

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 11, 2022**

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at 851 South Eton.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Heather Carmona, Pam Graham,  
Kyle Goulding, Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble,  
John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
ABSENT:** Zachary Miketa, Seaholm High School  
Matthew Windsor, Seaholm High School

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Susan Collins and Ross Kaplan

**ADMINISTRATION:** Jana, Ecker, Assistant City Manager  
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

**GUESTS:** Tracey Boltik, Cheryl Couretas, Jim Holman,  
Sarah Kupczyk, John Martell, Cindy Rose and  
David Young

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Rusche, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, September 13, 2022, regular meeting as amended.

**Ayes,** Heather Carmona, Pam Graham,  
Kyle Goulding, Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble,  
John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

**Nays,  
Absent,** None  
Susan Collins, Ross Kaplan

ACM Ecker shared with the Parks and Recreation Board the recent retirement of Lauren Wood and that she will be attending the Parks and Recreation Board meetings until further notice and CM Markus will be the interim of DPS operations.

**Agenda item #1: 2023 Parks and Board Meeting Dates**

RC Folk presented to the Parks and Recreation Board the 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting dates for approval.

It was moved by Noble, seconded by Sweeney to approve the 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting dates as submitted.

**Ayes,**

Heather Carmona, Pam Graham,  
Kyle Goulding, Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble,  
John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

**Nays,  
Absent,**

None  
Susan Collins, Ross Kaplan

**Agenda item #2: Rouge River Trail Corridor Improvements**

PM Laird reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the Rouge River Trail Concept Plan. The plan will be posted on Engage Birmingham and at the November 1, 2022 Parks and Recreation Board meeting there will be a public input session. In addition, public notifications will be sent out to the homeowner's associations.

PM Laird stated the three (3) focus areas:

**Booth Park Trail:**

- Modified corner entry area
- Open plaza- food truck/coffee cart, movable seating, concrete plaza paving
- Park perimeter seating
- Park signage
- New restroom building
- 10 ft. concrete path- accessibility and event set up
- Trail entry- columns and pavers

**Museum Trail:**

- Improved trail connection along Willits, north side heading east to the Museum
- Trail entry identifiers (3) - columns and pavers
- Confidence markers
- Coordinate with Museum Improvements
- Accessible boardwalk and overlook

**Booth to Linden Trail:**

- Confidence markers along Maple Rd
- New trail plaza – near bus stop
- Willits to Baldwin- new overlook, signage
- Trail entry identifier
- New crushed stone path
- 10 ft. Bridge with built in benches

PM Laird showed the Parks and Recreation Board design details of the Rouge River Trail Concept Plan, restroom facilities, shade shelter options and Booth Park entrance plaza.

PM Laird continued sharing photographs of the surrounding areas pertaining to the Rouge River Trail Concept Plan. PM Laird pointed out the current sidewalks are 3ft. wide on Maple Rd., the plan calls for a 8ft. wide path and shows bituminous paving. It does not necessarily have to be that material but the 8ft width is required. The sidewalk improvement would be from the museum to Baldwin.

PM Laird stated that the next steps would be:

- Post to Engage-survey
- Circulate for City of Birmingham Departments for review
- November 1, 2022 Parks and Recreation Board meeting will be an input session
- City Commission
- Grant application(s)

ACM Ecker explained that future projects have to be accessible when projects are being built.

Lipp asked if the Seaholm Cross Country team could be informed of the November 1, 2022 Parks and Recreation Board Input Session as they would be able to provide some feedback on the Rouge River Trail Corridor.

ACM Ecker talked about how the conceptual plan could be integrated in other City of Birmingham plans and encouraged that this conceptual plan be reviewed by the Multi-Modal Transportation Board.

Rose asked if the art piece, the green tree would stay since it is not noted on the Rouge River Trail Corridor Conceptual Plan. PM Laird stated that the art piece could be noted on the plan.

Kupczyk a Birmingham resident shared her story about her son Luka who suffered a tragic birthing injury that has left him medically complex and disabled. Kupczyk shared with the Parks and Recreation Board the challenges the disabled community has so that they are able to enjoy life while navigating the community conveniently, safely and in an inclusive way.

Kupczyk spoke about the new Adams Park. Kupczyk stated she was disappointed that the park is covered in mulch and the musical feature is much too far for anyone in a wheelchair to be able to interact with. The seats aren't inclusive and there are no ramps.

Kupczky stated that there is a gigantic difference between being accessible and inclusive. Kupczky also stated that bathroom/restroom building should include children and adults with different needs that also must use the bathroom. Older kids and adults may need to be laying for bathroom needs to be performed where the infant changing station doesn't work.

RC Folk stated that the Kupczky discussion will be provided as a communication/discussion item at the November Parks and Recreation Board.

### **COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Project Updates**

#### a. Adams Parks Project

PM Laird stated the Adams furnishings have been delayed until late October, 2022. PM Laird stated that there are temporary seating and trash receptacles currently.

RC stated there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

#### b. Pickleball

##### a. Email received from John Martell regarding pickleball

PM Laird stated the contractor will not be able to start the pickleball courts until spring, 2023.

Sweeney stated that width of the temporary pickleball courts at Crestview Park are actually smaller then what they should be.

Martell stated to the Parks and Recreation Board his thoughts on the traffic, noise and parking around Crestview Park since the temporary pickleball courts have been installed. Martell stated that more communication should have occurred with the neighborhood.

Graham stated that there will be some type of sound barrier installed around the pickleball courts. PM Laird stated that city staff is investigating an acoustical barrier and will be budgeting for that item.

ACM Ecker stated that the city hears about the sound issues across the city, from leaf blowers, lawn mowers and people revving their car engines. Unfortunately, you live in a city and you're going to hear sound. ACM Ecker stated that pickleball users are driving to Crestview pickleball courts since there are no other pickleball courts in the City of Birmingham and when more pickleball courts are available in the City of Birmingham you will see more people walking and riding their bikes to the pickleball courts.

ACM Ecker stated there has been many studies stating the more cars that are parked on the streets the safer it is, because it calms traffic.

Holman asked if there were any parking studies conducted. Carmona stated information regarding the discussion of pickleball from previous meetings would be available online.

PM Laird stated that the project has been approved by the City Commission and is moving forward.

**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Golf Course Updates**

a. Golf Course Report – October 6, 2022

A Golf Course Report was presented.

Graham asked what it will take to have Lincoln Hills open for winter sports. Graham would like to have Lincoln Hills open for winter sports.

**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, November 1, 2022, at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator