

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Sarah Kupczyk
Pam Graham
Anne Lipp
John Rusche
Steve Sweeney

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Katie Glasier, Seaholm High School

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Archie Reynolds, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION: Scott D. Zielinski, Director DPS
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner
Leah Blizinski, City Planner
Connie J. Folk, Ice and Arena Facilities Superintendent

GUESTS: Martin Van Almen, James Kaye, Joe Wrobel and David Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS & CHAIRPERSON

COMMENTS:

PM Laird announced the City Commission Long Range Planning meeting will be Saturday, January 20, 2024 and starts at 8:30am and the agenda can be located on the city website.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No items presented

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Kupczyk, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, December 5, 2023 regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Sarah Kupczyk, Pam Graham, Anne Lipp,
John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No items presented

New Business #1: Nomination of 2024 Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

Graham nominated Carmona as Chairperson; Carmona accepted the nomination.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Sarah Kupczyk, Pam Graham, Anne Lipp,
John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

Collins nominated Graham as Vice-Chairperson; Graham accepted the nomination.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Sarah Kupczyk, Pam Graham, Anne Lipp,
John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

Rusche stated that he would not be renewing for the Parks and Recreation Board in March 2023 2024 when his term has expired.

New Business #2: Fee Schedule Increase Recommendation-Golf Courses

DPS Director Zielinski stated as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance and maintain the quality of the golf courses, the department is proposing an increase in green fees. The additional revenue generated will be dedicated to funding crucial capital projects aimed at improving the overall experience for all members and guests. The golf course is looking for a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Board to approve the increase of fees which then will be sent to the City Commission for final approval.

DPS Director Zielinski proposes a \$1 increase in green fees, effective March 1, 2024 to contribute directly to infrastructure improvements at Springdale and Lincoln Hills. These funds would be used towards projects such as cart path improvements and safety improvement projects at both courses and other future projects.

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Kupczyk, to approve a recommendation for Golf Course Fee's to be increased as proposed by staff one additional dollar for adults, juniors, and seniors, both members and guests for the 2024 golf season.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Sarah Kupczyk, Pam Graham, Anne Lipp, John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

New Business #3: Request for Sculpture Donations to the City of Birmingham:

a) Local artist James Kaye to donate art piece to be located just west of the historic museum, across from Martha Baldwin Park.

SP Cowan stated that the local artist James Kaye has applied to donate a sculpture to the City of Birmingham. Kaye is the artist who recently installed a piece on the exterior of the Daxton Hotel facing the Daxton alley.

SP Cowan stated that the sculpture consists of stainless steel tubing that bends and curves into form. The sculpture will be approximately 20' in height and approximately 7' x 7' in length and width. The artist has indicated that a concrete base pad approximately 8' x 8' and 6" deep will be necessary for anchoring the sculpture.

SP Cowan will be coordinating with staff, the artist has identified a priority location on W. Maple in a clearing with a bench and bus stop that overlooks the Rouge River. The location is just west of the historic museum, across from Martha Baldwin Park.

SP Cowan stated the Public Arts Board (PAB) at the November 15, 2023 meeting reviewed the application and recommended approval the application and recommended approval.

James Kaye spoke about the rendering of the art piece.

It was moved by Graham, seconded by Lipp the installation of the proposed sculpture by James Kaye at the location off of W. Maple as indicated in Exhibit A.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Sarah Kupczyk, Pam Graham, Anne Lipp,
John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

New Business #3: Request for Sculpture Donations to the City of Birmingham:

b) Local artist and golfer Martin Van Almen to donate art piece to be placed at Lincoln Hills near the new first tee box.

SP Cowan stated the local artist and golfer Martin Van Almen has applied to donate a sculpture to the City to honor the staff who kept the golf courses open and operating during the pandemic. He appreciates how staff provided the opportunity for golfers to get outside, socialize and engage in a fun activity. The sculpture is a silhouette of a golfer completing a swing and is dedicated to the workers of the City.

SP Cowan stated the sculpture will be made of metal with a patina finish. It will be approximately 6 feet in height with a minimalistic design. The sculpture is proposed to be installed with 2-3 ft. deep footings and secured on a two-point stake system. The artist has applied for the sculpture to be placed at Lincoln Hills near the new first tee box and have a plaque dedicating the sculpture to the City’s staff. A rendering is included in Exhibit A.

SP Cowan stated the Public Arts Board at the July 19, 2023 meeting reviewed the design of the sculpture and made a recommendation of approval for “an area near the first tee box of Lincoln Hills”.

Martin Van Almen talked about the art piece.

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Graham to move to recommend to the City Commission the installation of the golfer sculpture by Martin Van Almen for the location at Lincoln Hills behind the first tee box as indicated in Exhibit B.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

No items presented

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

PM Laird stated the 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the City Commission on Monday, December 18, 2023.

PM Laird stated that McKenna is currently working on the document for production and will be available on the City of Birmingham website and the staff will be using the document for future needs.

PM Laird stated additionally, hard copies of the plan will be available at the Department of Public Services, Birmingham Ice Arena, City Hall, and the Baldwin Public Library. The plan will be provided to the members of Parks and Recreation Board at an upcoming meeting as well.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Rusche stated that he had Robert Stempien from Plante Moran speak at the Senior Men's Club meeting and what a wonderful job that Robert had done with the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena project as the owner's representative for the City of Birmingham.

Lipp wanted a report of the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena for a future meeting.

DPS Director Zielinski stated that a report can be provided to the Parks and Recreation Board at a future meeting. Currently the department is working on the budget which ties into the request.

Graham requested that information regarding local parks be provided to the Parks and Recreation Board as it relates to bench marking, walkable surfaces, etc.

DPS Director Zielinski stated the staff currently does this project by project, what is good today might be good tomorrow. Education topics will be available at future Parks and Recreation Board meetings.

Carmona asked about the sculpture that was approved in December, 2021 for the trail system that has yet been installed.

DPS Director Zielinski stated that he believes the area for the installation is in the flood plain and they are awaiting approval from Eagle which could take anywhere from six months to a year for approval.

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 2024 at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Chair Carmona adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm

Connie J. Folk, Ice Arena and Facilities Superintendent