

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2021

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
Ellie Noble
John Rusche

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dominick Pulis

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Alison Chapnick Groves High School

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: R.J. Carrel, Groves High School
Kyle Sayers, Seaholm High School

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

GUESTS: Cheryl Couretas, Linda Forrester and Arnold Forrester

It was moved by Rusche, seconded by Lipp to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 5, 2021 regular meeting as submitted.

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

Agenda item #1: Request for Two Art Donation Installations:

a. Helen Hierta – “Weathered” – Art on Loan Application

CP Cowan presented to the Parks and Recreation Board Artist Helen Hierta sculpture “Weathered” as part of the City of Birmingham Public Arts Board’s 2021 Call For Entry.

CP Cowan stated that the Public Arts Board (PAB) reviewed the application and felt the best locations for such items would be near the entrance of the City’s park trails. The Board felt that the remaining location in the Call-for-Entry were not quite suitable for the subject sculptures given the size and scale. The sculpture is a meditation pole consisting of ceramic material that stands 8’ tall, 20” wide, and attaches to the ground with an interior stability pole.

CP Cowan stated according to the artist, “Weathered” is intended to encourage a meditation on the vast unseen human energy fields – a whole network of intelligence glistening under the surface of things – and their complex vibrations that radiate all around us.

CP Cowan stated the PAB felt that “Weathered” is a tranquil, natural piece of art that also goes well as a marker for an entrance to a nature trail. The PAB moved to recommend approval for the sculpture loan of “Weathered” by Helen Hierta for the proposed location at the intersection of Linden Trail and W. Lincoln the sculpture would be on loan for three (3) years.

It was moved by Noble, seconded by Collins to move to recommend approval of the application for the sculpture on loan titled “Weathered” by Helen Hierta to be located at the intersection of Fairway Trail and W. Lincoln Street.

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

b. Ray Katz “Astral Projection” – Art on Loan Application

CP Cowan presented to the Parks and Recreation Board Artist Ray Katz sculpture “Astral Projection” as part of the City of Birmingham Public Arts Board’s 2021 Call For Entry.

CP Cowan stated the Public Arts Board reviewed renderings of "Astral Projection" at the proposed location of Crestview Park near the corner of Southlawn and Southfield. The PAB liked the variety of colors, shapes, and height that "Astral Projection" would bring to the area. The PAB also preferred the one base pad that would be required for installation and would be more ideal for a sculpture on loan.

CP Cowan stated that PAB moved to recommend approval of the sculpture on loan titled "Astral Projection" by Ray Katz to be located at Crestview Park near the corner of Southfield and Southlawn. PAB moved to recommend approval of the sculpture on loan titled "Astral Projection" by Ray Katz to be located at Crestview Park near the corner of Southfield and Southlawn and would be on loan for three (3) years.

Collins stated that Crestview Park is being reviewed for potential pickleball.

CP Cowan stated that he has been in discussion with PM Laird on the proposed location at Crestview Park.

PM Laird stated that there would be room for the artwork to be placed at the corner of Crestview Park as CP Cowan showed and would not interfere with potential pickleball.

Kaplan asked about what type of pad the artwork would be placed on. CP Cowan stated that the pad installation would be coordinated with the engineering sidewalk program that takes place in the spring/summer. CP Cowan stated that the pad could be tailored to the artwork.

Graham asked if the artwork being installed at Fairway Trail and W. Lincoln Street would have a ~~pas~~ pad as well. CP Cowan stated that the artist has requested no pad for this artwork.

Carmona stated she does not want to question the placement of "Astral Projection" by the PAB but in terms of the potential pickleball location at Crestview Park would it be considered an ~~abstraction~~ obstruction.

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Noble to postpone the consideration of the application for the sculpture on loan titled "Astral Projection" by Ray Katz to be located at Crestview Park near the corner of Southfield and Southlawn until the PAB coordinates with city staff with the installation of the pickleball courts.

