

City Of Birmingham
Regular Meeting Of The Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee
March 20, 2024

City Commission Room
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee (SCC) held on March 20, 2024. The meeting was convened at 3:30 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Present: Cris Braun, Jason Emerine, Bert Koseck, Elaine McLain, Dan Share, Kelly Stubbe

Absent: Pam Graham, Donald Rogers

Staff: City Manager Ecker; Information Technology Manager Brunk, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, Department of Public Services Director Zielinski

B. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

MOTION: Nomination by Mr. Koseck:
To appoint Elaine McLain to serve as Vice Chair.

Ms. McLain accepted the nomination and said she was unsure whether she could vote for herself.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Braun, Emerine, Koseck, Share, Stubbe
Nays, None
Did not vote, McLain

Ms. McLain introduced herself.

MOTION: Nomination by Mr. Koseck:
To appoint Dan Share to serve as temporary Chair.

It was noted that a vote on a permanent Chair would be postponed to a meeting with the full Committee.

Mr. Share introduced himself to the Committee and the public.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Braun, Emerine, Koseck, McLain, Stubbe
Nays, None
Did not vote, Share

Chair Share introduced himself and welcomed the public to the meeting. The Chair then:

- Invited the SCC members introduce themselves;
- Noted that while three of the SCC members were Planning Board members, this SCC was not related to the Planning Board;
- Noted that the attendance of the three Planning Board members did not constitute a quorum of the Planning Board; and,
- Noted that despite meeting in the Commission room, the meeting would be run a little less formally and efforts would be made to allow all interested parties to share their perspectives.

C. Establish Date and Time for Regular Meeting Schedule

The SCC decided to hold weekly meetings Wednesdays at 3 p.m., with the understanding that there may be some weeks a meeting would not be held.

D. Overview of Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee Purpose

CM Ecker presented the topic and answered informational questions from the SCC. The phase one consultants, a team from Norr Architects, introduced themselves.

E. Duties of the Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee

CM Ecker presented the topic and answered informational questions from the SCC.

SCC member comments were as follows:

- At every point in this process, the public is involved.

F. Vision, Goals & Objectives of Senior/Recreation Center Project

CM Ecker presented the topic. Staff answered informational questions from the SCC.

SCC member comments were as follows:

- All of CM Ecker's suggestions should be included in the Vision, Goals and Objectives.
- The SCC will have to devise metrics for evaluating the proposals. A mission statement would be helpful in guiding that process.
- This will be both a senior and a community center, individuals under the age of 50 are welcome at Next programs, and Next also runs some intergenerational programming as well.
- The building should be adaptable to changing uses and tastes over the long term, and should include ways of generating revenue to offset expenses. The entryway should be welcoming, social, and open.
- The mission must include adaptability and accessibility for all.
- Sustainability should also be included in the visioning process.
- St. James Park is a very active park, especially with baseball practices and use of the playsets between 3-6 p.m. The most underutilized aspect of the park is the City parking lot south of the YMCA.
- The YMCA camps also use St. James Park for large group games and activities.
- The Next softball team presently does not play in Birmingham due to a lack of softball fields, and making the field modifiable so it can be a baseball or softball field as appropriate

would be valuable. A walking track around St. James Park, preferably heated, would be desirable.

- There would likely be opportunities for synergy between the SCC, the City parking lot, and St. James Park.
- Next could move its outdoor adult fitness equipment to St. James Park.
- A goal would be for all involved parties to engage in best practices for this process. Towards the beginning of the process, it would be valuable for the SCC to visit three other community/senior centers to learn more about the community and staff experiences of those centers.
- A goal would be flexibility of uses and organization, since the YMCA, Next, and the City are all collaborating on this project. Additionally, the involved parties could change, and the building should be able to accommodate those potential future changes.
- Some seniors who use the joint senior center/community center building in Troy have expressed a desire for senior-only hours and spaces.
- Objectives should include social and emotional enrichment and lifelong learning are important. Providing a context for people to meet their social needs is important.
- Meals on Wheels and a comprehensive support department are part of Next's present programming.
- A potential future event could include inviting the community to participate in a reading of a civic document such as the Declaration of Independence.

G. Proposed Timeline

CM Ecker presented the timeline and asked the SCC to review the proposed timeline.

H. Miscellaneous Communications

CM Ecker presented the draft survey. The SCC provided feedback regarding the survey and CM Ecker integrated the feedback.

Regarding the OMA, it was noted that SCC members must:

- Send any communications meant for the entire SCC to City staff only in order to ensure proper distribution;
- Avoid meeting or having discussion with five or more SCC members at the same time outside of a noticed public meeting;
- Consult City staff prior to taking action if any other questions arise regarding the OMA.

CM Ecker also briefly commented on OMA requirements.

I. Meeting Open to the Public

Marsha Wilkinson commented on the draft survey and on Next's financial contribution to the project.

Gordon Rinschler made comments about public engagement during SCC meetings and about clarifying the relationship between the City and Next.

George Dilgard concurred with Mr. Rinschler regarding public engagement, supported hiring an owner's representative as soon as possible, commented that integrating senior and community services would be complex, and commented regarding the YMCA's potential future involvement.

SCC member comments were as follows:

- The SCC would be navigating not only process issues that relate to planning, construction, and architecture as well as relationships that will interact over the short and long term with the facility. The facility will likely continue to be needed to provide service activity, and the facility may outlast some of the present organizing relationships. The SCC would need to keep that in mind as it moves forward. The parties that have ushered the process to this point should be commended for encouraging collaboration between the organizing parties.
- Next would be hosting a gala and fundraiser for its move on April 4, 2024 at the Daxton Hotel and they hoped to see members of the community there.

J. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.



Jana Ecker, City Manager

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist