and Service Area
3. Mini Parks Listing
4. Table 5 – Recreation Inventory
5. City of Birmingham Zoning Map

SUGGESTED COMMISSION ACTION:

Make a motion to recommend the City Commission reaffirm the South Well Site located at the SW corner of Southfield Road/Wakefield and the SW corner of Southfield Road/Southlawn, as park property.



- Building Footprint
- Public Property
- Parcels

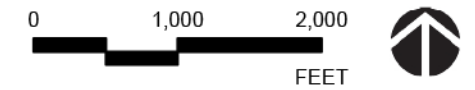
Map 2 Parks and Recreation Inventory and Service Areas

City of Birmingham, Michigan

March 26, 2018

LEGEND

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Waterbodies
- Municipal Boundary



Data Source: Oakland County GIS, 2016
Aerial Data, SEMCOG, 2015



Mini Parks

Mini parks are categorized as small, specialized parks that usually serve the needs of residents in the immediate neighborhood. These parks usually serve a limited population or specific demographic group. For detailed information about accessibility rankings, see page 51.

Baldwin Well Site	ACCESSIBILITY RANKING 1	ACREAGE 0.55	CLASSIFICATION Mini Park
--------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------------

Baldwin Well Site is located at the corner of Baldwin and West Maple. No amenities are located at this site.

Derby Well Site	ACCESSIBILITY RANKING 2	ACREAGE 3.57	CLASSIFICATION Mini Park
------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------------

The Derby Well Site, located on the northeast side of the city adjacent to the railroad along Derby Road, contains no recreational amenities



Pump House Park	ACCESSIBILITY RANKING 1	ACREAGE 0.2	CLASSIFICATION Mini Park
------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------------------

The Pump House Park is located in the southwest portion of the city at Wakefield and Norfolk. There is some small play equipment located at this site.

Redding Well Site	ACCESSIBILITY RANKING 1	ACREAGE 0.38	CLASSIFICATION Mini Park
--------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------------

Redding Well Site is located at the corner of Lakeside Drive and Redding in the northwest portion of the city. No amenities are located at this site

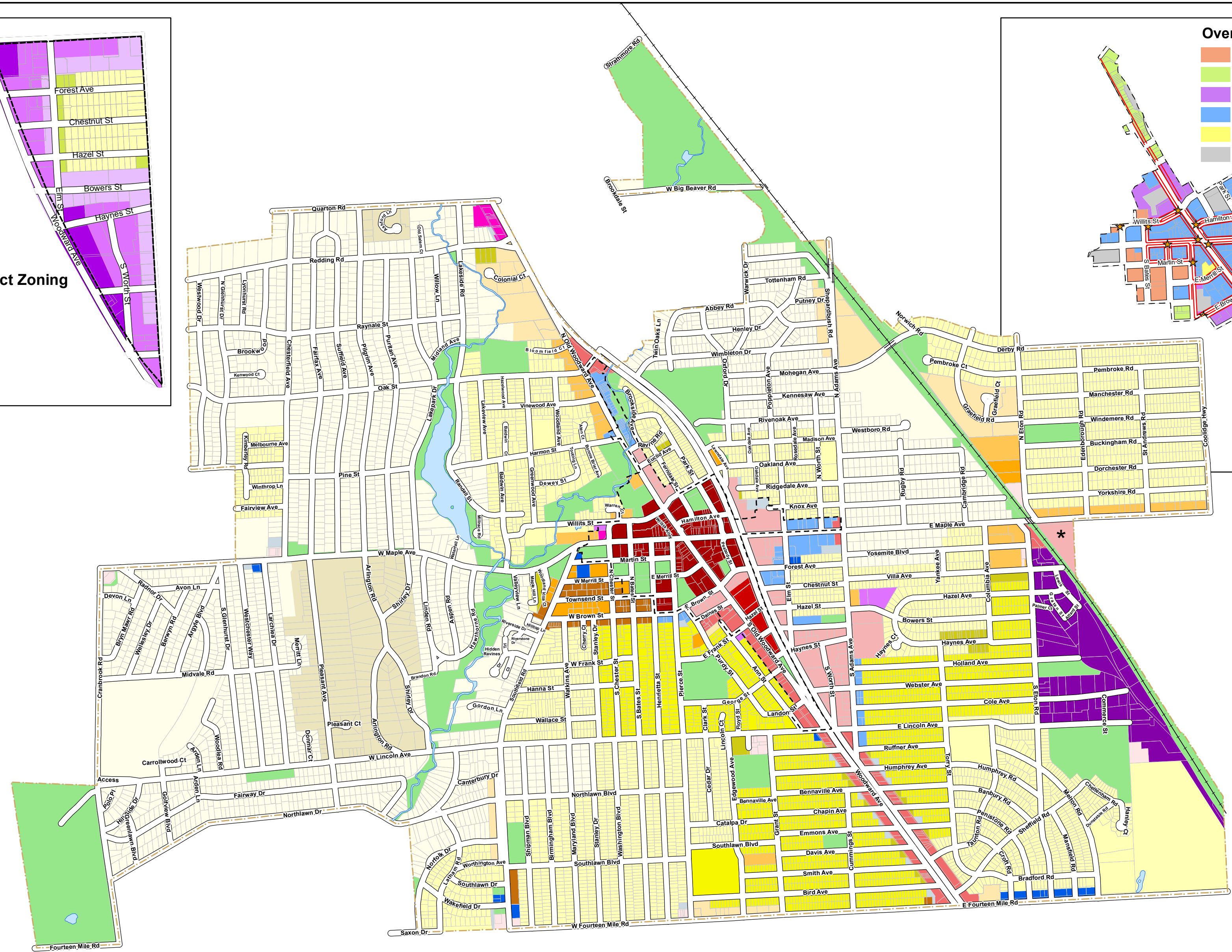
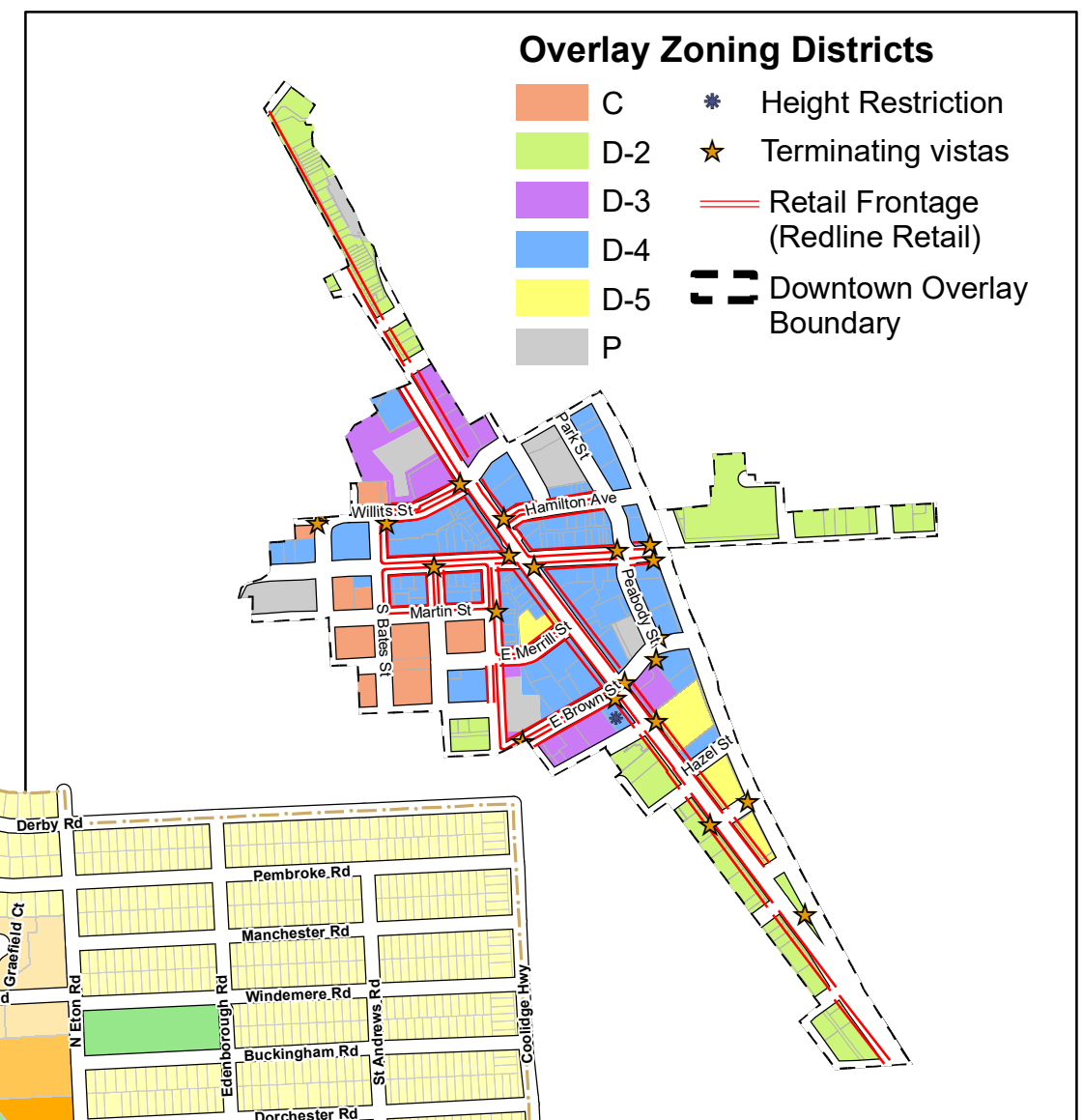
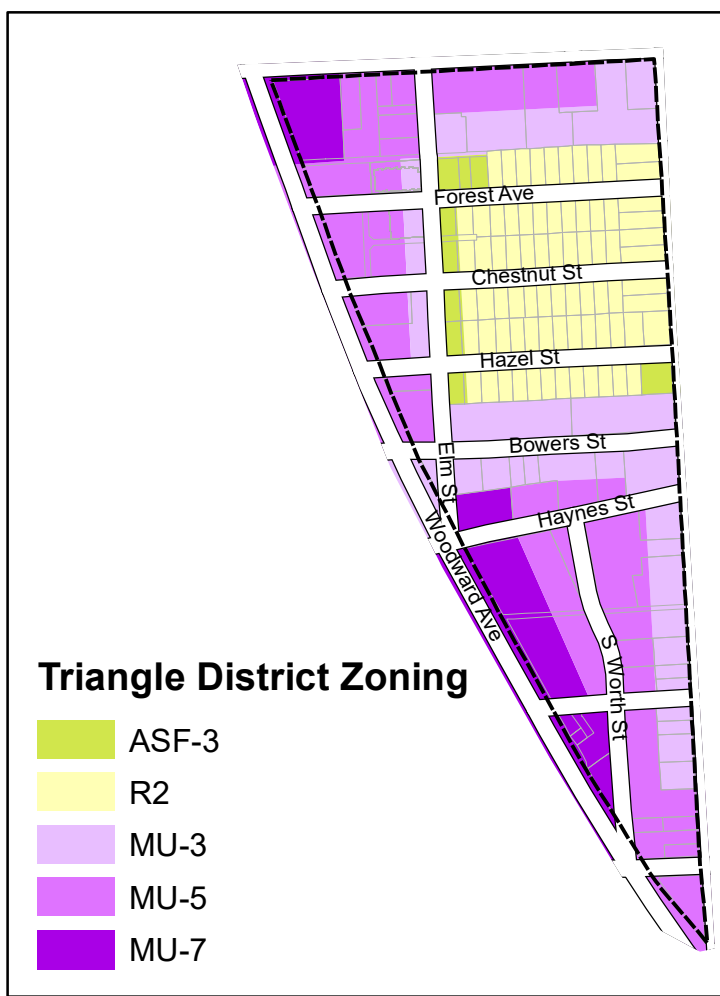
South Well Site	ACCESSIBILITY RANKING 1	ACREAGE 0..64	CLASSIFICATION Mini Park
------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------------

The South Well Site, which is broken into two small vacant parcels, is located at Southfield and Southlawn in the southwestern portion of the city.

Table 5: Recreation Inventory

	Acres	Accessibility Assessment	Electrical Outlets	Parking	Restrooms	Benches	Bike Racks	Trash Receptacles	Dog Park	Football Field	Skate Park	Little League Diamonds	Softball Diamond	Regulation diamond	Soccer Area	Walking Path	Tennis Courts	Ice Skating	Open Space	Play Areas	Basketball Hoop	Volleyball Court	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Grills	9-Hole Golf Course	Drinking Fountain	Sledding	Cross Country Skiing	Fishing	Meeting Space	Ice Rink	Gymnasium	Swimming Pool					
PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES																																							
Pump House Park	0.2	1				x		x											x	x																			
Redding Well Site	0.38	1																	x																				
Baldwin Well Site	0.55	1																	x																				
South Well Site	0.64	1																	x																				
Derby Well Site	3.67	2																	x					1															
Quarton Tennis Court	0.43	3				x		x									2										1												
Martha Baldwin Park	0.99	2				x		x											x																				
Adams Park	1.45	2				x		x							x				x	x	1																		
Howarth Park	1.98	3				x		x				1							x	x				3					2										
Linn-Smith Park	2.04	1																	x																				
West Lincoln Well Site	2.24	2		x		x		x											x	x				2															
Crestview Park	3.58	3				x		x							x					x				3															
Pembroke Park	5.3	3				x	1	x				1			x				x	x	x			4															
St. James Park	5.98	2		x		x	1	x						1	x				x	x	x			3															
Linden Park	7.37	2				x		x								x			x	x																			
Manor Park	8.47	1				x		x								x			x																				
Shain Park	2.26	4	x	x		x	x	x											x	x				x															
Birmingham Museum	2.83	4	x	x	x	x		x											x																				
Booth Park	3.93	4	x			x		x								x			x	x				3						1	x								
Barnum Park	9	4		x		x		x					1		x	x		x	x	x				8															
Poppleton Park	17.21	3		x		x		x					1						x	x				3															
Kenning Park	21.71	3		x		x		x		x	3	1			x				x	x				3															
Quarton Lake	27.03	3		x		x	4	x								x			x																	x			
Springdale Park and Golf Course	45.03	3	x	x	x	x		x											x	x			x	x	x	x	1												
Lincoln Hills Golf Course	57.13	4		x	x			x	x																	x										x			
Ice Sports Arena	na	4		x	x	x		x										x																		x			
TOTAL ACREAGE	231.4																																						
PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES																																							
Quarton School	6.85		x	x	x							2			x					x	4															x	x		
Pierce School	10.9		x	x	x							x	x		x					x	2															x	x		
Derby Middle School	21.44		x	x	x									x	2						3															x	x	x	
Seaholm High School	44.54		x	x	x					x				2	x								2														x	x	
Midvale Center	n/a		x	x	x																																x		
TOTAL ACREAGE	83.73																																						
PRIVATE SCHOOL FACILITIES																																							
Roeper School	1.52		x	x	x	x		x																														x	
Holy Name Catholic School	3.52		x	x		x		x																														x	
Eton Academy	4.43		x	x		x		x												x																		x	
Our Shepherd Lutheran	9.17		x	x	x	x		x												x	x	2																x	
TOTAL ACREAGE	19.14																																						
PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES																																							
Community House	0.85		x	x		x																																x	
YMCA	1.52		x	x		x																																x	
Forest Hills Swim Club	1.65		x	x		x																																	x
Birmingham/Bloomfield Art Center	3.43		x	x		x																																	
Birmingham Racquet Club	na																																						
TOTAL ACREAGE	7.5																																						
TOTAL ACREAGE (ALL ABOVE)	451.94																																						

