

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2023**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Pam Graham
Ross Kaplan
Anne Lipp
John Rusche
Steve Sweeney

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Katie Glasier, Seaholm High School

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ellie Noble

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Archie Reynolds, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION: Scott Zielinski, Director of Public Services
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator
Leah Blizinski, City Planner (Zoom)
Jacky Brito, Golf Course Manager

GUESTS: David Young

It was moved by Graham, seconded by Rusche, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, February 7, 2023, regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp, John Rusche, and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, Ellie Noble

Carmona welcomed two new Student Representatives from Seaholm High School.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No comments

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Agenda item #1: 2022 Annual Golf Report

Jacky Brito, Golf Course Manager, reviewed the 2022 golf report and highlighted another great season.

The courses finished with one of our highest number of rounds, 64,585, and a net surplus of \$272,747.

GCM Brito thanked the dedicated staff that made the season a success.

GCM Brito reviewed changes to the golf and that the junior golf program was well received.

Sweeney asked whether there was an opportunity to consider indoor golf simulation in the winter. GCM Brito stated she would be receptive to the idea but again staffing would be a concern.

Kaplan commented that the report was fantastic.

Graham had a question related to food and beverage operations: considering profitability, would you consider outside food vendors, onsite or food trucks?

GCM Brito replied that she has experienced food and beverage operations from all angles (management through food prep) and believes generally outside providers do not enhance operations and food trucks might be appropriate for special events.

Kaplan asked about the revenue from the cell tower.

GCM Brito said it was captured within "lease income."

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Agenda item #2: Amended Parks and Recreation Board Rules and Procedures

DPS Director Zielinski opened this topic by referring to the provided redlined copy of the Parks and Recreation Board Rules of Procedure. Proposed changes to the agenda format are based on our City Commission's Rules of Procedure with the objective of providing order and efficiency.

Lipp suggested that the second item on the agenda should be a motion to approve the agenda, so if something timely has come up, it can be added to the agenda under new business.

DPS Director Zielinski acknowledged that the March 7, 2203 sample Parks and Recreation Board Agenda does not follow the redline proposal and recommended the item be tabled until next month's meeting.

Graham recommended the Board look at Article V, Objectives & Duties and consider adding verbiage related to improvements and capital projects as well as Article VI, specifically the last sentence.

Kaplan inquired about who designates the Parks and Recreation Board secretary position.

Carmona asked DPS Director Zielinski for clarification and if the intention is to receive feedback for discussion or for modifications.

DPS Director Zielinski plans to clarify with the city attorney. Additionally, he asked Graham to formalize her input in an email to him for further review and consideration with the city attorney.

Kaplan suggested that members of the public who speak, state their name and address for clarification and for the secretary to be able to document the information.

It was moved by Graham, seconded by Lipp, to table the amended Parks and Recreation Board Rules and Procedures until the April 4, 2023, regular meeting.

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

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: MI Spark Grant update

PM Laird stated our application was not approved, and the city plans to follow-up and resubmit at a later date.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Barnum Park Prescribed Burn

PM Laird like in years past the city has planned for a prescribed burn at Barnum Park and that burns bring back native plants and inhibit invasive species.

A neighborhood notification will be sent out in advance of the event, and the fire Department will be on stand-by.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: Birmingham Ice Sports Arena Financials, January 2023

Collins appreciated the financials and inquired about seeing comparison to prior years. She also is pleased to see the number of young people positively impacted by having this ice arena in our community.

DPS Director Zielinski stated that past numbers are available on bhamgov.org and added that the arena is an amenity provided for general welfare and use.

Carmona reflected hearing this perspective from the consultant during the recent arena improvements.

Kaplan suggested that the golf courses had previously been similarly characterized as general welfare and are now considered profitable.

Rusche suggested an easy way to review the numbers would be to ascertain the time-frame as a percentage (58%) and compare it with the far right column (percent of budget used).

Graham also appreciated the financials and is also interested in seeing year-to-date performance as well as budget performance. Further, she is looking for analysis to see if, for instance, the renovations have returned the expected 20% energy cost savings.

Graham is happy with the big picture but disappointed with the details and lack of trends.

Lipp asked what the hours of operations are.

RC Folk replied: Monday through Friday hours are 6:00 am until 11:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday hours are 8:00 am until midnight.

Graham suggested an interesting metric would be the percent of available ice sold. Additionally she commented for both the golf report and the ice arena, being short staffed and keeping labor cost increases at 10% illustrates good facility management.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lipp inquired about the status of the Birmingham Little League event.

DPS Director Zielinski replied that this board had provided its recommendation and the event application is with the city attorney and will eventually head to the city commission for approval.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

Graham asked if this is the appropriate time to ask for topics for future meetings.

DPS Director Zielinski affirmed that it is.

Graham referenced a recent meeting with the Library that inspired two ideas.

1. Similar to Beverly Park, partner with the library to hold an event at one of our parks
2. The library is implementing a "Library of Things" and considered the option of including pickleball equipment.

RC Folk reminded the board that there are little libraries located in two of our parks and that individuals could rent out pickleball equipment at the ice arena.

Graham also said that the library director suggested using the "little lending library" model to have a cabinet to hold pickle ball equipment.

Graham mentioned that the planning board is reviewing the 2040 Plan and wondered if there are any suggestions from this board related to different programming amenities in the city parks.

Graham asked if staff would benchmark other dog parks in the area to be better prepared to address long range planning.

DPS Director Zielinski offered to include this as part of a future agenda.

Collins knows of a person who could talk to staff about other local dog parks and the staff could survey users to enlist their help as well.

Kaplan suggested a review of past board meetings related to the City of Birmingham dog park would also be helpful.

Carmona announced we have two (2) open seats on the Parks and Recreation Board as well as an open alternate seat, so members of the public are encouraged to apply and spread the word. Applications need to be reviewed and approved by the City Commission following standard timelines.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Chair Carmona adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator