

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2023

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Jessica Einstein
Pam Graham
Anne Lipp
John Rusche
Joseph Wrobel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sarah Kupczyk and Steve Sweeney

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Archie Reynolds, Seaholm High School
Katie Glasier, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION:

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

PRESENTERS:

Jane Dixon, McKenna

GUESTS:

Tracey Boltik, Tom Boltik, Julie Ernst,
Linda Forrester and Oz Forrester

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS & CHAIRPERSON
COMMENTS:**

No announcements, introductions of guests & chairperson comments

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No public comments for Items not on the agenda

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved by Wrobel, seconded by Rusche, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, August 1, 2023, regular meeting as amended.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Jessica Einstein, Pam Graham,
Anne Lipp, John Rusche and
Joseph Wrobel

Nays,

None

Absent,

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Grant Received

PM Laird stated that the City of Birmingham received a \$25,000 grant that can be applied towards the trail improvements for the Booth Park section of that plan.

No Action Needed

Trail Improvements Concept Plan

PM Laird stated that the City Commission accepted the Trail Improvement Concept Plan and the department also asked to proceed with a RFP for construction drawings and those predevelopment activities that need to occur in preparation for the project development of the Booth Park section of the plan. The Oakland County grant will be applied towards that as well as there has been money budgeted in this fiscal year in order to do so and finally there is money budgeted in fiscal year 2024/2025 for the development of the Booth Park section.

No Action Needed

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Jane Dixon from McKenna reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board an update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (see exhibit A).

Dixon stated the facilities inventory and analysis has been done and the information has been placed in the mapping software, including to document amenities of the parks.

Dixon described the accessibility and walkability analysis and showed mapping on the walkability analysis of the parks. Dixon stated that there's limitation in terms of acquiring them, but something to think about as we look at who's accessing them.

Dixon showed the community engagement timeline. A full analysis of the public engagement process will be included in a future update.

Dixon stated the planning team will complete and begin final analysis of the public engagement process. The public survey will close September 18th. The planning team will also continue to develop plan recommendations and content.

Pickleball Update

PM Laird provided the Parks and Recreation Board with a summary of complaints/concerns related to pickleball to date. Some concerns expressed are foul language on the courts, noise levels- decibel levels, car traffic, cars utilize driveways of residents to turn around, cars park on both sides of Shipman and Southlawn, creating a only a singular lane for traffic, hours of the courts- needing hour adjustment in the fall/winter- should be dawn to dusk, concerns with portable lights, pickleball players do not comply with the hours, playing well into the dark at times.

PM Laird provided a report showing complaints/concerns that have come in using the govpilot app. Staff has encouraged residents to file complaints using our govpilot app rather than email, as the appropriate department is able to respond more quickly and efficiently.

PM Laird provided the parks board the number of pickleball reservations from June 1st - September 9th.

The Parks and Recreation Board discussed additional options such as extension of fencing, acoustic fencing, reservations, additional hours of open play, amending the pickleball rules and even charging for the use of the pickleball courts like what is used at the city dog park.

Linda Forrester stated that in regards to the parking issue maybe designate parking on one side of the street. As far as having the open hours there were people talking about the hours and that 8am-12pm based on other activities that occur in the city with construction/lawn crews starting at 7am. Maybe adding a sound barrier would help.

Tom Boltik he thanked the staff in enforcing the hours. He stated to get rid of the leagues.

Julie Ernst asked about the liability of lessons being given on the pickleball courts. Ernst asked about having young children on the court when playing pickleball courts. Ernst was also concerned about the dress code as well.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

No miscellaneous communications

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

No reports from staff

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Revisit pickleball sound mitigation and security/gate access

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Chair Carmona adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

approved