- Mini Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park



City of Birmingham
A Walkable Community

1,500 750 0 1,500 Feet

Coordinate System: State Plane Coordinate System Michigan South Zone 2113 Projection: Lambert Conformal
Conic, Units: International Feet, Datum: NAD83
Data Sources: Oakland County GIS Utility, City of Birmingham
Updated: February 17, 2017

City Of Birmingham Zoning Map

Zoning Districts	
R1 Single-Family Residential	R7 Multiple-Family Residential
R1-A Single-Family Residential	R8 Multiple-Family Residential
R2 Single-Family Residential	TZ1 Transitional Zoning 1
R3 Single-Family Residential	TZ3 Transitional Zoning
R4 Two-Family Residential	MX Mixed-Use
R5 Multiple-Family Residential	B-1 Neighborhood Business
R6 Multiple-Family Residential	B-2 General Business
	B-2 General Business Limited to Grocery Store Use
	B-2B General Business
	B-3 Office-Residential
	B-4 Business-Residential
	O-2 Office Commercial
	O-1 Office
	P Parking
	PP Public Property
	Downtown Overlay Boundary



Strategic Planning Workshop Series

Meet with City Commissioners and provide your input at the City's **Strategic Planning Community Participation Workshop** on September 14 at 6:00 p.m. Attendees will work with Commissioners in small break-out groups and have the opportunity to provide input throughout the duration of the workshop.

This **Community Participation Workshop** is part of a series of workshops offered during the city's strategic planning process, the first of which occurred on August 24. All workshops will take place in person at the Baldwin Public Library, located at 300 West Merrill Street, in the Rotary Room (lower level).

Following a comprehensive and equitable evaluation of the city and community, the resulting plan, expected to be completed this fall, will include strategic goals to direct the city's efforts and resources toward a clearly defined vision for its future.

Community Participation Workshop

Wednesday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Members of the community are encouraged to share input with the City Commission throughout this entire workshop. Attendees will be in small break-out groups with City Commissioners. Commissioners hope to gain community input and feedback related to challenges, opportunities and achievable goals.

City Commission "Putting it Together" Meeting

****Please note the new date and time****

Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m.

The Mayor will call for a short public comment period at the end of this workshop to ensure the City Commission has as much time as possible throughout the workshop to learn, explore, discuss and hear community input as well.

To learn more about the strategic planning process and submit feedback online, visit <https://engage.bhamgov.org/strategic-plan>. We look forward to hearing from you!



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Fw: Save the new trees!

1 message

Carrie Laird <Claird@bhamgov.org>
To: "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>
Cc: "Wood, Lauren" <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

Tue, Sep 6, 2022 at 9:41 AM

See Heather's note below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Heather Carmona** <htcarmona@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Mon, Sep 5, 2022 at 11:47 AM
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Save the new trees!
To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>, Laird, Carrie <Claird@bhamgov.org>

FYI, more feedback on Adams Park.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Heather Carmona** <htcarmona@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Mon, Sep 5, 2022, 11:45 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Save the new trees!
To: Jay <mustbejay@yahoo.com>

Hey Jay,

Great to hear from you and thank you for sharing this.

Yes, I've been Chair of the parks board for the past couple of years.

It's been a lot of fun to watch the park come to fruition after 10 years and its been a great collaboration among the city, neighborhood groups and Roeper.

I too had expressed concern about the centerpiece tree looking distressed. Tree care is top priority for the city and I know there is a warranty and they are watching it closely. Planting during the summer results in a degree of shock, but I trust Dul and his team of experts are on top of it. Keeping people and the kids off the sod... that's a challenge. Various amenities are still yet to be placed like benches and trash receptacles which can't come soon enough once the kids get access to the park.

Communicating that they can't just leave things everywhere, and take a little pride in picking up their trash will be important moving forward!

I will be sure to pass on your note at our next board meeting Tuesday night.

Hope to see you soon one of these days.

Again, thank you for caring!

Heather

On Fri, Sep 2, 2022, 2:52 PM Jay <mustbejay@yahoo.com> wrote:

Heather, hi. I didn't know of your park involvement on Wednesday afternoon when I noticed both some issues and you down the block. I wrote to school yesterday, and Dave promptly replied that he'd contact the landscape architect.

Besides the plant matter and trees suffering as described, that green fence covering is blocking water in spots to some sod that's already dying. It should selectively get removed and sprinklers adjusted to save those sections.

Just observations from one who merely supports his own extensive landscape installations over the years, admittedly I'm no expert.

Communication/Discussion Item #2/a. 1.

**Peace,
Jay Must**
Mustbejay@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Jay <mustbejay@yahoo.com>
To: WINE Emily <emily.wine@roeper.org>; david.fluent@roeper.org <david.fluent@roeper.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 10:49:08 AM EDT
Subject: Save the new trees!

Hi. You two get things done around there, so I trust you'll know how to convey this suggestion and to whom for the best chance of prompt response.

The new Birmingham park looks great, but expensive new plants are already severely stressed because they lack sufficient water. They could die.

The city or its contractor is watering the sod like crazy (although someone might remove some green fence cover and thus let the water hit sod already dying along the sidewalk).

In contrast, there appears to be no or severely insufficient amounts of water given to establish the new plantings. Consequently, the largest tree near the playground is suffering greatly, I'm sorry I did not take a photograph to share with you. The leaves are turning and it's not due to the season. The other trees and hydrangea plants clearly need water badly. Maybe you could ask a colleague on the Birmingham campus to take a few pictures to show you or the school's contact today, I would not delay proper watering until after the holiday given the sad condition of that large tree.

With all of its facilities and parks management people, vehicles, and staff, the City of Birmingham should well know the benefits of inexpensive water bags for establishing new plantings, plus they should soak those hydrangea root balls with a hose from whatever spigot got installed or from one of their trucks used for such watering.

Inexpensive bags like those shown below concentrate water dripping into the root ball with a steady feed, they just get refilled by hose maybe a few times weekly. They're a good substitute for a slow trickle from a garden hose right on the root ball for half an hour or so every day, that process is more labor intensive whereas the bags are set and forget for a few days before quickly refilling again.

Just based on my limited experience with new tree plantings, that big tree is in serious distress and I worry about many other of those plants making it. Will some party take responsibility or replace them if they fail and die? It's been dry, sunny, and hot here. The irrigation system does not water these new plants much if at all, besides that type of surface watering is obviously insufficient in this case and always fails to get plants properly established.

Okay, thank you for considering my suggestion to save our new trees.

Peace,
Jay Must
2488674886

--
Carrie A. Laird
Parks & Recreation Manager
<851 S. Eton>
<Birmingham, MI 48009>
248-530-1714

Important Note to Residents

Let's connect! Join the Citywide Email System to receive important City updates and critical information specific to your neighborhood at www.bhamgov.org/citywideemail.

Screenshot_20220901-101153.png

2208K





Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Adams Park - Home Stretch!

Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

Thu, Sep 1, 2022 at 3:51 PM

To: Heather Carmona <htcarmona@sbcglobal.net>, Ross Kaplan <rkaplan@neumannsmith.com>, Susan Collins <sbdcollins@comcast.net>, Anne Cubera Lipp <aecubera@gmail.com>, Ellie Noble <elliecnoble@hotmail.com>, John Rusche <jprusche@aol.com>, Pam Graham <pamcracker@gmail.com>, stevesweeney22@yahoo.com, kngmba@gmail.com, mattowindsor@gmail.com, ztm2@bps-schools.com
Cc: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Hi Everyone,

See the project update below.

Have a safe Holiday!



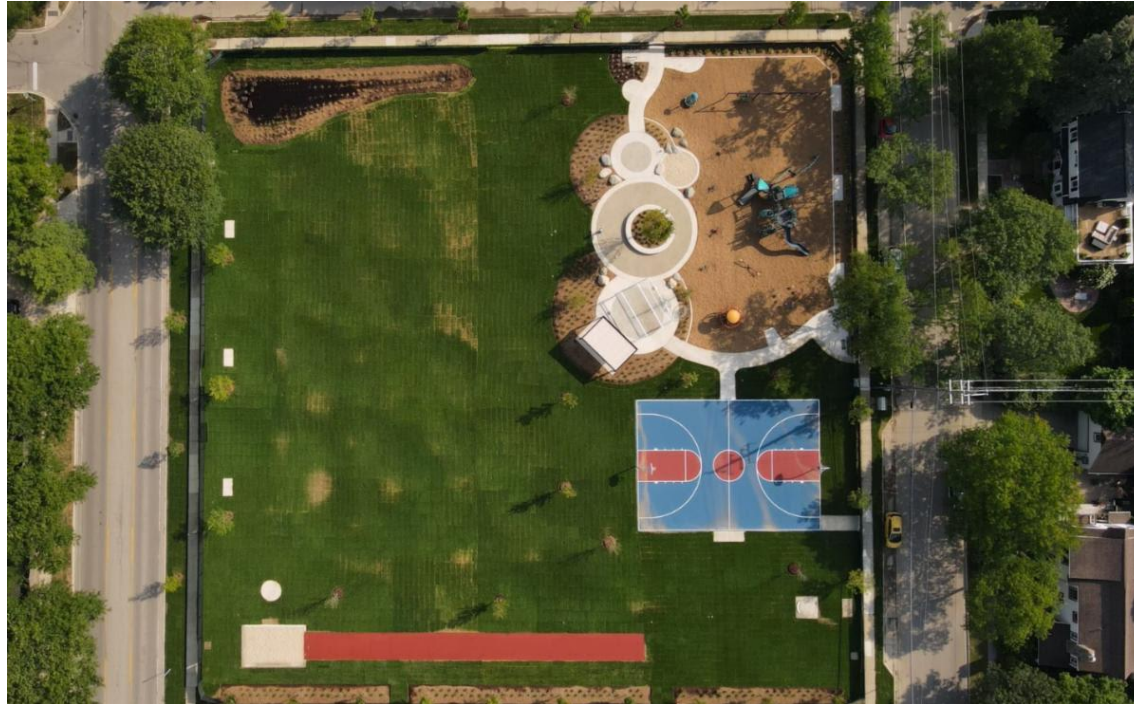
Adams Park Project Update

We are in the home stretch on the Adams Park project! The park is closed but nearing completion and looking more beautiful each day. The fence will remain around the park for the next two-four weeks due to fresh sod throughout the park. Staying off the sod will help ensure a healthy, durable lawn upon completion of the park renovation project.

Communication/Discussion Item #2/a. 2.

The grass roots of the lawn bond to the soil during the first weeks of growth, so in addition to a regular irrigation regimen, the protection of the lawn during this period is extremely important. Because the lawn requires a lot of water at first, the soil will retain a consistent level of moisture. This softer soil allows for exaggerated footprints and divots to be created by park users (people, dogs, balls, bikes) as well as lawnmowers, maintenance vehicles, and service equipment. When the soil hardens back up, these divots create trip and safety hazards for park users. This can be avoided by staying off the lawn while it is established. Thank you for helping us build a better park!

Learn more about the Adams Park project at <https://engage.bhamgov.org/adams-park>.





Learn about City resources and more by visiting www.bhamgov.org, liking the "City Government of Birmingham, MI" Facebook page and following @bhamgov on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

Join the City's Citywide Email List at www.bhamgov.org/citywideemail

Sign up to receive updates about topics specific to your interests at bit.ly/bhamnews.

Lauren Wood

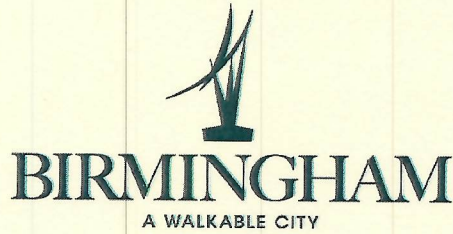
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham

Department of Public Services

851 S. Eton, Birmingham, MI 48009

Direct Dial: 248.530.1702



Patricia Voelker
Planning Director
4200 Telegraph Rd.
P.O Box 489
Bloomfield Twp., MI 48303-0489

RE: Birmingham Country Club Sport Court Expansion

Ms. Voelker,

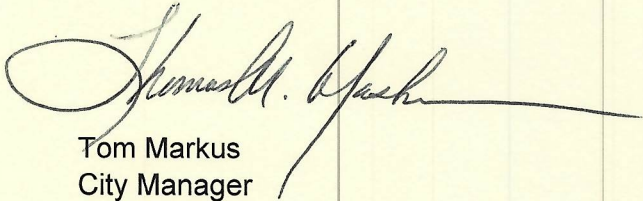
Thank you for taking time with our staff recently to clarify several of the issues that the City of Birmingham was presented with in regards to the proposed sport court expansion at the Birmingham Country Club (the "Club"). On August 29, 2022, the City Commission discussed the expansion at a public meeting and heard from residents, as well as a representative of the Club. As neighbors and partners in expanding opportunities for pickleball in our own community, we would like to provide you with a few requests made by the City or Birmingham on behalf of its residents for use in the Special Land Use process:

- Post in a conspicuous location a sign outlining the rules and code of conduct expected of Club members while using Club facilities to reduce the use of vulgar language and/or distasteful activities, and to promote respectful behavior. This should serve as a reminder that the Club has residential neighbors that deserve to be treated with respect. The club representative seemed willing to post this type of signage.
- Ensure that no lighting be included in the sport court expansion.
- Adopt a policy that precludes the use of "Red Zone" paddles, which produce noise levels that may be perceived as unacceptable in the close proximity to residential zones. The Club representative suggested this item.
- A parking study should be provided and fully vetted as the Club has purportedly agreed to provide at the request of Beverly Hills.
- A sound study should be provided and fully vetted as the Club has purportedly agreed to produce.
- Establish a regularly scheduled meeting between the neighbors and the Club to discuss issues and keep the lines of communication open. The representatives seemed willing to consider this recommendation.

151 Martin Street • P.O. Box 3001 • Birmingham, MI 48012-3001
(248) 530-1800 • Fax (248) 530-1080 • www.bhamgov.org

As we continue to advocate for pickleball for our respective constituents, an honest and good faith attempt to address these types of concerns is essential for our future endeavors. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Markus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tom Markus
City Manager

Cc Bloomfield Township Planning Commission
 Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees
 Birmingham City Commission
 Nicholas Dupuis, Planning Director
 Jana Ecker, Assistant City Manager
 Melissa Fairbairn, Assistant to the City Manager
 Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services
 Mark Clemence, Chief of Police

OAKLAND

Pickleball popularity soars, but expansion at Birmingham Country Club is getting pushback



Frank Witsil

Detroit Free Press

Published 6:00 a.m. ET Aug. 1, 2022 | Updated 11:14 a.m. ET Aug. 1, 2022

Four fit grandmothers in their late 50s and early 60s faced off Thursday morning at Birmingham's Crestview Park for a quick game of pickleball, taking turns — two on each side of the net — swatting a perforated, yellow ball with a pop.

