

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.

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| 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