

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 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
Ellie Noble
John Rusche

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Zachary Miketa, Seaholm High School
Matthew Windsor, Seaholm High School

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pam Graham

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

GUESTS: Linda Forrester, Oz Forrester, Steve Sweeney and Amy Ordon

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Rusche to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 1, 2022, regular meeting as submitted.

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

Agenda item #1: Nomination of 2022 Parks and Recreation Board Vice-Chairperson

Carmona nominated Graham as Vice-Chairperson; Graham was not in attendance but was aware of the nomination.

Collins nominated Lipp. Lipp declined the nomination.

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

Agenda item #2: Parks Natural Areas Maintenance

PM Laird stated that the city has numerous natural and native planting areas such as woodlands, prairies, bio swales, wetland garden areas and rain gardens throughout the park system and on city property for example at Barnum Park, Quarton Lake, and Martha Baldwin Park. Barnum, Quarton Lake, Martha Baldwin parks are all maintained and developed to support native wildlife and pollinators, free from invasive plants and wildlife species. Our raingardens are beneficial to our ecosystem's natural filtration of storm water runoff as well as help keep pollinators healthy.

PM Laird stated the city's maintenance program has been in place for quite some time. In 2014, the City hired Native Connections to put together a Habitat Restoration Plan specific to Quarton Lake Park. The Habitat Restoration plan calls for native species enhancement, invasive species removal and follow up treatments.

PM Laird stated that Cardno, as the lowest qualified bidder was awarded the Invasive Species Removal Project of 2015 at Quarton Lake and the Museum Park property and the 2018 Martha Baldwin Native Wet Meadow Garden project. Cardno performed some but less regular maintenance of natural areas in 2020 and 2021 due to the impacts of covid19.

Kaplan asked if after the treatment if the company will be analyzing the water or areas that were treated with the use of the tracking dye.

Rusche asked how the public can appreciate the City of Birmingham's effort on removal of invasive species.

PM Laird stated that educational signs have been installed that reference the ecological plants and future signage will be installed.

Ordon, 504 Landon asked why the prescribed burns are done.

PM Laird explained the prescribed burns are done to help establish native prairie plantings and discourages invasive species, a regenerative system.

Forrester stated that native plants filter the water as it flows down toward the Rouge River.

It was moved by Rusche, seconded by Collins to approve the project for Natural Areas Maintenance with Cardno (now Stantec) 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, Ellie Noble, and John Rusche

Nays,

None

Absent,

Pam Graham

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Parks and Recreation Bond Status

DPS Director Wood reviewed the Bond Funding Summary.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Adams Park Project-City Commission Approval March 28, 2022

Chairperson Carmona recused herself from the Parks and Recreation Board meeting as the item 2 and 3 are related to Adams Park due to her conflict of interest with Adams Park.

Lipp stepped in for Carmona.

DPS Director Wood stated that Adams Park Project was approved at the March 28th City Commission meeting and was awarded to Michigan Recreational Construction company.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: Adams Park Fundraising Initiatives

PM Laird stated that staff has been working on a City of Birmingham donation website page and our first page will be Adams Park which will be time appropriately and a fundraising campaign will be coordinated with the neighborhood groups.

PM Laird stated that donations will be both general donations with set amount or pick a park feature, such as landscaping, trees and there will be recognition plaques in central area of park.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Carmona returned to the Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4: Pickleball Brainstorming Session

DPS Director Wood stated since the contractor that had been working on the pickleball project had withdrawn for the project and staff wanted to have a brainstorming session with the Parks and Recreation Board for additional input.

PM Laird stated that administrative comments were received from city departments on the proposed Kenning Park location.

PM Laird reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the sites that were included in previous pickleball communications.

PM Laird showed the Parks and Recreation Board a new option idea from the City Manager to the City Commission recently as a potential place for pickleball at South Well Park, which is categorized as a mini park north of Market Square along Southfield Road.

Carmona stated that hearing from the pickleball community was very helpful in developing future pickleball courts.

Linda Forrester and Oz Forrester stated that converting a tennis court to a pickleball court would be acceptable and showed previous communications and sketches of converting tennis courts to pickleball courts.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5: Ice Arena Party Room Wall Mural Contest

Carmona commended the staff for a wonderful ribbon cutting ceremony for the celebration of the Ice Sports Arena re-opening.

PM Laird described the upcoming campaign to design a piece of art work that would be displayed on the party room wall. Submissions will be accepted on Engage Birmingham with the winning artwork being installed on the party room wall.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6: Wayfinding & Gateway Signage Committee Update

PM Laird provided the Parks and Recreation Board the Wayfinding and Gateway Signage Committee Agenda.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7: Golf is rejuvenated at local courses, C & G Newspaper Article, March 14, 2022

An article on golf was provided to the Parks and Recreation Board.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #8: Current Parks and Recreation Board Roster

A current Parks and Recreation Board Roster was provided.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Rusche asked about the Wiebrecht donations that were collected. RC Folk stated that family members have not indicated where the funds should be used.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

Lipp asked about the current park wet ground conditions.

PM Laird stated as the city improves parks, the addition of drainage systems will be considered.

RC Folk stated that sports teams are not being allow to use the parks and fields because of the ground conditions.

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, May 10, 2022, at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

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