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

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Pickleball 2.0

PM Laird presented to the Parks and Recreation Board the five (5) potential pickleball locations that were: Crestview Park, Kenning Park, Poppleton Park, St. James Park and West Lincoln Well Park.

PM Laird stated that in staff began exploring various options for pickleball locations and presented 5 potential locations at the May 11, 2021 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting. Additionally, the locations were posted to Engage Birmingham as a survey, asking residents to rank the locations, with 1 being their favorite and also to let us know the reason for their #1 choice. The five locations, and results of this first survey were:

- Kenning Park (NE Corner of Lincoln and Eton): #1
- St. James Park: #2
- Poppleton Park: #3
- W. Lincoln Well Park: #4
- Crestview Park: #5

PM Laird stated that the city engaged the services of Foresite Design, a local architect with a unique and primary focus in the design and implementation of athletic and recreational facilities, beginning with site assessments and potential designs for each of the 5 locations.

PM Laird stated that considerations throughout this process included, but are not limited to the number of pickleball courts to offer, site amenities, parking, current uses of the park, future planned projects, proximity to nearby residents, and ADA accessibility.

~~Goals were set to provide at least 6-8 pickleball courts at each location, have adequate parking available, and to maintain existing park fields, playground and court areas. From the five (5) locations to three (3) — Kenning Park, St. James Park, and Crestview Park based upon listed criteria above.~~

PM Laird stated that goals were set to provide at least 6-8 pickleball courts at each location which would have adequate parking available, maintain existing park fields, playground and court areas. From the five (5) locations that were selected the locations were narrowed to three (3) locations which are Kenning Park, St. James Park and Crestview Park.

PM Laird shared with the Parks and Recreation Board members potential pickleball courts overlays on current park photos.

PM Laird shared with the Parks and Recreation Board members the number of tennis reservations through the recreation program which totaled 3,558 for the 2021 tennis season from January 1, 2021 through November 8, 2021.

PM Laird stated there would be a survey placed on Engage Birmingham from November 15, 2021 through November 30, 2021 and at the December 7, 2021 Parks and Recreation Board meeting there will be a recommendation for pickleball courts.

PM Laird stated that screening and fencing would be installed around the pickleball courts.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Memorandum dated November 1, 2021 regarding Conflict of Interest

DPS Director Wood stated that Carmona had requested an opinion from the City attorney on her involvement with Adams Park.

DPS Director Wood stated that it was determined by the city attorney that Carmona as a member of the Parks and Recreation Board has a conflict of interest when there are items to discuss and vote upon involving Adams Park and benefits to Roeper School. Director.

DPS Director Wood stated that each time the subject matter of Adams Park and items for consideration and voting are raised, the Carmona should disclose that she has a conflict and recuse herself from participating in discussion and voting on items involving Adams Park. Carmona would have to physically leave the room until the discussion is completed.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: Capital Projects Sub-Committee Report-October 13, 2021

The Capital Projects Sub-Committee Progress Report was provided.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4: Birmingham Ice Sports Arena-October 2021 Dasherboard Report

RC Folk provided the Parks and Recreation Board the October 2021 Dasherboard Report.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5: Golf Course Updates

a. Golf Course Finance Report-September, 2021

DPS Director Wood provided the Golf Course Finance report to the Parks and Recreation Board. DPS Director Wood stated that Lincoln Hills will be closing soon based on the weather.

Kaplan asked what the draw has been to the general fund that supported the Lincoln Hills build. DPS Director Wood stated that \$8,333 is called out in the monthly golf course finance report.

DPS Director Wood stated that information comes from finance but she would provide an update at the December Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

b. Golf Course Report-November 5, 2021

DPS Director Wood provided the Golf Course Report to the Parks and Recreation Board.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6: Michigan parks look increasingly likely to get big COVID funding boost, Bridge Article

An article was provided to the Parks and Recreation Board

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:

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

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting 11/9/2021