

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2022

It was moved by Noble, seconded by Lipp, to appoint Rusche as the Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson for this evening's Tuesday, June 7, 2022, Parks and Recreation Board meeting in the absence of Heather Carmona, Chairperson and Pam Graham, Vice-Chairperson.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Collins
Kyle Goulding
Ross Kaplan
Anne Lipp
Ellie Noble
John Rusche
Steve Sweeney

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Heather Carmona
Pam Graham

ADMINISTRATION:

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

GUESTS:

Jack Burns, Cindy Rose, Stacy Vail, and David Young

It was moved by Kaplan, seconded by Collins, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, May 10, 2022, regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes,

Susan Collins, Kyle Goulding, Ross Kaplan,
Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble, John Rusche, and Steve
Sweeney

Nays,

None

Absent,

Heather Carmona and Pam Graham

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Project Updates

a. Adams Park Project

PM Laird confirmed the project is on track and construction will begin Monday, June 13, 2022, and is expected to be completed before school starts on August 26, 2022. Work will occur Monday through Saturday between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm.

Residents in the surrounding area were provided an Adams Park Project neighborhood notification letter.

City will salvage and recycle signage and park equipment.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

b. Pickleball

PM Laird confirmed, at the recent direction of Birmingham City Council, two temporary pickleball courts have been made available at Crestview Park by repurposing and relining the two tennis court.

Additionally, signage has currently been placed to direct users that the courts are provided for pickleball only and available on a first-come-first-served basis. This amenity will be featured in Birmingham's "Around Town" in the near future.

RFP is under development for long-term solution to revitalize the current tennis court. It will include provisions for a new surface, new net posts, pickleball court lining, and acoustic fencing.

Rusche recently observed other local pickleball courts, and to his surprise, sound was not an issue for nearby residents. Their biggest issue was on-street parking being so dense it caused inconvenience.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

c. Ground Water Energy Passive System

PM Laird communicated that a Groundwater Energy Passive System (GEPS) has been installed by Exlterra (exlterra.com) in Fairway Park, and the feature is currently in a one month acclimation phase. Installation photos were reviewed and discussed.

This is not new technology: it has been around for years and been installed in local municipalities, including Belle Isle, and around the world.

If this project is a success, DPS will consider expanding into our parks with drainage issues.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

d. Ice Arena Mural Contest-Engage

PM Laird indicated that the contest has been extended to enable more art submissions. The five mural submittals received to date (including one duplicate) were shown to the Parks and Recreation Board. At least one drawing was by a figure skater.

Voting will begin next week, and the winning artist, in addition to having their art displayed in the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena Party Room, will be awarded a free studio party package.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

e. New Donate Web Page

PM Laird demonstrated the new web donation page, which accepts credit card payments; it was well received by members of the Parks and Recreation Board.

The donate page shows an illustration of the Adams Park project. Donations are also being accepted for Adams Park, Birmingham Ice Arena, Pickleball courts, Trail Improvements, Booth Park, benches, and trees.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Golf Course Updates

a. Golf Course Finance Report – April 2, 2022

DPS Director Wood reviewed the Golf Course Finance Report.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

b. Golf Course Report - June 2, 2022

DPS Director Wood provided the first report of the season to the Parks and Recreation Board.

GM Brito is still onboarding seasonal staff and the eight week junior league starts next week.

The month of April had the worst performance ever due to weather, which caused leagues to start late, impacting the financials. The month of June, so far, is looking good.

Birmingham golf course utilization has been very active during pandemic, similar to industry reporting on other golf courses.

No fee increases this season: a review of other local courses suggests our rates are competitive.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: 2022 In The Park Concert Series Schedule

RC Folk informed the Parks and Recreation Board that the teen's program is slated to occur this week. There's a 30% chance of rain: if the weather is inclement, the event will be cancelled by 4 pm.

DPS Director Wood added that in addition to bhamgov.org and social media, a program describing the series schedule will be distributed and available at the Ice Arena, City Clerk's Office, local businesses, and our City Golf Courses.

Board members praised the lineup of entertainers.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4: Wayfinding Committee-Park Signs

PM Laird said that in the future either she or DPS Director Wood would represent DPS in the Wayfinding Committee meetings in response to the City's new logo.

Because of the current flexible four-panel design of park signage, just the top panel with the old logo, will need to be replaced.

Adams Park will be the first park sign to be replaced.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ice Recital

Lipp and Collins commented that the Ice Recital participants and attendees were in high spirits during the program. During the event, senior skaters were presented with plaques from the City of Birmingham.

The event showcased students from the City of Birmingham's Learn to Skate program and the Figure Skating Club of Birmingham (FSCB).

RC Folk added that the small cast party after the ice recital was enjoyed by all.

Lawn Treatment Program

Sweeney asked about the City's weed & feed program after seeing a profusion of dandelions in Crestview Park.

PM Laird explained that the City has a limited treatment program: only as needed, more aggressively along the roadway, less so in the parks supporting less chemical exposure for the children as well as pollinators and native plants.

Piano in Shain Park

Rusche inquired about the Piano installation at Shain Park.

DPS Director Wood confirmed it was installed in the pavilion.

Fire Station #2 Pocket Park

Noble asked about the pocket park by the Fire Station.

DPS Director Wood indicated an update of the Station #2 concept plan would be available from the architect at an upcoming Parks and Recreation Board meeting. Further, this project has been receiving donations under the memorial/recognition program, and the new donation page will help make it easier to participate in the recognition donation program going forward.

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

Rusche stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

Stacy Vail, Clerical