On a 20-foot wide, 44-foot long court — almost half the size of a tennis court — the women also were playing close enough to each other to hold casual conversations without much effort.

The popular summer sport with a quirky name has captivated residents in metro Detroit and communities nationwide. It also has been making headlines as publications hail it as "the fastest-growing game in America."

But even as communities like Birmingham and private country and athletic clubs are creating courts to meet the demand, there also has been pushback to the changes and what Sports Illustrated called the game's "growing pains."

One of them is less than a mile from Crestview Park, where several Beverly Hills residents are quietly organizing to prevent the Birmingham Country Club from adding courts in front of their homes.

In protest, they've lined their yards with "NO PICKLEBALL EXPANSION" signs.

Read more:

Wheelchair ballroom dance competition in Bloomfield Hills is first ever

Short's Brewing Co. calls out 'jerk' customers, says they are relentless

S.I.'s May article — "'Pickleball is the wild, wild West': Inside the fight over the fastest-growing sport in America" — noted several problems, including "too many leagues," "too many federations," "battling billionaires" and "bad behavior."

The article went deep into the business considerations of the sport.

"Until recently," S.I. said, "pickleball was widely perceived as the last athletic refuge of those who had undergone a knee, hip, or spouse replacement. In reality, the sport — where 300 different paddle manufacturers bear witness to an as-yet unrealized potential — is in the throes of its terrible tweens."

It can be an especially social sport

A big part of pickleball's appeal — particularly for the so-called "hip and spouse replacement" set — is that it is still a fast-paced game but not as physically challenging as tennis.

Balls don't go as far or as fast and the court is smaller, also making it more social.

It also has some of the qualities of badminton and pingpong.

Thursday morning, as the foursome hit dillballs and falafels — names of certain pickleball shots — there was opportunity for plenty of conversation, laughter, and even a little cooing when the granddaughter of two of the players showed up on the sidelines.

"A bunch of hotties over there," Currie Olson, 30, said to the group, which included her 58-year-old mother, Kris Barich, and 61-year-old mother-in-law, Kathy Olson. She explained that she wanted to "come watch for a minute."

The younger Olson pushed a stroller with her 1½-year-old daughter in it.

"It think it's great," Olson said of the courts. "I've seen so many more people here."

Outdoor rec and community clashes

Community clashes about outdoor recreation are hardly new.

For years, suburbs and schools with basketball courts have wrestled with what to do when pickup games got too intense and boisterous. And some residents would voice concerns that those courts would attract players from "other communities."

Urban areas, like Detroit, don't always have the same kind of public recreation facilities. And when a suburb adds or upgrades a basketball court, it offers a new place for those who didn't have one at which to play.

Five years ago, for example, the small city of Pleasant Ridge wrestled with what to do with its outdoor basketball hoops at Gainsboro Park after what the city manager called "an escalating pattern" of incidents that he said included traffic violations, public urination, and drug citations.

In that case, the city's recreation commission decided to temporarily close its court.

Converting tennis courts to pickleball

In Birmingham, where the fierce foursome of friends played, the city recently transformed Crestview Park's two outdoor tennis courts into pickleball courts so residents could enjoy the game.

"Once you start, you either love it or you hate it," said Carrie Laird, the city's parks and recreation manager. "It's a gathering. You come, you play, you talk. You get to meet new people — and part of the sport is the interaction with others."

And Laird, who is spearheading a more comprehensive upgrade of the courts, said the plans call for entirely upgrading the playing surface — filling in cracks and painting it — by the fall to permanently convert the space into six pickleball courts.

The cost, she said, is a small part of a more than \$11-million parks and recreation bond that was overwhelmingly approved by voters.

One of the other things that is driving the sport is media coverage.

Parade, for instance, recently published a pickleball primer: "What's all the racket about pickleball? Everything you need to know about the growing sport." The nationwide magazine is distributed in Sunday newspapers, including the Free Press.

Far fewer people play pickleball than tennis, which boasts a participation of more than 21 million. But, Parade said, the sport "has been sprouting like a cucumber vine," growing an average of nearly 12% a year for five years to reach 4.8 million.

The game 'won over everyone'

Pickleball's origins date to 1965 as a backyard game on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Joel Pritchard, who later served the state as a U.S representative and lieutenant governor, invented the game with two buddies, Barney McCallum and Bill Bell.

There are at least a couple of accounts of why they called it pickleball. One goes that it reminded them of the pickle boat in crew; another is that it was named after the Pritchard family dog, Pickles.

The game, of course, has its own lingo.

Die-hard players, for instance, call themselves picklers.

As the sport spread, it was adopted by various groups, including community and senior centers, country clubs, and school rec and summer programs. Kids even learned how to play the game.

By 2014, the New York Times ran a speculative headline: "At tennis's sunset, pickleball is rising as an alternative," and then, last year, Vanity Fair published its take: "How pickleball won over everyone from Leonardo DiCaprio to your grandparents."

The 47-year-old heartthrob, the pop culture magazine said, plays every day.

And then, it listed off a who's who of other celebrities who also engage in the game: Larry David, Melinda Gates, Jamie Foxx, the Kardashians, Owen Wilson, Jillian Michaels, Zach Braff, and Giuliana Rancic.

It named pro athletes Russell Wilson and Annika Sörenstam and said the 61-year-old George Clooney self-deprecated that his younger wife, Amal, routinely beats him on their court in L.A.

And then, earlier this year, Washington actually named pickleball its official state sport.

'Much easier than tennis'

Among the women who gathered Thursday to play at the park in Birmingham, Kathy Olson, of Grosse Pointe, was the veteran. She learned to play, she said, at her country club and has been enjoying it for two years.

Jenny Shebib, 59, said the game is easy to play, and "you can get others to join up." It's "much easier than tennis," she said, leaning in and adding — as if she were telling a secret — "it's not as hard on your body."

That's because no matter how hard you hit the ball, it doesn't go far.

Barich said she used to play tennis, and likes pickleball, in part, because it's novel.

Many people just picking the game up, like Barich, are playing for fun, the women said. But, they noted, there are more competitive levels of play: tournaments, leagues and recreational courts with reservation times.

They also agreed, however, that game tends to be louder than tennis.

And with six courts going, Pattie Dull, 59, speculated, it's likely to get even noisier.

'All Saturday. All Sunday?'

That's exactly what residents who live on the edge of the Birmingham Country Club, where another pickleball project is planned, fear. The club, residents say, wants to add pickleball courts and is seeking approval for its proposal.

As a result, some neighbors are politely fighting the club's efforts. They are protesting with yard signs featuring QR codes that send folks to an online Change.org petition they can sign to oppose it.

Unlike tennis and badminton, which use a racket that makes a swish or soft ping sound when it comes in contact with the ball or shuttlecock, a pickleball paddle pops when it hits a ball — and that, to many, gets annoying.

On top of that, the social aspect that makes the game fun, isn't as enjoyable if you have to hear that chatter all day — or worse, the expletives when the picklers miss their shots and lose.

Lisa Hudson, 58, whose home faces the club, said in addition to the noise, she also doesn't want the bright lights the project will bring shining in her large, picture windows.

Nor does she want, she said, the additional traffic on the roadway in front of her house.

The club, which includes a golf course, has plenty of property to install pickleball courts, residents insist. So why — Hudson rhetorically asks — do they have to put them right in front

of their homes?

"Many of us play pickleball, it's a great sport," the petition says. However, it went on to explain the group's objection to the project: "Imagine having to hear the pop, pop, pop sound of the pickleball, 14 hours a day. All Saturday and all Sunday."

The petition is seeking 100 signatures.

As of Saturday, it had 42, including Hudson's.

Can the game's growth be slowed?

How much of a chance the Beverly Hills residents have at convincing the club to alter its plans is unclear. One challenge they face is that the club is in an entirely different municipality, Bloomfield Township.

It's also fuzzy how open the country club is to compromise.

In two separate calls from the Free Press to the club seeking its position, folks answering the phone initially said that no one was available to answer questions about its pickleball plans.

Then, they said, the club had "no comment" on the matter, and then hung up — twice.

The Free Press made a third inquiry Thursday by email, in case the message wasn't getting through to the right people, and later that day the club's General Manager Taras Strychar responded.

He said via email he was "getting ready for a couple of meetings" and not available, but offered to connect "next week."

"We are still in the planning process of the project," Strychar also wrote, adding the club is "committed to working with Bloomfield Township and the neighbors to be able to address any of the concerns they might have."

And that, the neighbors said, is all they really want: for the club to listen to them and be good sports about their uneasiness about the proposal.

Contact Frank Witsil: 313-222-5022 or fwitsil@freepress.com.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Re: PICKLEBALL

1 message

Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>
To: Linda/Oz Forrester <linozfor@att.net>
Cc: Carrie Laird <claird@bhamgov.org>, Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 10:42 AM

Good Morning Linda,

We appreciate you sharing this information and checking on this. We have also the potential for possible classes and/or lessons with our Birmingham Racquet Club.

It is big here, too! I have been in several discussions and site tours with them for potential ideas and future offerings will continue to be ongoing. Such ideas will be pinned down as we finalize the new court construction.

Again, we thank you for all of your encouragement and input on getting pickleball to Birmingham.

We wish you well! Enjoy your time away.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham

Department of Public Services

851 S. Eton, Birmingham, MI 48009

Direct Dial: 248.530.1702

On Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 10:09 AM Linda/Oz Forrester <linozfor@att.net> wrote:

Good Morning Ladies:

Just a piece of info to share with the board. Lifetime Fitness has exploded with their pickleball program. They have actually changed half of the gym and installed real pickleball courts, not just the stripes. I was discussing the Birmingham courts with the head of pickleball at Lifetime and he said he's so busy he can't keep up and there is no slowdown in sight. This is what I want to share - he offered to the whole board, that he would give all of you a pickleball lesson and share his info if you wanted to try it. I will be gone from Sept 6-29, but let me know if you want to take him up on his offer.

Linda

Communication/Discussion Item #2/b. 3.