

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2022

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Pam Graham
Anne Lipp
Ellie Noble
Dominick Pulis
John Rusche

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ross Kaplan

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

GUESTS: Michael Jacobs, Landscape Architect at Michael J. Dul & Associates, Jack Burns, Geri Rinschler and Cindy Rose

It was moved by Pulis, seconded by Rusche to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, February 1, 2022 regular meeting as amended.

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

Agenda item #1: 2021 Annual Golf Report

GM Brito stated to the Parks and Recreation Board that golf the golf business has been booming as it relates to equipment, lessons, golf course usage and merchandise. GM Brito stated that the City of Birmingham had a very successful year with a net surplus of \$378,970.

GM Brito stated that during the pandemic, new golfers were entering the game. Golf has managed to thrive, becoming more popular than it's been in decades. New golfers are entering the game with a different perspective. Their mindset of becoming a good player and mastering the game has been replaced with their need to be outdoors, spending time with family and friends, and to have the ability to properly socially distance themselves from others.

GM Brito stated that the game of golf should continue to grow based on National Golf Foundation (NGF) stats, 2021 exceeded 2020 with another increase of 600,000 rounds played, a 2% increase nationwide.

GM Brito combined rounds for April (7,619) and May (10,301) were the highest months since 2003, and regardless of the weather, rain or shine. Brito stated that there were several torrential downfalls which was definitely a factor in 2021 on golf cart rentals.

GM Brito stated that memberships increased dramatically over the past two seasons.

GM Brito reported the total combined rounds ended at 64,065, and is now the highest on record, by only 38 rounds. Springdale really performed this year with a total of 29,493 rounds, an increase of 1,634, or 6% over 2020. Lincoln Hills was a bit shy and finished with 34,576, a decrease of 1,592 rounds, or 4%.

GM Brito acknowledged that this department remained limited this season due to the pandemic and staffing. Tournaments and Club Events were offered and will be offered in 2022. Junior golf was offered even with restrictions from the pandemic.

GM Brito discussed capital improvements for the 2022 golf season for both Lincoln Hills and Springdale Gold Course, merchandise sales, 2022 marketing plan and 2022 club events.

Graham complimented Brito on the golf report and asked thanked her for having events that build community.

Graham stated that one of the important things to the community is that the high schools are using the courses and it's not revealed to her what the business arrangement is regarding the school district usage of the golf courses.

GM Brito stated that the Birmingham High School Golf teams utilized the golf courses, April – May, couple days during the week. Seaholm uses Springdale and Groves uses Lincoln golf Courses. Brito stated if there is room additional high schools will be contacted but the Birmingham High School utilizes the golf courses first.

Graham asked about the advantage about having the customers purchasing memberships early. Brito stated that once the clubhouses are opened in April and they have waited to purchase their membership until April it holds down the counter with processing memberships, answering phones and taking tee times it assists with the flow of customers entering the clubhouse.

Graham stated to Brito that your priority is golf but do you ever think of getting other members of the community on the course for sledding, hiking, Frisbee and mini golf. Are there any other uses of the golf course that you think might be appropriate or consider?

Brito stated winter sports but golf courses are golf courses and there is a lot of money spent on the golf courses for maintenance. Brito stated there is a liability of allowing hiking, golf is golf. Brito stated that the turf on the greens are different, they are well manicured and have to be taken care of differently and there is a lot of money spent on keeping the greens in good condition.

Lipp inquired about why fireworks are not held at Lincoln Hills Golf Course. DPS Director Wood stated that fireworks do not occur at Lincoln because of public safety concerns on the number of people that were coming in and out of the small space.

Carmona raised the concern about staffing issues for the golf courses and for other city of Birmingham departments.

Brito stated that the City of Birmingham is assisting with staffing and that it is difficult hiring seasonal employees.

DPS Director Wood stated that the City of Birmingham is constantly exploring new ways on hiring employees and City of Birmingham is currently hiring for the Parks, Golf and Ice Arena.

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Collins to accept the 2021 Annual Golf Course Report as submitted.

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

Agenda item #2: Adams Park Project – Review Proposals

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

Vice Chairperson Pulis stepped in for Carmona.

PM Laird presented to the Parks and Recreation Board the background of the developments of Adams Park. The City of Birmingham engaged the services of Michael J. Dul & Associates to prepare the 2021 Adams Park Concept Plan and Michael Jacobs from J. Dul & Associates will answer any questions.

PM Laird stated that Adams Plan was reviewed by surrounding neighborhood associations, Roeper School, advertised for citywide comment on Engage Birmingham, and presented at the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of September 14, 2021 meeting.

PM Laird stated that five proposals were received for the development of Adams Park on February 24, 2022, the spread is pretty tight and will make a recommendation at the March 28, 2022 City Commission meeting.

PM Laird stated that Michael J. Dul and city staff are in the process of reviewing all proposals received. Alternates, possible deducts or additions, interviews, scheduling, and reference checks as part of our bid review process.

Jacobs reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the conceptual plan for Adams Park with the amenities of Adams Park.

Jacobs stated that fine tuning of the play area, placement and size of select park features, and further discussion with the Neighborhood Association representatives and Roeper School contacts transpired since the approval from the City Commission in November. Jacobs discussed the 6 ft. fencing that will be installed around Adams Park and adding a rain garden to address the drainage issue.

Graham asked what features are not included in the base bid total and what features are not included in the base bid.

PM Laird stated that base bid is for all features of Adams Park with the exception of an alternate for sod instead of seed and also a warranty of plantings.

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Noble to support the recommendation by the consultant/city staff for the selection of the most responsive contractor for the Adams Park Development Project.

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

Carmona returned to the Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Open Meetings Act and Virtual Accommodations

DPS Director Wood shared a memorandum that was presented at a previous City Commission meeting. DPS Director Wood stated if there to be an accommodations there are forms that need to be completed and assessed by the City of Birmingham attorney.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: DPS Project Updates

DPS Director Wood stated the Ribbon Cutting Celebration for the newly renovated Ice Arena is on Sunday, March 20, 2022 beginning at 11:00 AM. Evite invitations are on the way.

PM Laird stated that the department was proceeding with the award for design services for Pickleball courts this month, but was informed by Bruce Lemons from Foresite Design, Inc. they will be withdrawing from this project.

PM Laird stated that the project will be sent out for bids for another consulting firm.

PM Laird stated that design services for trail improvements was approved by the City Commission.

PM Laird stated that prescribed burns at park locations that have not been determined yet but will occur soon, weather permitting.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

Pulis wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation Board for re-electing him as the Vice-Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Board and wanted to inform the Parks and Recreation Board for the opportunity and though his term is expiring in March, 2022 he would not be re-applying to the Parks and Recreation Board do to some personal and professional changes coming in the near future.

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, April 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator