



151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-530-1800

Parks and Recreation Board Agenda
Department of Public Services
851 South Eton-Conference Room
Tuesday, December 6, 2016
6:30 PM

- I. Call to order**
- II. Approval of the minutes of :** Tuesday, November 1, 2016 (*regular meeting*)
- III. Agenda Items-***Written and submitted by 5pm Monday at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, one week prior to the meeting.*
 1. Fee Increases For Springdale Shelter
 2. Proposal from Marshall Lasser-Rock Installation at Quarton Lake
- IV. Communications/Discussion Items**
 1. Poppleton Park Communication Items
 - a) Emails received for Poppleton Park
 - b) Memorandum to Birmingham To Community Members on Poppleton Park
 - c) Hometownlife newspaper articles
 - d) Downtown magazine article
 - e) Birmingham Patch articles
 2. Email-Upcoming Meeting Dates -Poppleton Park Concept Plan
 3. Capital Projects for 2017-2018 – Proposed
 4. Golf Course Report
 5. Pickleball Request
- V. Unfinished Business**
- VI. New Business**
- VII. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda**
- VIII. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, January 10, 2017(DPS)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Individuals requiring accommodations, such as interpreter services, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 at least on day in advance of the public meeting.

Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública.
(Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

*If you cannot attend the meetings, please contact Connie Folk at the Birmingham Ice Arena (248) 530-1642.
Minutes are available for review at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2300 East Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009*

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

We the Parks & Recreation Board of Birmingham will help other organizations and agencies to plan and share family activities in helping to prevent the desires and need to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco by providing recreational programs for all ages, and to encourage recreational life styles.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 1, 2016

Therese Longe, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at 851 S. Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, Ryan Ross, Art Stevens and Bill Wiebrecht

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lilly Stotland

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Nichole McMaster

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

GUESTS: Anne Bray, Marshall Lasser, Ray Rogers, Rockworks, Inc.

It was moved by John Meehan, seconded by Art Stevens that the minutes of the October 5, 2016 regular meeting be approved as corrected.

Yeas – 5 Ross Kaplan, Therese Longe, John Meehan, Ryan Ross, Art Stevens and Bill Wiebrecht

Nays – 0

Absent – 2 Lilly Stotland

Therese stated that the November 1, 2016 Parks and Recreation Board meeting is the official 25th Anniversary of Bill Wiebrecht's service on the Parks and Recreation Board. Therese stated that Bill started on the Parks and Recreation Board on October 14, 1991. Therese stated that Bill has been serving the community in this capacity for twenty-five (25) years and that he is a fantastic advocate for the parks, he's the board historian and he has just a thoughtful and productive member of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Therese stated that the Parks and Recreation Board members would like to honor Bill with a Certificate of Appreciation.

AGENDA ITEM #1-Proposal from Marshall Lasser-Rock Installation at Quarton Lake
Therese introduced Marshall Lasser that will be presenting a proposal for Quarton Lake.

Marshall introduced Ray Rogers from Rockworks, Inc. that Ray had previously worked with the City of Birmingham for installing boulders at Booth Park and Quarton Lake.

Marshall also stated that Ray has created the Quarton Lake drawings for the project that is being presented.

Marshall stated the proposal is for installation of artistic, natural and astatic basalt boulders that would be installed in Quarton Park located on the west side of Quarton Lake south of Oak Street. Marshall stated that the basalt boulders would be installed on a bed of crushed limestone, and an interpretative sign and two benches would be installed.

Marshall stated that Ray would use the same process for the installing the boulders as was done at Booth Park.

Ray stated that if the rocks are graffiti the boulders are so soft that the graffiti would just wipe off. Ray stated that the drawing is very low key and is a very cool design. Ray stated other than excavating out for the base gravel there will be no change in the topography at the site.

Therese asked Lauren if DEQ permits would be needed for this project. Lauren stated she does not believe so. Therese stated that the proposal is a very intriguing concept.

Therese asked Marshall if he would be willing to work with the City of Birmingham Manager and the City of Birmingham attorney to come to some agreement that Mr. Lasser would assume all cost for the installation.

Mr. Lasser stated that he would only proceed with the project only if Mr. Ray Rogers is hired for the proposed project.

Ryan Ross stated that he likes the concept and asked if the installation has been done in the past. Ryan stated that he is concerned on how tall the boulders are that the proper base installation be used understanding the public would be climbing on the boulders.

Ray stated that he would consult his engineer on the base installation.

Anne asked why the project is being considered. Anne stated that she would like to leave the area as a natural setting.

Ray stated that this project would be artistic to the Quarton Lake area.

Bill stated that these boulders are natural occurrences in the State of Michigan and interpretive signage would be installed explaining the history of the boulders.

Bill stated that this project is worthwhile. Bill stated there are other art sculptures located throughout the City of Birmingham.

Ray stated that the installation would take approximately eight days.

Lauren stated that representatives from Quarton Lake were noticed of the November 1, 2016 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Ann asked if the boulders could be arranged differently rather than 4 ft. between each boulder.

John Meehan stated that the boulders are very beautiful and that concept is very interesting.

Marshall stated that visually that the Quarton Lake site was chosen as the best location after surveying the area with the City of Birmingham Administration.

Therese stated to Marshall that the Parks and Recreation Board thinks that is project is worth moving forward and since this is not a public hearing and no action will be taken by the Parks and Recreation Board.

Therese stated that this is a preliminary presentation and that there is enough support for Marshall to move forward with planning and to consult with Ray's engineer for a final decision on how the boulders would be anchored.

Therese stated to Marshall that he work with Lauren.

Therese stated to Marshall he should work on developing a site plan that would be presented to the Parks and Recreation Board that would show the placement of the boulders relative to the existing structures, sidewalks, streets, lights and trees and to have a final discussion with Ray's engineer on how the boulders would anchored.

Therese stated to Marshall that he needs to work with Lauren to have conversations with the City of Birmingham Manager and the City of Birmingham attorney about concerns on using Ray as the vendor for the project.

Therese stated to Marshall he could come back to the Parks and Recreation Board with a concept plan and ask the Parks and Recreation Board to endorse and approve by motion that then the concept plan would be forward to the City Commission.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Marshall stated to the Parks and Recreation Board a second proposal involving five (5) blue granite boulders located at one location or to be installed at other City of Birmingham Parks.

Therese stated to Marshall he should focus on the boulder project to be located west side of Quarton Lake south of Oak Street.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1- Emails received regarding Poppleton Park
Lauren provided additional emails that were received regarding Poppleton Park.

Bill stated that recognizing that Poppleton Park is a Community Park, that providing additional parking is long overdue.

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2- Crowdfunding Grant Ideas (*verbal*)
Lauren stated that playground aspect would be a nice idea for crowdfunding in the future.

Therese stated that the State of Michigan is going to reintroduce the State of Michigan crowdfunding initiative for 2017 in which case if the City of Birmingham has the Parks and Recreation Master Plan underway the City of Birmingham would be eligible.

Therese stated that preliminary conversations indicated that the State of Michigan would be very interested in an accessible playground as a project and that the State of Michigan would assist and support the project.

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3- Dog Park Update

Carrie provided the Parks and Recreation Board a summary of revenue and expenses from 2011-2016. Carrie stated that the number of active dog park passes are currently down compared to previous years.

Carrie stated during the Dog Open House positive feedback was received.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4- 2017 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates

Connie provided the Parks and Recreation Board the approved 2017 Parks and Recreation Board meeting dates.

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5- Press Release-Birmingham Receives Recycle Bins through Public Park Recycling Grant Program

Lauren provided a press release for the City of Birmingham recycle bins and will be installed at various City of Birmingham Parks.

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6- Newspaper article-Birmingham Golf courses celebrate season with fall events

Lauren provided a newspaper article about the City of Birmingham golf courses.

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7a- Golf Course Financial

Jacky provided the Parks and Recreation Board the golf course financials.

No action was required by the board.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7b- Golf Course Report

Jacky provided the Parks and Recreation Board the golf course report.

No action was required by the board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lauren stated that Adams Park Concept Plan was presented and accepted at the October 27, 2016 City of Birmingham Commission meeting.

Lauren stated that the Adams Park Concept Plan will be used for budget purposes.

Carrie stated that Pembroke Lawn Repair was approved at the October 27, 2017 City of Birmingham Commission meeting and will begin this month and that the area being repaired will be rested for the Spring 2017 season for soccer use.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Therese stated that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 6:30 pm at DPS

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: November 14, 2016
TO: Parks and Recreation Board Members
FROM: Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator
SUBJECT: FEE INCREASES FOR SPRINGDALE SHELTER

The department is requesting a rental rate increase for the Springdale Shelter that will take effect January, 2017. The last rate increase for the rental of Springdale Shelter occurred in 2005. The department surveyed other surrounding communities which have the same shelter capacity as Springdale Shelter and the information is listed below.

Community	Resident	Non-Resident
Auburn Hills	\$25/daily	\$75/daily
Clinton Township	\$100/daily	\$200/daily
Novi	\$125/daily	\$175/daily
Shelby	\$170/daily	\$200/daily
Southfield	\$150/daily	\$150/daily

Current rental rates for Springdale Shelter are:

Weekdays	Resident/Non-Residents
2 hours	\$60
2-4 hours	\$70
5 hours	\$80
Weekend	Residents/Non-Residents
2 hours	\$80
2-4 hours	\$90
5 hours	\$100

For each additional hour or portion thereof over 5 hours: \$20/per hour

\$100 Cleaning Security Deposit for all rentals

Proposed rental rates for Springdale Shelter are:

Weekdays	Resident/Non-Residents
2 hours	\$95
2-4 hours	\$105
5 hours (<i>maximum</i>)	\$115
Weekend	Residents/Non-Residents
2 hours	\$115
2-4 hours	\$135
5 hours (<i>maximum</i>)	\$155

\$100 Cleaning Security Deposit for all rentals

The department has maintained the Springdale Shelter by making minor updates such as replacement of the roof, power washing the beams and resealing the interior of the roofing system, maintaining the electrical outlets, reconditioning the picnic tables as needed and daily cleaning responsibilities.

The department will be receiving bids for replacing the concrete underneath the shelter which have large cracks and areas that have heaved that is causing trip hazards for the users of the shelter.

Suggested Recommendation:

To approve the department's recommendation on the fee increases for the rental of Springdale Shelter which will take effect January, 2017.



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: November 29, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Board Members

FROM: Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Donation Proposal from Marshall Lasser- Basalt Stones Installation at Quarton Lake

Marshall Lasser has provided follow up information for his previous donation proposal of placement of large boulders at Quarton Lake Park as requested by the Parks and Recreation Board at the November 1, 2016 meeting. Please see the attached letter from an engineer, the engineer's analysis, cross section mounting detail and plan view mounting detail. He has also submitted a site plan to show exact location.

As background information, the original proposal submitted is also included along with the August 25, 2016 letter from Joseph A. Valentine, City Manager, along with the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Donor Policy.

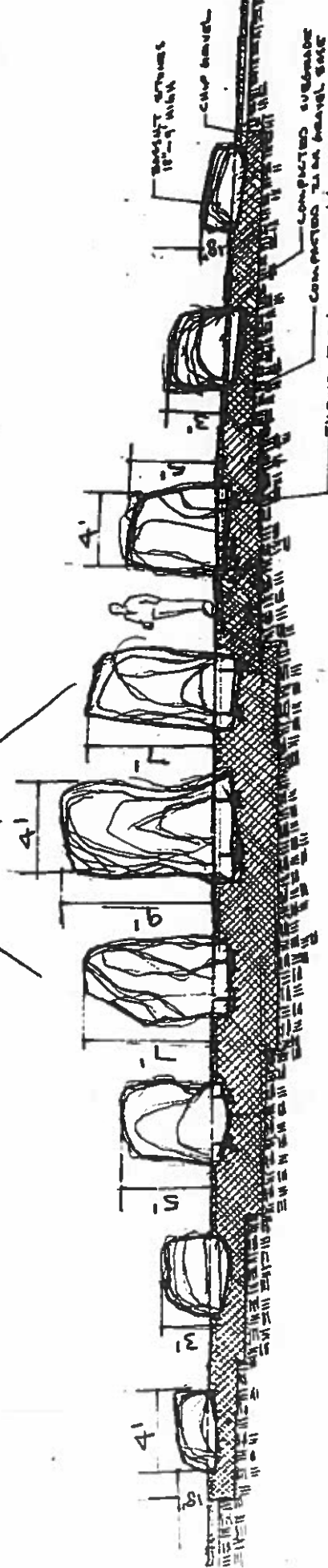
SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:

To accept Marshall Lasser's proposal of the installation of basalt stones at Quarton Lake Park placed off of Lakepark, south of Oak as submitted, with all further details to be worked out in an Agreement between the City and the Donor.


OR

To reject Marshall Lasser's proposal for the installation of rocks at Quarton Lake Park placed off of Lakepark, south of Oak as submitted.

THESE
 WOULD
 BE
 THE
 TRASH
 DETAILS



BASALT STONES
 ELEVATION


Rockworks Inc.
 1101 RHODES ROAD
 LAKE ORION, MICHIGAN 48360
 PHONE: (248) 693-0920
 FAX: (248) 693-2057
 www.rockworksinc.com

November 28, 2016

Rock Works, LLC
1101 Rhodes Rd
Lake Orion, MI 48360

Re: Quarton Park Rock placement analysis

Dear Sirs:

This will follow up an inquiry as to the stability of the proposed stone placement in an arrangement as proposed in the attached drawings. This work was done at your request.

I have analyzed the tallest of the proposed basalt stones, which would be 9 feet above grade and approximately 1 ft into the ground. The stones are roughly 4 ft x 4 ft in footprint, and will be somewhat tapered towards the upper ends. Based upon the weight of the stone and the footprint, an analysis of the overturning of the stone with respect to soil pressure failure was done. An earthquake loading was assumed at 10 percent of the mass, which is higher than typical building code requirements. Wind loading was considered and found to be less. A copy of my analysis is included with this letter.

Based upon my analysis, the soil pressures would not be excessive under the loading, and the stones would be supported adequately against overturning.

It is proposed to use a channel foot/brace on the stones which will be 7 ft or more out of the ground, as shown in the attached drawings. These will provide significant additional safety factor.

It is my conclusion that the placement of the stones as shown in the drawings will provide adequate support and suitable safety factors against overturning.

Should you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,



Allen R. Decker, PE.
Artisan Engineering LLC



Client: ROCKWORKS

Job No: —

Sheet: 1 of 1

Project: PROPOSED UPRIGHT STONES IN PARK

By: AM

Date: 11-25-16

STABILITY ANALYSIS FOR STANDING STONES

STONE: BASALT, 250 PCF
9' HGT + 1' IN GROUND
4' x 4' FOOT PRINT

$W = 9 \times 4 \times 4 \times 75\% \text{ DUE TO TAPER} \times 250 \text{ PCF} = 27,000 \text{ K}$

C.G. = 3' TO 4' ABOVE BASE DUE TO PYRAMIDAL TAPER

ASSUME 10% O.T. FORCE DUE TO EARTHQUAKE (TYPICALLY LESS THAN 10%)

$MOT = 4' \times 0.10 \times 27 \text{ K} = 10.8 \text{ K}$

CITEXL BEARING ON SOIL

$S = 4' \times 4' / 6 = 10.67 \text{ FT}^3$ $A = 4' \times 4' = 16 \text{ SQ. FT.}$

$f_b = 10.8 \text{ K} / 10.67 \text{ FT}^3 = 1.01 \text{ K/SF}$

$f_a = 27 \text{ K} / 16 \text{ FT}^2 = 1.69 \text{ K/SF}$

SOIL PRESSURE = $1.69 + 1.01 = 2.69 \text{ K/SF}$) OK VS 300 K/SF SOIL
OR $1.69 - 1.01 = 0.68 \text{ K/SF}$

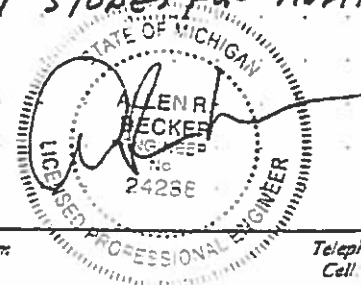
CITEXL WIND LOAD: $P = 30 \text{ PSF} \times 9' \times 4' = 108 \text{ K} < 2.7 \text{ K} - \text{OK}$

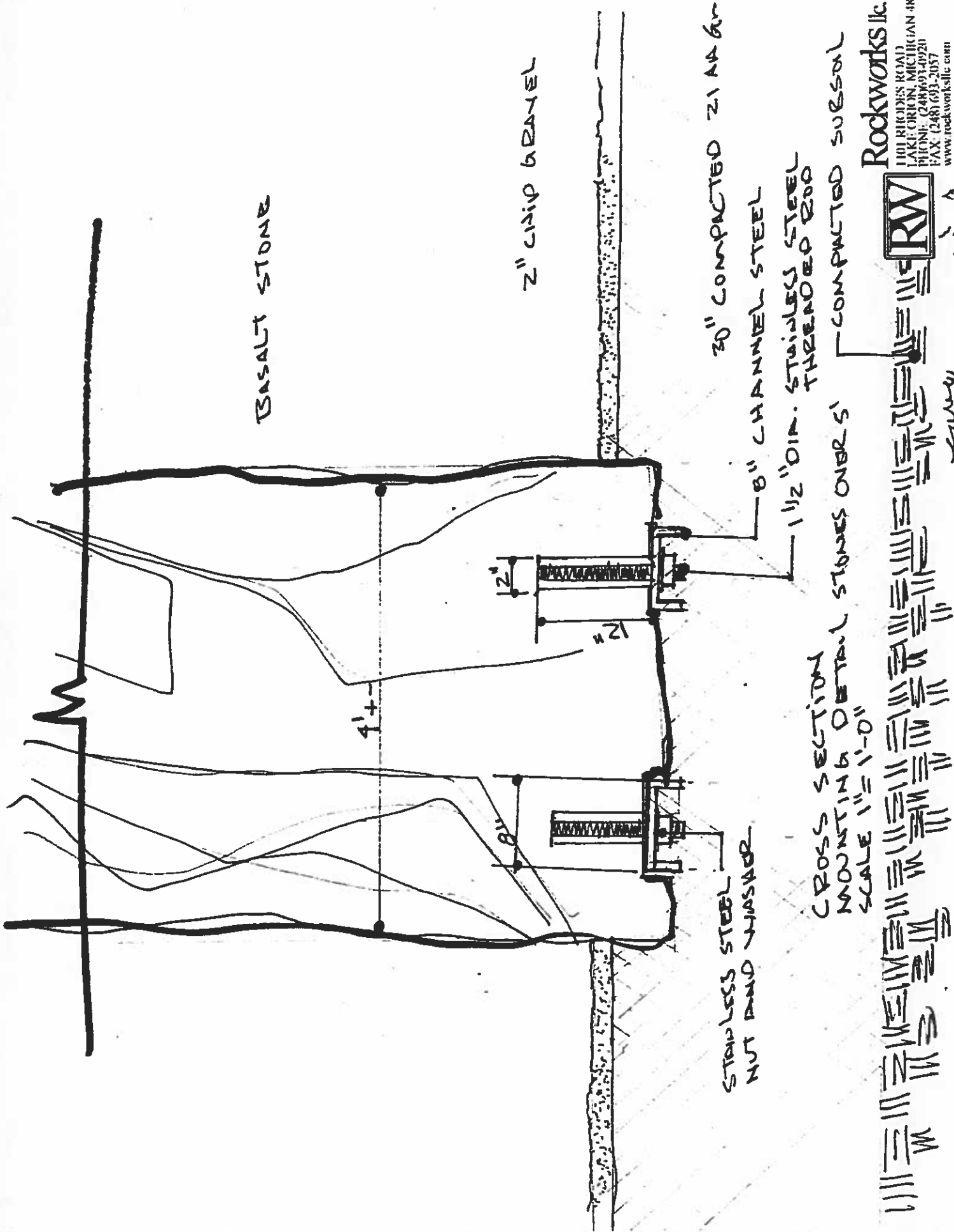
CONCLUSION:

STONES AS PROPOSED ARE STABLE

ADD CHANNEL FEET ON T' & 9' STONES FOR ADDITIONAL STABILITY

LESSEL HGT STONES ARE OK.





BASALT STONE

2" CHIP BRANIEL

30" COMPACTED 21 MA GR

8" CHANNEL STEEL

1 1/2" DIA. STAINLESS STEEL
THREADED ROD

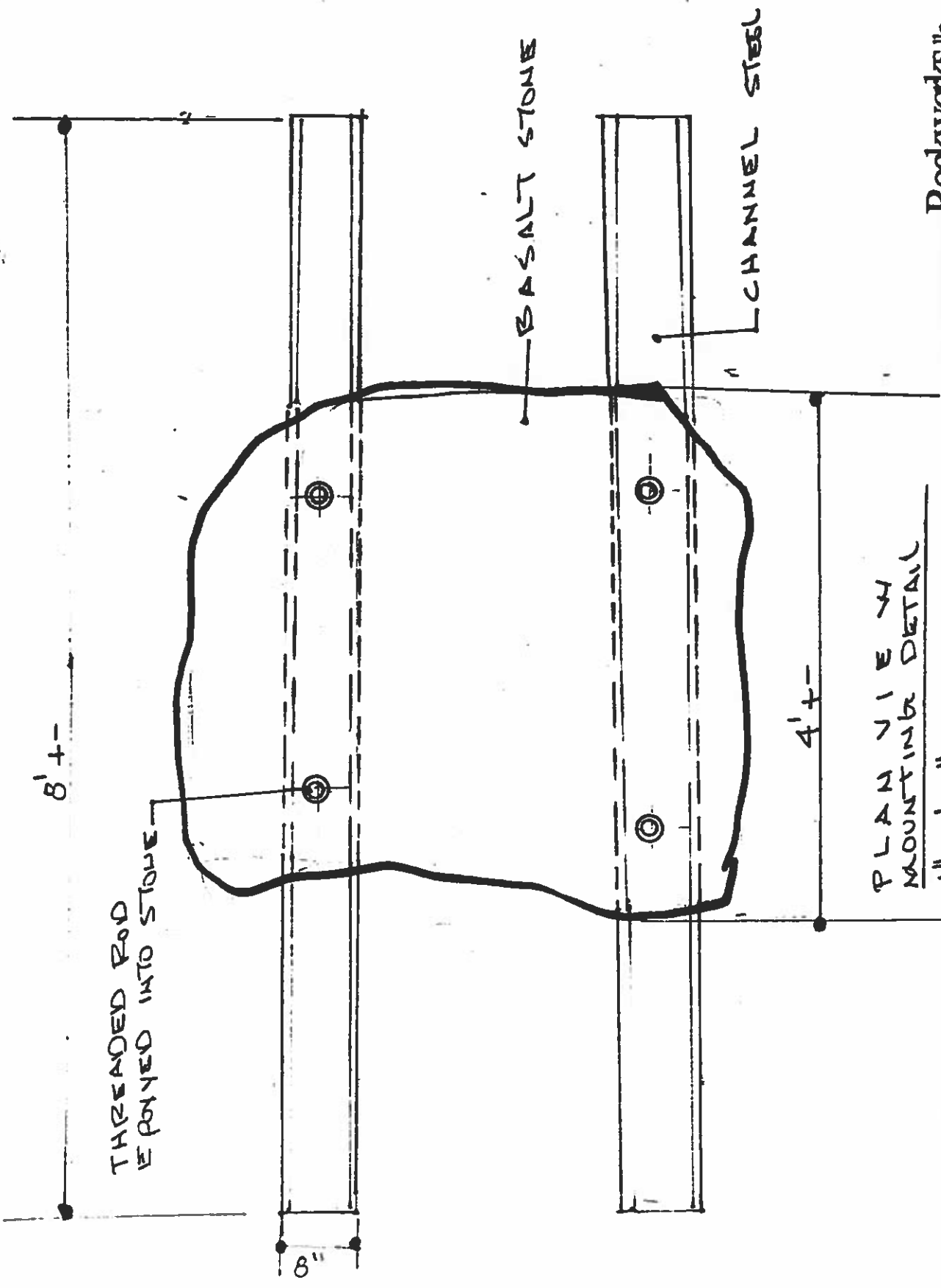
COMPACTED SUBSOIL

STAINLESS STEEL
NUT AND WASHER

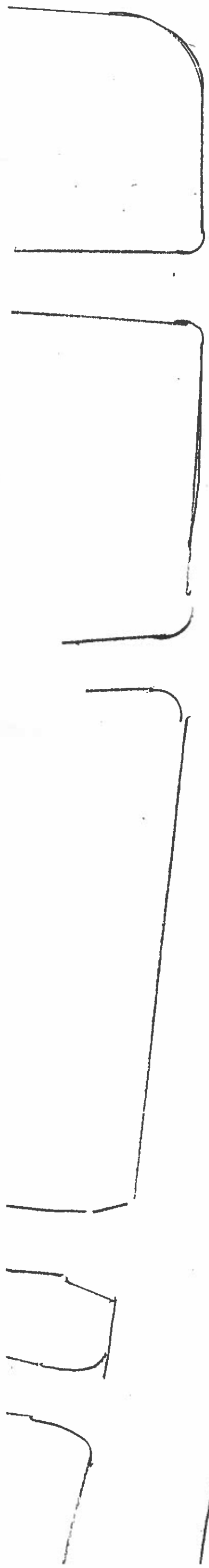
CROSS SECTION
MOUNTING DETAIL STONES OVER S'
SCALE 1" = 1'-0"

Rockworks llc
101 RHODES ROAD
LAKE ORION, MICHIGAN 48360
PHONE: (248) 631-0920
FAX: (248) 633-2057
www.rockworksllc.com



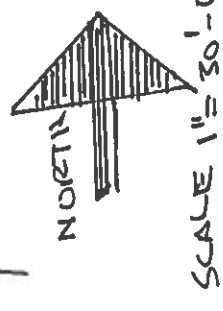
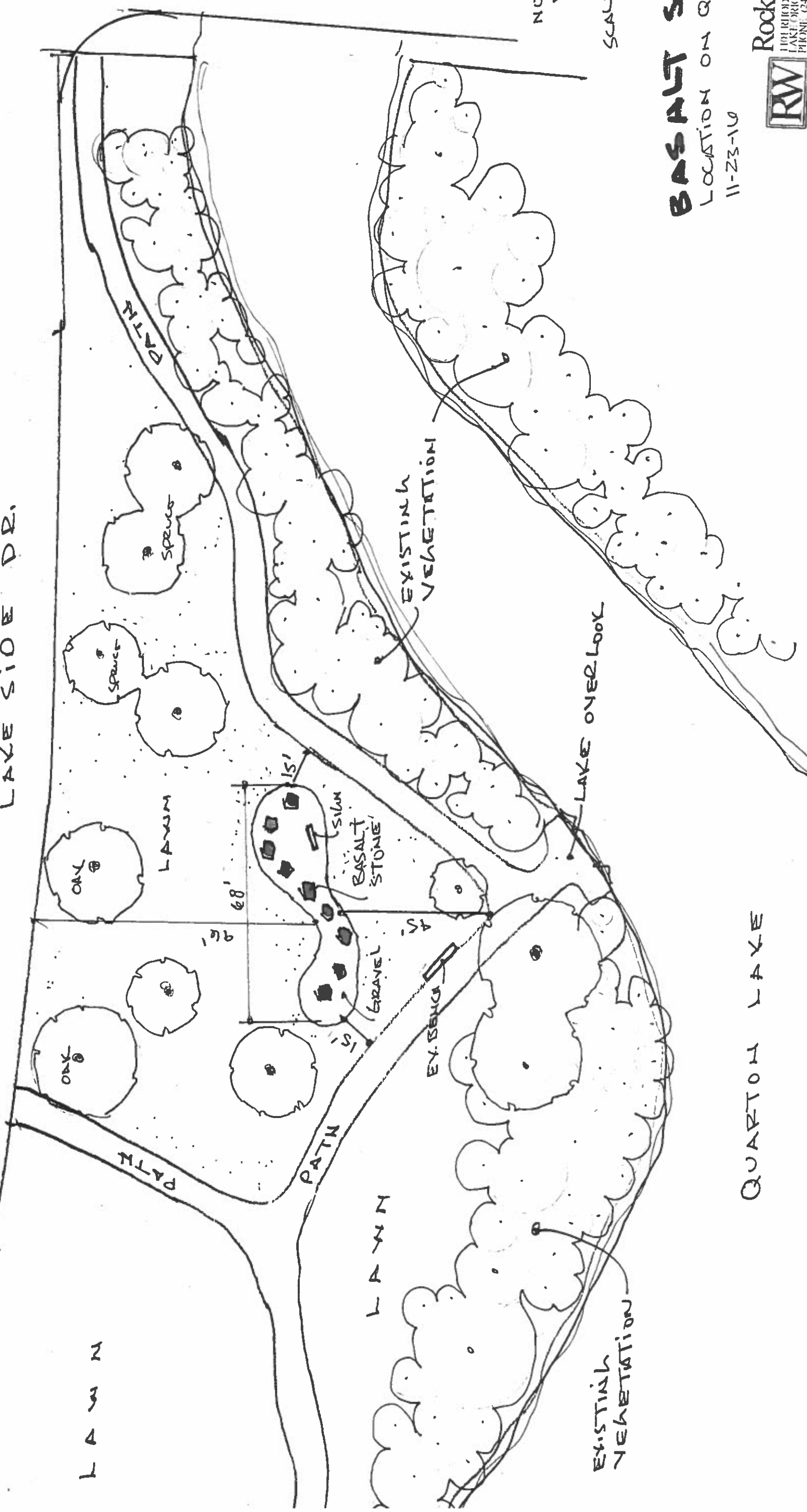


PLAN VIEW W/
 MOUNTING DETAIL
 1" = 1'-0"
 FOR STONE OVER 6'



LAKE SIDE DR.

OKR ST.



BASALT STONES
 LOCATION ON QUARTON LAKE
 11-23-10

QUARTON LAKE

RW Rockworks llc.
 1101 RICHES ROAD
 LAKE ORION, MICHIGAN 48106
 PHONE: (248) 693-0993

1
2
3
4

EXISTING
VEGETATION

EXISTING
VEGETATION

LAKE OVERLOOK

LAWN

LAWN

PATH

SPRUCE

SPRUCE

OAK

OAK

PATH

PATH

SILVER

BASALT
STONE

GRAVEL

BENCH

96'

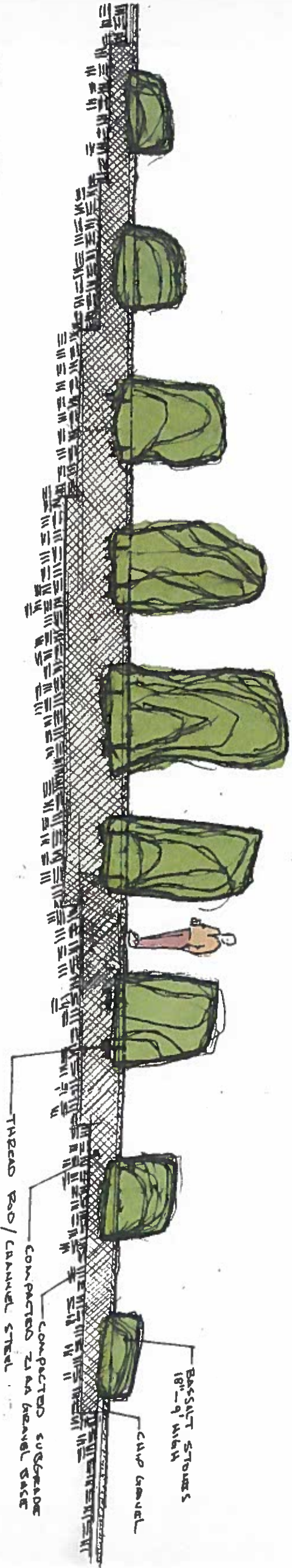
68'

15'

15'

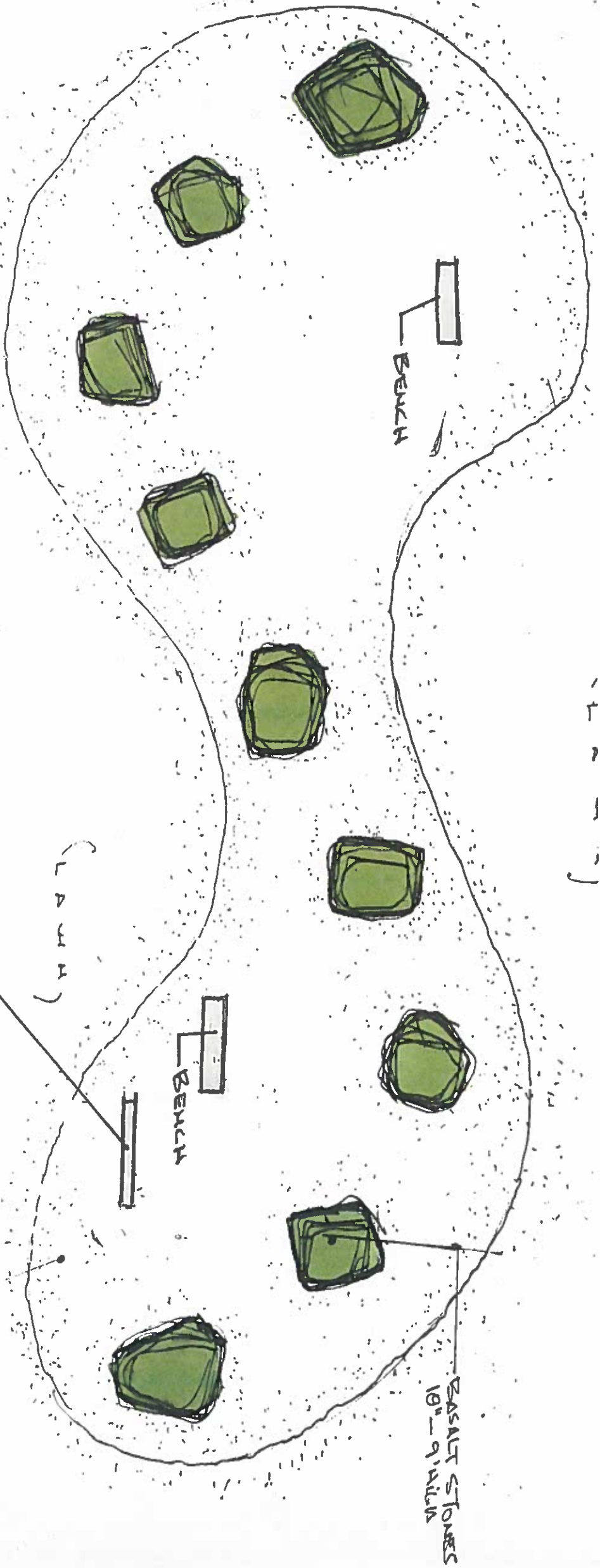
BASALT STONES

ELEVATION



RW
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BASALT STONES PLAN VIEW



INTERPRETIVE SIGN WITH PHOTOS, MAP AND
VERBIAL DESCRIPTION IN GEOLOGY, ORIGIN
OF STONES, EXCAVATION AND INSTALLATION.

GRAVEL CURB SURFACE
ON 2" IN GRAVEL BASE

BASALT STONES
10" - 9" DIA MIN

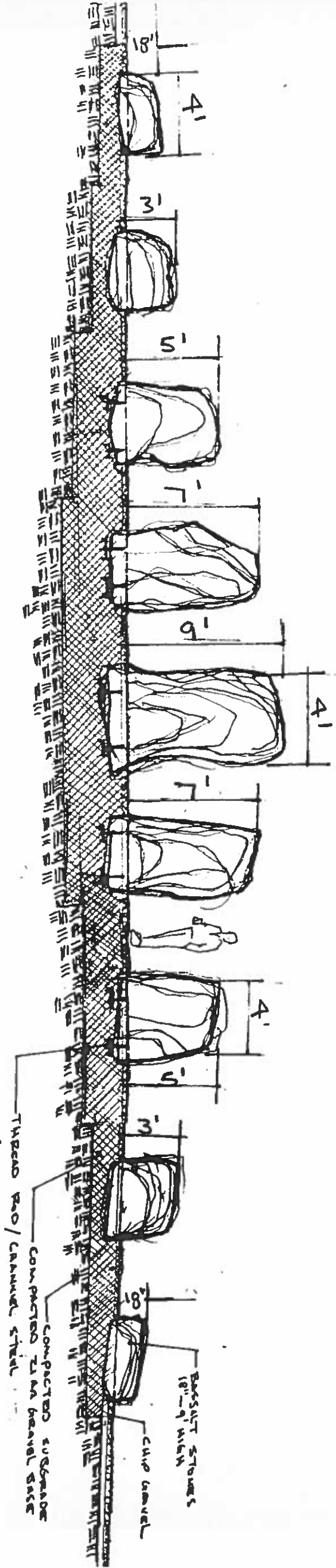


Rockworks llc.

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LAKE ORION, MICHIGAN 48360
PHONE (248) 693-2021
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WWW.ROCKWORKSLLC.COM

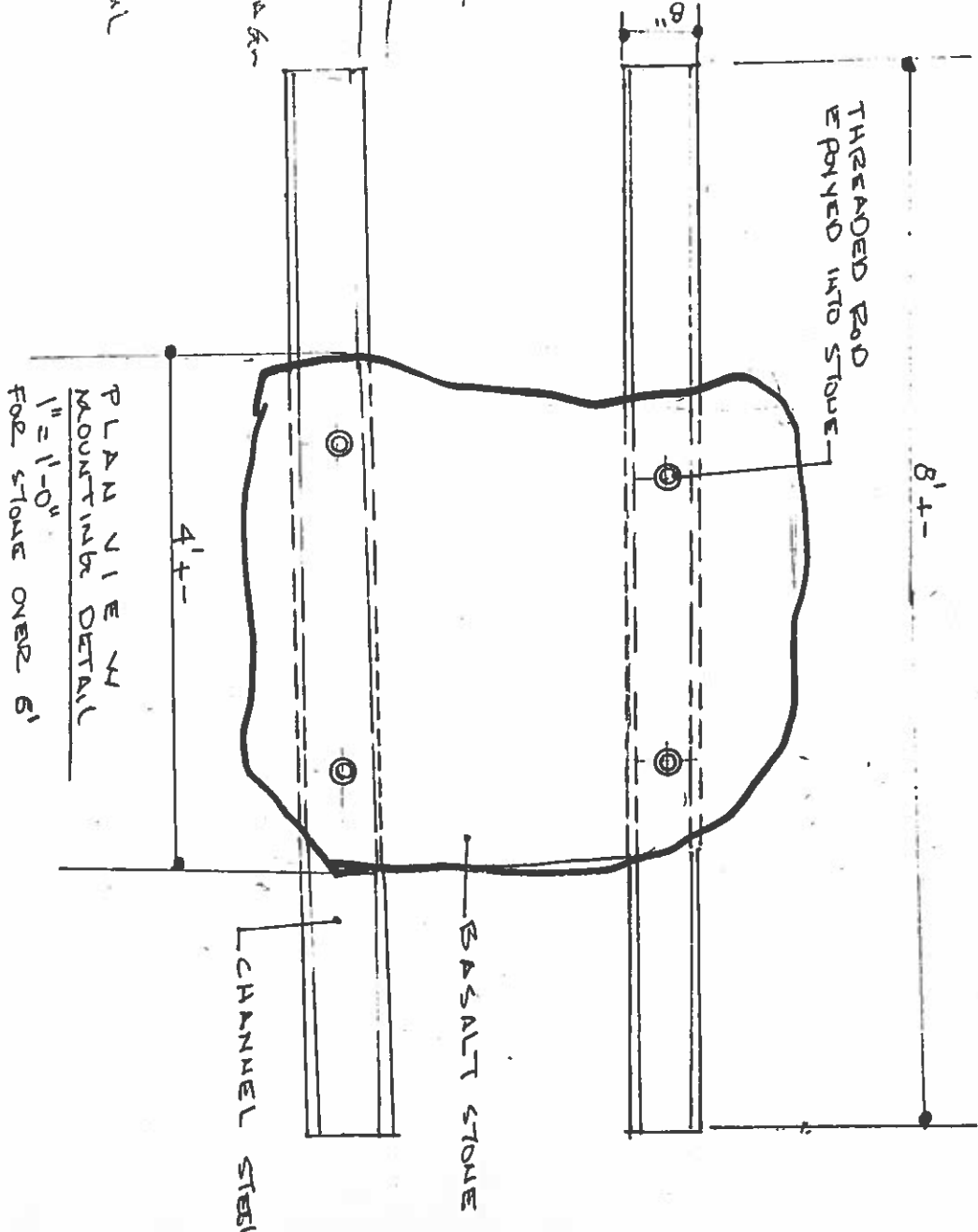
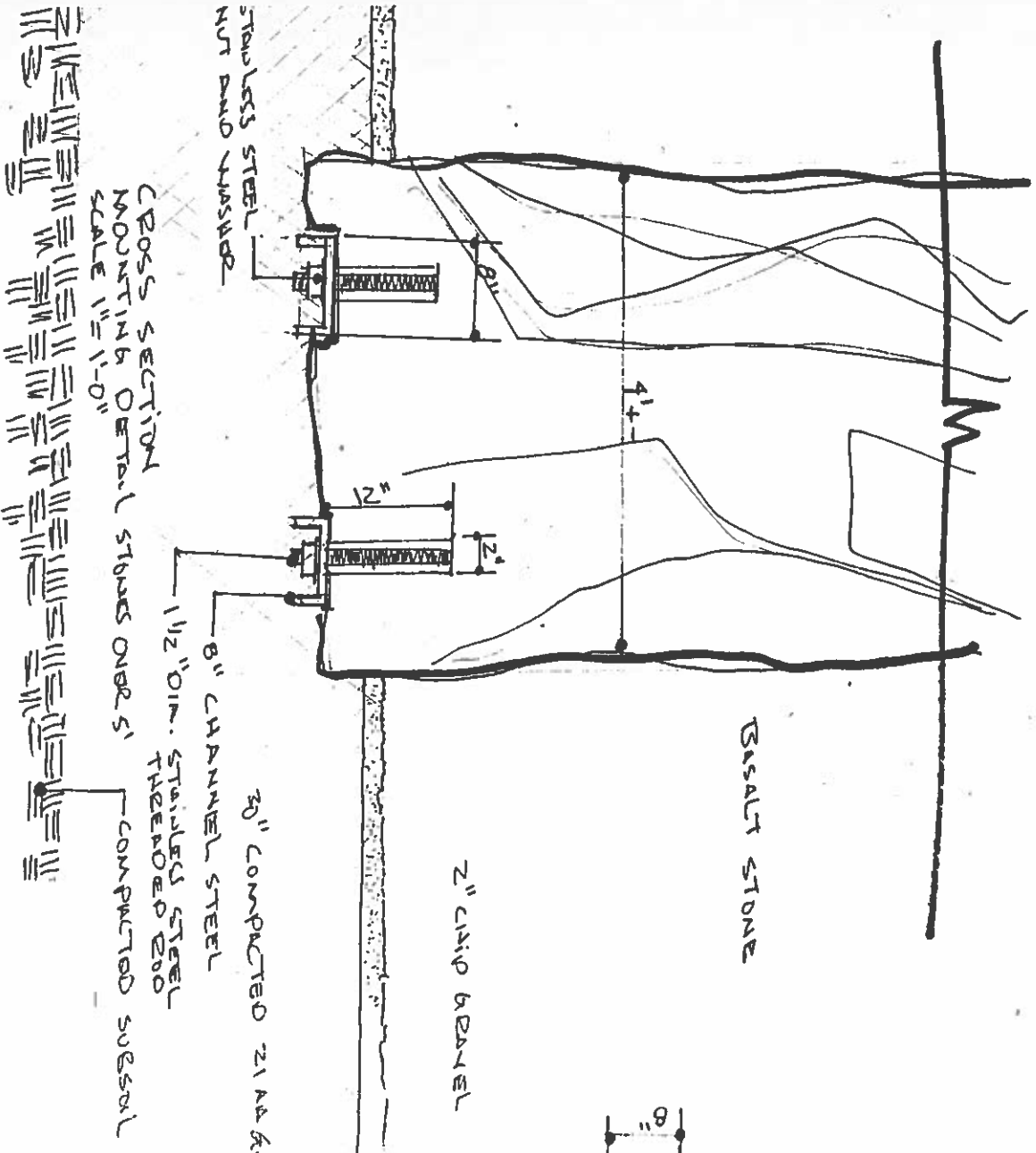


BASSALT STONES ELEVATION



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1101 RHODES ROAD
LAKE ORION, MICHIGAN 48360
PHONE: (248)693-0920
FAX: (248) 693-2057
www.rockworksllc.com



BASALT STONES MOUNTING DETAIL



Rockworks llc
 1101 RHODES ROAD
 LAKE ORION, MICHIGAN 48360
 PHONE: (248) 693-0970
 FAX: (248) 693-2057
 www.rockworksllc.com



City of Birmingham

A Walkable Community

August 25, 2016

Marshall Lasser
PO Box 2579
Southfield, MI 48037

Dear Mr. Lasser,

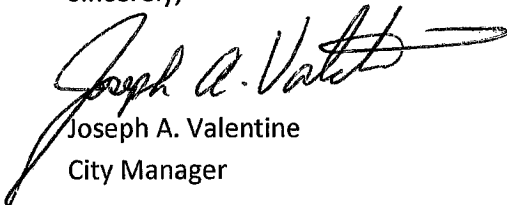
Thank you for your time in meeting with Public Services Director, Lauren Wood, Parks and Recreation Board Chair, Therese Long, City Commissioner, Patty Bordman, and myself on August 25th, 2016 to further discuss your interest in contributing towards park improvements in Birmingham.

We look forward to continue working towards improvements to our city parks that are able to incorporate elements of common interest. To this end I will confirm the process we discussed in moving forward in mutual partnership of shared goals.

Ms. Wood will serve as your primary contact with the city for all initiatives involving city parks and property. Ms. Wood will be available to meet with you to review the city's current plans and identify areas within these plans that may involve opportunities for rocks, boulders and landscaping enhancements. If you have an interest in any of these areas, you are welcome to submit a donor plan to Ms. Wood to be considered by the city's Parks and Recreation Board. I have attached a copy of the city's *Parks and Recreation Donor Policy* for your review, which further outlines this process.

I thank you again for your interest in working with the city to improve our parks and public spaces through shared objectives.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager

cc: Lauren Wood, Public Services Director
Parks and Recreation Board
City Commission
Jay Shell

City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Donor Policy

Thank you for considering Parks and Recreation in the City of Birmingham for your donation. We welcome donations from individuals, foundations, non-profit organizations and corporations and look forward to working with you.

While donations for our parks will enrich the community, the City of Birmingham recognizes that its open spaces, trails and recreation areas are precious resources. Accordingly, the City of Birmingham desires to protect and preserve the open, tranquil atmosphere of our parks, to protect the natural quality of our trails and to enhance the development of our recreational assets. Therefore, donations for park improvements and recreation programming will be considered with the support of those goals in mind.

I. DONATION CATEGORIES

The City of Birmingham welcomes donations in several categories including:

- a) Park landscaping elements include trees, shrubs and other flora. Donations of all landscaping elements, however, must be approved species and there may be site specific limitations. Please see the City of Birmingham Park Donor Program for further information.
- b) Park amenities for the purchase, replacement or refurbishment and maintenance of park benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, playground components and the like. Although suggestions from donors will be considered for the placement of a donated park amenity, final decisions as to location will be determined by the City of Birmingham. Please see the City of Birmingham Park Gift Donor Program for further information.
- c) Park features include arbors, pavilions, plazas, gardens, and the like. Such features must enhance the park, enrich the experience of park users and be consistent with park planning processes. Accordingly, such proposed donations will only be considered on a case-by-case basis. Donors may contact the City of Birmingham or the Director of Public Services to discuss proposed park features.
- d) Monetary donations, such as cash or negotiable securities, may be used toward the development and general upkeep of park elements, amenities and features. Donors may identify a specific use for the City's consideration, or funds may be used to best meet the needs of the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation projects.

II. DONATION GUIDELINES

In order to have a consistent donor program, the following guidelines endeavor to address both the needs and resource capabilities of the City of Birmingham and the desire of donors to support Birmingham's Parks. Donors should contact the Director of Public Services to discuss donation ideas.

- a) The City wants to ensure the best appearance and aesthetic quality of its parks. Thus, donations should satisfy a true need of an approved park scheme.

II. DONATION GUIDELINES (continued)

- b) All donations will be reviewed for appropriateness and compatibility with the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Master Plans. The City reserves the right to decline any donation if, upon review, the donation is (1) limited by special restrictions, conditions or covenants which pose unreasonable budgetary or maintenance obligations on the City, or (2) not in the best interest of the City.
- c) Donors may be asked to appear before the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board and/or the City Commission, to present their donation proposal. Public comment and feedback may be considered during the review process.
- d) The City understands that donors may have preferences regarding the choice of design professionals, vendors and contractors, and preferences regarding the location, size, scale, color and materials of donated elements, amenities and features. The City, however, must adhere to the open bid process requirements, if applicable, and to other City policies and goals. Accordingly, final decisions on all details of the proposed donation shall be at the sole discretion of the City of Birmingham.
- e) While the City recognizes the generally good intentions behind any donation, the City, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to decline any gift or donation.
- f) Upon acceptance by the City, any donated element, amenity or feature, becomes City of Birmingham property. The City has an interest in ensuring that all park elements, amenities and features remain in good repair and will provide, at its sole discretion, reasonable maintenance of donated items. The City, however, is under no continuing obligation to repair, replace or maintain perpetual care for any donated item.
- g) The City will make a reasonable effort to notify a donor of any damage, theft or other loss to a donated item and may, at its sole discretion, repair or replace such a donated item to the extent it deems practical, or as described in the original gift agreement, if any.
- h) Because donations to the City of Birmingham may be tax deductible, donors are encouraged to consult with their tax advisor.

III. DONOR RECOGNITION

- a) Recognition shall be provided for all gifts given to the City of Birmingham for park improvements, subject to such general policy changes and amendments as may be implemented by the City Commission.
- b) "Naming rights" on any park feature or element are subject to the approval of the City Commission.
- c) All donations will be acknowledged by a letter of appreciation from the City of Birmingham.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: FW: Poppleton

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Mon, Jan 25, 2016 at 11:38 AM

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

Please place this on the 2-2-16 agenda for the Parks Board meeting.

Thanks!

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Lauren Wood** <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2016 at 11:36 AM

Subject: Re: FW: Poppleton

To: "Harris, Andrew M." <Andrew.Harris@kitch.com>

Cc: "Vladimir Slapak - Comerica Bank (Vlad_slapak@yahoo.com)" <Vlad_slapak@yahoo.com>, "Valentine, Joe" <Jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Good Morning Commissioner,

Thank you for sharing the recent communication about ideas for the upcoming Poppleton Park site plan discussions on February 2nd.

This will certainly be shared with the Parks and Recreation Board and the consultant during the meeting.

Thanks again!

Lauren

On Sun, Jan 24, 2016 at 12:41 PM, Harris, Andrew M. <Andrew.Harris@kitch.com> wrote:

Hi Lauren,

Please see an e-mail from my neighbor, Vlad Slapak, and, if you can, include this message as part of the public input for *M.C. Smith* to consider regarding the Poppleton Park Master Plan.

Thanks,

Andy



Andrew M. Harris
KITCH DRUTCHAS WAGNER VALITUTTI & SHERBROOK
One Woodward Ave, Ste 2400
Detroit, MI 48226

Communication/Discussion Item #1a

Direct Line: (313) 965-7991
Fax: (313) 965-7403
Andrew.Harris@kitch.com

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From: Slapak, Vladimir R [mailto:VRSlapak@comerica.com]
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 11:52 AM
To: Harris, Andrew M.
Subject: Poppleton

Just my two cents... not sure I can make it to the town hall meeting.

Poppleton Park does not appear to be a good use of space, but I'm certain the residents in that area do not want their park to be commercialized. The current farmer's market isn't much of a market and (in my opinion) struggles to attract farmers (it's more populated with premade foods and "stuff"). I'd like to see the frontage on Woodward turned into an open market (farmer's market style venue) that can also be used by Birmingham residents (ONLY by residents and required permit) for gatherings. Similar steel beam frame with roof structure that currently exists at Springdale Park. Maintain the park and maybe add a permanent restroom structure... but this may help get the ball rolling to connect the East and West side of Bham...? Just a thought.

One of our reasons for moving to Bham was the 27 parks (I think that's the right number)... there is a park within 0.25 miles of any house... and that attracts families to Bham. This benefit to our city provides the community feel and instills the culture of family interaction, outdoor enjoyment, and meeting your neighbors (walkable community). In my opinion, it's not about changing the park, it's about enhancing its offerings and creating a reason to cross Woodward (which continues to be a struggle). Adding some add'l parking and creating a City supported permanent farmers market isn't changing the park, it's expanding its offerings and utility which is a benefit for all residents in Bham. I don't like change, but I like add'l options.

Vladimir R. Slapak | Senior Vice President | vrslapak@comerica.com
411 West Lafayette St, MC: 3205 | Detroit, MI 48226 | Tel: (313) 222-2901

Comerica Bank

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—
Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
fax: 248.530.1742
cell: 248.515.3795

—
Lauren Wood

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cell: 248.515.3795



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Poppleton Park Site Concept Plan

Christine Fields <novo76@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 25, 2016 at 9:50 AM

To: cfolk@bhamgov.org

Dear Parks and Recreation Board,

I am hoping to make it to the Tuesday evening meeting concerning the Poppleton Park Site Concept Plan, but I may have a conflict, so I wanted to provide my input via email. I am a resident at 282 Wimbleton Drive. My lot backs up directly to Poppleton Park, so any improvements/changes would have a direct impact on my property and my family. I literally see the park from my kitchen window. I would also like to add that I am an Architect and Urban Planner, so I have experience with site design and planning.

I would like to start by saying I am very happy with the current layout of Poppleton Park. I see the baseball diamond and the tennis courts get constant use in the warm weather. Their location is perfect, not too close to surrounding residents. We use the playground area almost daily in warm weather (I have a 5 year old). I would like to see some upgrades to the playground equipment. It is definitely showing it's age. The location is great, closer to the street but still has a buffer from surrounding residences. I do see a lot of families that drive here from other neighborhoods for access to the playground.

I would love to see the large open space kept as is. I would hate to "formalize" the space into soccer fields, or other playing fields. It gets daily use. I see people playing with their dogs on a daily basis. It's nice to have such a large area for the dogs to run and play catch. I've seen children soccer teams practicing in this space. They just bring in portable goals and cones to set up their spaces. I know the Seaholm cross country team also uses the park for practices. I have observed several impromptu football games, Frisbee tosses, kite flying, and kids just running and playing in this space. If this space were to be specifically designated as soccer fields, I would be concerned about the park becoming overcrowded with weekend team sports, and overflow parking would start to encroach on neighborhood streets. I would also like to keep a buffer from the residences.

The other great thing about this large open space is that it lends itself to unique uses as well. In the last couple of years I have observed a tight rope walker practicing on several occasions. I have also seen a group of young adults who have what seems to be a monthly gathering for role playing games. These are very unique events that I fear would move elsewhere if the open space were designated for a specific use.

I hope that you please take my input into consideration when developing a site plan for this park. The park means so much to us, and was the selling point for buying our house. Would you please forward any meeting minutes and the site concept plan that you develop to me for further consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Fields

282 Wimbleton

P.S. I have attached a photo of the Tight Rope Walker!



IMG_2804.JPG
1258K

TO: Birmingham Parks and Recreation

2/3/16

FROM: Ed Kraska – 1030 Rivenoak, Birmingham

SUBJECT: Poppleton Park Enhancements

I wanted to write this letter to thank the Parks and Recreation for selecting Poppleton Park for future enhancements. My wife and I love this park and use it often with our two young children. I understand a firm has been hired to design enhancements. The purpose of my letter is to state some concerns and ideas:

1. I am strongly opposed to any parking lot off Woodward which would have direct access by cars to the neighborhood. I have been a resident of Poppleton park for close to eight years and have noticed the cut through traffic is getting worse every year. I feel adding a parking lot which would connect to our neighborhood may result in drivers speeding through our streets (safety concerns) in order to get to Big Beaver or Adams.
2. If a parking lot is desirable with access off of Woodward, can we please consider it only for access to the park?
3. I like the idea of possibly adding soccer fields if the grade of the ground would be able to handle necessary drainage, etc
4. I would like to see more trees added and possibly include a walking trail to the sidewalk by Woodward.
5. I know this could be expensive, but maybe a pavillion/gazebo would be nice for picnics, parties, etc. I realize this may be cost prohibitive but just a thought.
6. The play structures are in decent shape but we may need to add or upgrade the existing structures.
7. There are two sand boxes. The one is in pretty good shape but the other one needs work. Maybe it would be best to have one sandbox but make it larger – and maintain it vs having two with one being neglected?
8. It would be nice to have a porta-potty near the main entrance to the park. It could be an eyesore but right now, it's a decent walk to get to the portapotty.
9. We need a drinking fountain near the entrance of the park
10. We have a very large park – could there be a consideration of adding an ice rink in the winter? This way you have an ice rink on both sides of Woodward for the residents and children to enjoy.

I would appreciate if my comments could be forwarded to the design/consulting firm for review. Thank you.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

March 2016 Meeting

2 messages

john.meehan@att.net <john.meehan@att.net>

Tue, Feb 2, 2016 at 11:27 PM

Reply-To: john.meehan@att.net

To: Therese Quattrociocchi Longe <tmquattro@gmail.com>, Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

With all that went on tonight, I decided to send you this note instead of just bringing it up. I will be out of town for our March meeting, so I will be absent. Connie, please put the March packet in the US mail since I do not want it noticed in the box.

A thought on tonight: clearly the neighbors would prefer the status quo which is not a new phenom. I was surprised that there were so few comments about traffic and parking on the local streets. In future meetings where the public is expected, Mike Smith should represent his firm. Given the limited wants from the community, the scope of any future planning perhaps could be accomplished in house. Just sayin'.

John

Therese Quattrociocchi Longe <tmquattro@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 2, 2016 at 11:30 PM

To: John Meehan <john.meehan@att.net>

Cc: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>, Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Thanks for the heads up!

[Quoted text hidden]



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park Site Concept Plan - comments/suggestions for Public Input Sought

2 messages

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:15 AM

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

for file

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
 Department of Public Services
 851 S. Eton
 Birmingham, MI 48009
 office: 248.530.1702
 cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Carrie Laird <claird@bhamgov.org>

Date: Thu, Feb 4, 2016 at 6:59 AM

Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park Site Concept Plan - comments/suggestions for Public Input Sought

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Wood, Lauren" <Lwood@bhamgov.org>, Tiffany Smith <tas@mcsagroup.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jeff Barrett <barrett_jeffrey@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, Feb 3, 2016 at 7:45 PM

Subject: Poppleton Park Site Concept Plan - comments/suggestions for Public Input Sought

To: claird@bhamgov.org

Hi Carrie,

Some suggestions / input for a nearby resident of Poppleton Park. We have lived there for three years and have three young children. The park is one of the reasons that helped us choose the house and its location.

Good to hear of the potential investment into the park — investment/upkeep is always better than zero.

Input:

The park has a natural feel and we prefer to leave it essentially as is — with refinements (no significant changes).

- The area around the backstop area of the ballfields and parking lot is washed out and gravel. Grading, grass, landscaping, pathway to the field would be enhancements.
- The drinking fountain could use updating.
- There is a sidewalk that enters from Oxford and Rivenoak and ends before going into the park. Most people walk on the grass - but if there is concern for accessibility and safety - that would be an improvement into the park and ball field area.
- And low light along the ballpark and parking area - landscape lighting may be an improvement.
- The playground is dated — but well used and liked by children. There is no lack of use because it is dated!
- The northwest treed area - which has nice trails. The area could use 1-2 days worth of dead tree removal, big holes filled in — essentially cleaned up of dead/fallen trees.
- There are no Park signs on Woodward for the park. Not necessary — but to acknowledge the city park one could be added.
- For parking on Oxford - specifically near the children's playground — restricting parking to one side of the street (park side) would create a safer environment. When there are small gatherings and cars park on both sides of the road - it can be dangerous with the road only allowing one car through. People would have to park a little farther away - but it would be a safer situation in those few congested times.
- Some additional seating/gathering areas near the tennis courts, ballfields, and playground. Circle gathering like a "fire pit" — without the fire pit though.

Attachment to show the location of some of these bullets.

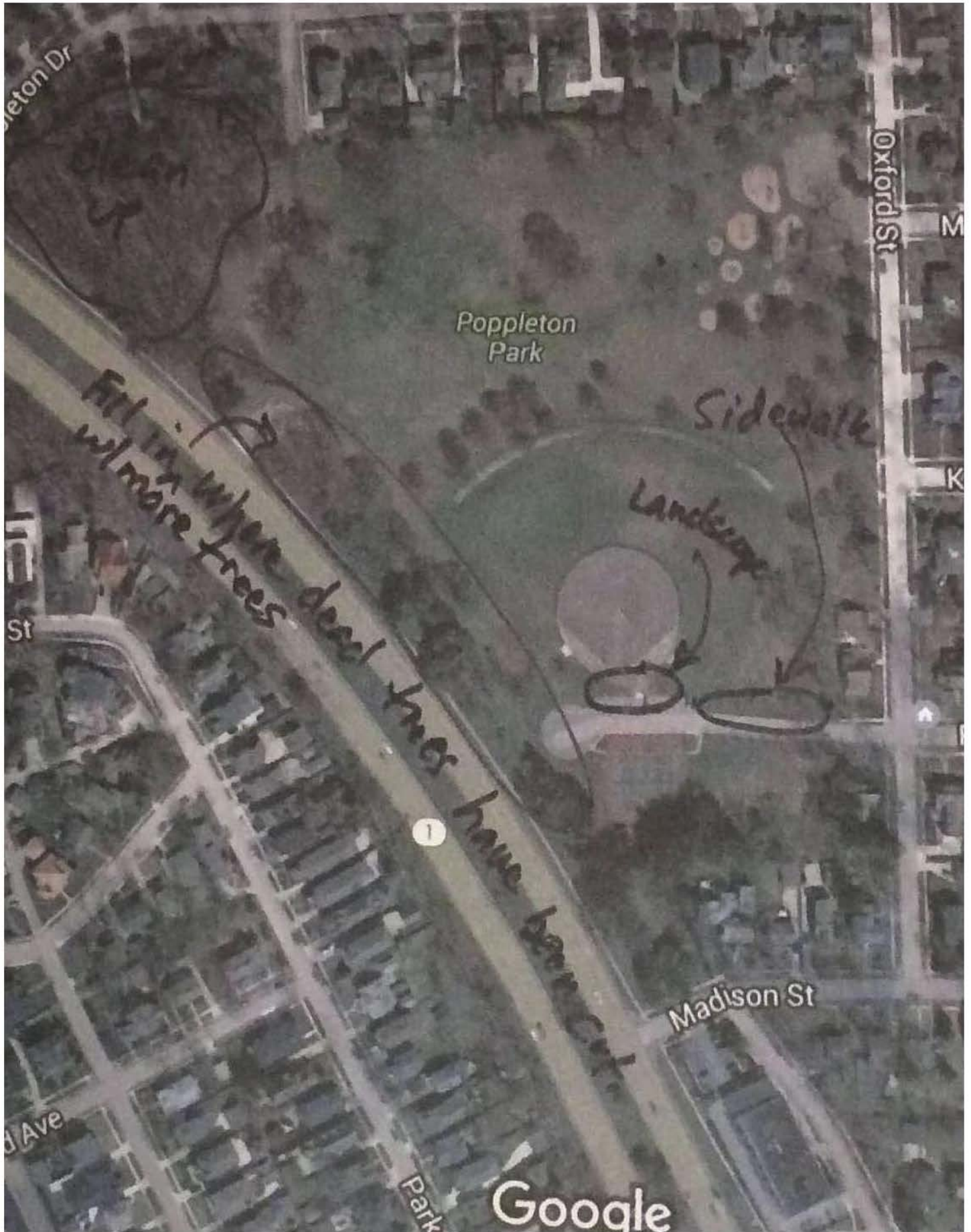
As voiced in the February 2nd Board meeting — there is an overwhelming concern about taking treed and grass area and turning it into a parking lot. There is considerable flexibility for cars to park on the neighborhood streets — rather than create an asphalt parking lot in the park. I visit Bamum park often — the parking lot is almost empty every time my family visits. Visitors either walk, park on the streets, or along with using the parking lot.

As for the open area and the wet areas within it. Those do exist in patches at times of rainy periods and dries up relatively quickly and hasn't been a hinderance to use the area (not too significantly from other large grass areas). Yes it would be nice to alleviate that issue — but it should be subtle leaving the natural setting. It should also be evaluated if there would be extensive below ground work to address drainage issues. In its early years — believe that was a railroad yard and/or lumber yard and historical remnants may be present which may be contributing to the drainage issues and could increase the costs if subsurface work is required to fix the issue.

Thank you again for obtaining public input on the park and thinking about investments/upgrades to the park.

Jeff Barrett





519 Rivenoak Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
barrett_jeffrey@yahoo.com

Carrie A. Laird
City of Birmingham
Parks & Recreation Manager
851 S. Eton|Birmingham, MI 48009| 248-530-1714 Phone| 248-530-1754 Fax

Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>
To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:10 PM

On Monday -I need help with this one.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lauren Wood** <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:15 AM

Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park Site Concept Plan - comments/suggestions for Public Input Sought

[Quoted text hidden]

Connie J. Folk
City of Birmingham
Recreation Coordinator
2300 East Lincoln
Birmingham, MI 48009
Cfolk@bhamgov.org
248.530.1642 (T)
248.645.6629 (F)



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park input

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Tue, Mar 15, 2016 at 4:17 PM

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

Please add to the next agenda under Communication.

Thanks!

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Allison Klein** <allisonklein22@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 3, 2016 at 5:33 PM

Subject: Poppleton Park input

To: lwood@bhamgov.org

Dear Ms. Wood and the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Department,

I am writing to provide my input on the evaluation of possible updates to Poppleton Park. While I attended the February meeting at which you received a great deal of resident feedback, I wanted to follow up to add some additional points from our family's perspective. As background, we have lived in Poppleton on Rivenoak Street for 2.5 years, and we have 2 small children (3.5 years and 1.5 years) with one more on the way, so we are very frequent park users (multiple times per week).

Overall, we agree wholeheartedly with the prevailing sentiment expressed at the meeting that we do not want to see Poppleton Park become overdesigned. The great appeal of this park, in particular the expansive field between the play structure and Woodward Avenue, is that it provides an open, natural, and unplanned green area – something that is not as common among Birmingham parks. We would be extremely disappointed to see major formal engineered additions like vast hardscaped areas, a soccer field, etc.

While not supportive of vast changes to the park, we do feel there is some minor work that could improve upon its existing structure.

1. Seating area away from play structure. While we tend to gather by the play structure due to having small children, we understand that not all of our neighbors want to be within hearing distance of this more raucous area. A nicely landscaped area with several benches in conversational grouping would be a welcome addition, and perhaps could be located along the Oxford Street side somewhere midway between the play structure and Rivenoak Street in a way that would take advantage of shade trees already there.

2. New play structure. While the current play structure has several good features and is heavily used, new equipment could help address a few safety concerns and be even better designed for younger and older children alike. The current structure does a really good job of being accessible to small children (mine have played on it before they've turned 1 year old) thanks to the ramp and low height – we would certainly like to see similar accessibility for the youngest children in a new structure. It also has the benefit of being relatively free-form and

non-prescriptive about the equipment uses. Unfortunately we have not found this to be the case with other recently redesigned Birmingham parks. The equipment at Barnum is simply too uni-task and frankly not fun to my children – the items are heavy and difficult to manipulate and do not provide the opportunity for free exploration and movement the way a single larger climb-on structure (such as Poppleton's current) does. Booth Park's equipment is not conducive to allowing young children to play independently – it is too difficult to track their location in the maze like older children's structure, and the younger children's areas do not provide enough interest to capture their attention. Overall, we feel a structure similar to the current Poppleton structure but in updated (non-rusted) materials is the best approach (or similar to what is found at Beverly Park).

3. Swings. Our main concern with the swings is that the "baby" swings are so far away from all of the other play equipment, so it can be difficult to keep an eye on our children at once when they want to use these different sections. We would also recommend one additional baby swing and having them placed in an area to receive as much shade as possible throughout the day – all parents we've seen at the park with very small children do their best to keep them well shaded from the sun.

4. New sandbox area with shade. This is a very popular feature at the park and should be kept. It would be nice to include umbrella coverage similar to Barnum Park to extend the shade that is sometimes provided by the nearby tree. The heavy metal excavator in the sandbox currently should be removed and not replaced. This piece of equipment is very heavy and difficult to use, such that only older kids are able to use it independently, and when they swing the scoop around they are risking injury to the small children who are always sitting and playing in the sand.

5. Improved bench and picnic seating by play structure. More thoughtful placement of benches and picnic tables would benefit this area, again with an eye toward providing shaded options and benches within close proximity to the equipment for parents to keep an eye on playing children. This does not need to be one large formal seating space with pergola as in Barnum Park – again, that space is more over-designed and hardscaped than what residents prefer for Poppleton.

We do not agree with suggestions to add bathroom facilities or after-hours lighting as some had suggested at the meeting.

We understand from the brief discussion at the February meeting that universal accessibility may be an issue in updating playground equipment. We feel these potential issues need to be made very explicit to residents in future meetings when it comes to making selections for new playground equipment, etc. so that we may better understand the tradeoffs between accessibility requirements and keeping the more naturalistic setting that is preferred for this park. We do not want to see yards and yards of paved paths and artificial turf as in Barnum Park, particularly when the need for such accommodations has not yet been determined, to our knowledge, one way or the other by any hard data.

Thank you for taking the time and expense to evaluate options for Poppleton Park. It is an incredible feature of our neighborhood and one we have strong opinions about! We are happy to clarify anything above if you need further information and will be happy to continue being involved in this process moving forward.

Thank you,

The Klein Family

734 Rivenoak Street

248-566-3231

—

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham

Department of Public Services

851 S. Eton

Birmingham, MI 48009

office: 248.530.1702

fax: 248.530.1742

cell: 248.515.3795



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Poppleton Park, Board Mtg.

1 message

Rebecca Powers <powerswriter@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 5, 2016 at 3:15 PM

To: cfolk@bhamgov.org

Members of the Board:

Like most of our neighbors, my family enjoys Poppleton Park as it is.

In the programming of public spaces, it's possible to have too much of a good thing. People crave open space that lends itself to freeform interpretation, as opposed to paint-by-number recreational designs.

My husband and I have lived one block from the park for more than two decades. Along with our son, we have enjoyed it for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, swinging, walking, tossing frisbees, running, picnicking and watching baseball and kickball on the diamond.

Having been users and observers for years and having attended the last park meeting, where we found the consultant/presenter to be extremely disorganized and ill informed, I would like to contribute these thoughts for your consideration:

1. **Consider wildlife** — the other residents of our community. Invest in plants that attract and feed birds, bees, and butterflies, which are important to our environment and quality of life. The wildflower belt along Quarton Lake is a great example of this. The park could lend itself to purple Martin houses and bluebird nesting. Communities rich in nature retain higher real estate values.
2. Remember that **drainage** can be a negative word — environmentally. Rampant draining of low-lying areas in past decades eliminated ecologically important habitat. Consider using some of your programming funds to plant a grouping of moisture-loving flowers/bushes in the seasonally damp section of the park. This would eliminate some lawn, which would reduce mowing time.
3. **Parking.** We should be encouraging people to walk and bike to the park. I loved the sentiment of the senior-citizen resident who attended the last meeting and said she and her husband frequently walk to the park from their home east of Adams. Also, because the park is entered via residential streets, I don't believe we want to encourage more car traffic. The trend, nationally, is to reduce parking minimums. Also, suburban landscapes don't need more impermeable surfaces. We could use more bike racks, however.
4. The idea of a basketball court isn't bad, provided it wouldn't generate too much noise for nearby homes.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Powers

950 Oxford St.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Poppleton Park

Eric Sargent <sargente@me.com>

Thu, Oct 13, 2016 at 10:03 AM

To: cfolk@bhamgov.org

Dear Parks and Recreation Board,

Reasons we bought a house near Poppleton Park:

1. Playground
2. Big open spaces to run or cross country ski and woods to explore.
3. Trees, trees, trees! (Large deciduous hardwoods, please)

We hope the Park can receive some playground and ball field updates but maintain its relatively undeveloped nature.

Loving our City Parks,

Annette & Eric Sargent
355 Wimbledon Dr.
Birmingham
[248-792-2278](tel:248-792-2278)



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Universally Accessible Playscape for Special Needs Children in Birmingham

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Mon, Oct 17, 2016 at 12:49 PM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Please add this communication to the Poppleton Park file.

Thanks!

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: [248.530.1702](tel:248.530.1702)
cell: [248.515.3795](tel:248.515.3795)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Mon, Oct 17, 2016 at 10:47 AM

Subject: Re: Universally Accessible Playscape for Special Needs Children in Birmingham

To: kristy Korth <kristykorth@me.com>

Cc: Racky Hoff <rackyhoff@hotmail.com>, Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Ms. Korth,

Thank you for your email expressing your support for universally accessible play equipment in our parks. Your input is timely and appreciated as we look to further enhance our park properties. I will share your email with our Parks and Recreation Board for their review and consideration as enhancements to our park properties are made.

Again, thank you for time and efforts in helping to improve our park properties for the benefit of all of its users.

Best Regards,
Joe Valentine

On Sun, Oct 16, 2016 at 10:06 AM, kristy Korth <kristykorth@me.com> wrote:

Hello Rackeline and Joe,

My name is Kristy Korth. I am the parent of a special needs child, Chase. Chase is 10 years old and goes to Wing Lake Elementary. His favorite thing to do is swing. Currently, in Birmingham, there is not a park that I can take him that has a universally accessible playscape. There is a swing at Booth Park, but it does not have straps and is occupied most of the time. The playground at his school is amazing.

I understand that Poppleton Park is under consideration for some improvements/developments. One of the the proposed changes is the replacement of the playground equipment.

My family would love to see playground equipment that all children can use. I have spoken with fellow parent of special needs children that feel the same way. We are hoping that these emails will help, as meeting attendance is difficult for us at night.

Please let me know if or how I could be of assistance.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Kristy Korth
1157 Lake Park
Birmingham, MI 48009
[248-321-5855](tel:248-321-5855)

> Anyone who wants to write an email should probably say words to the effect that (within the parens are ideas for expression, but they should not be copied exactly:

>

> I (heard or understand or believe) that (Poppleton Park is being further developed or Poppleton Park is being considered for updates or the Parks Board passed a new Poppleton Park plan). One of the (proposed changes or possible improvements or potential enhancements) is replacement of the (old or worn out) playground equipment.

>

> I am the parent of a special needs child. (Currently in Blrmingham, or Right now in Birmingham or None of our Birmingham playgrounds have) there is (no park where my child can play on equipment or no accessible play equipment at any park or no park with a universally accessible playscape), except (one swing at Booth park that does not even have safety straps or a single "special needs" swing at Booth park or a swing at Booth Park missing straps).

>

> Since the City is (going to or planning to or considering) new playground equipment for Poppleton Park, I (encourage or ask or advise) you to replace it with an entire playscape that ALL children can use.

>

> Sincerely,

--

Joseph A. Valentine

City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
[\(248\) 530-1809](tel:248-530-1809) Office Direct
[\(248\) 530-1109](tel:248-530-1109) Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

To get the latest information regarding the City of Birmingham, please sign up for our communication tools by clicking here www.bit.ly/bhamnews.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Accessible Playground in B'ham

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Mon, Oct 17, 2016 at 12:54 PM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Poppleton Park comments file, please.

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: [248.530.1702](tel:248.530.1702)
cell: [248.515.3795](tel:248.515.3795)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Mon, Oct 17, 2016 at 10:48 AM

Subject: Re: Accessible Playground in B'ham

To: Heather K Mylod <hmylod@hotmail.com>

Cc: Rackeline Hoff <rackyhoff@hotmail.com>, Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Ms. Mylod,

Thank you for your email expressing your support for universally accessible play equipment and accessibility in our parks. Your input is timely and appreciated as we look to further enhance our park properties. I will share your email with our Parks and Recreation Board for their review and consideration as enhancements to our park properties are made.

Again, thank you for time and efforts in helping to improve our park properties for the benefit of all of its users.

Best Regards,
Joe Valentine

On Sun, Oct 16, 2016 at 12:35 PM, Heather K Mylod <hmylod@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Joe and Rackeline,

I am writing because I hear there may be a playground redesign project coming up. I am a Birmingham resident and have five children, one of whom is wheelchair bound (and has special needs).

I thought I would offer some thoughts that may help you understand what some special needs families would appreciate. Wood chips pose difficulty for chairs, and strollers for that matter. It is very helpful to have paths and equipment that allows the chair bound child to play inside the equipment, not relegated to a bench far away in direct sunlight. There are great structures nowadays which allow for ramps going up to some or most of the areas in the play structure. That way the kids are not left out.

The swings are also available in a few different sizes and offer buckles, which help those who tend to slip down on their own. Any additional special swings or wheelchair access you could provide in any parks would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much. Feel free to contact me for any reason.

Best,
Heather Mylod

10/17/2016

City of Birmingham MI Mail - Fwd: Accessible Playground in B'ham

240 Lake Park Drive
Birmingham, MI 48009
(203) 940-2442 mobile

Sent from my iPhone

--

Joseph A. Valentine

City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

To get the latest information regarding the City of Birmingham, please sign up for our communication tools by clicking here www.bit.ly/bhamnews.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Poppleton Park

4 messages

Ryan Dix <ryandix76@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 27, 2016 at 10:06 AM

To: cfolk@bhamgov.org, mnickita@bhamgov.org, claird@bhamgov.org, rackyhoff@hotmail.com, pbordman@bhamgov.org, cdeweese@bhamgov.org, pboutros@bhamgov.org, ssherman@bhamgov.org, jvalentine@bhamgov.org, aharris@bhamgov.org

Hello All,

I am unable to attend the commission meeting tonight but wanted to share my thoughts on the Poppleton Park plan.

I think the planned updates look great with one exception. I would prefer the parking lot along Woodward be reconsidered. It is a significant resident paid feature that I believe will primarily serve non-residents. If additional parking is necessary, I would prefer it attached to local roads. Perhaps something off Oxford to cut down on the street parking or maybe expand the existing lot on Rivenoak.

Adding a parking lot off Woodward would make Poppleton Park the only park in our system to have direct access off of a major highway. This goes way beyond making it more accessible to residents and effectively turns our community park into a state park. I strongly oppose this part of the plan.

As a resident, taxpayer and frequent Poppleton Park user, I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Dix
712 Ridgedale

Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Thu, Oct 27, 2016 at 10:15 AM

To: Ryan Dix <ryandix76@gmail.com>

Cc: Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, Mark Nickita <mnickita@bhamgov.org>, Carrie Laird <claird@bhamgov.org>, Racky Hoff <rackyhoff@hotmail.com>, Patty Bordman <pbordman@bhamgov.org>, Carroll DeWeese <cdeweese@bhamgov.org>, Pierre Boutros <pboutros@bhamgov.org>, Stuart Sherman <ssherman@bhamgov.org>, "Andrew M. Harris" <aharris@bhamgov.org>, Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

Mr. Dix,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan that was recently reviewed by the City's Parks and Recreation Board.

Tonight the City Commission will be reviewing the concept plan for Adams Park. However, your comments have been received and will be considered as requested.

Thank you again for your time in sharing your thoughts on improving our park's resources.

Best Regards,
Joe Valentine

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Joseph A. Valentine

City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

To get the latest information regarding the City of Birmingham, please sign up for our communication tools by clicking here www.bit.ly/bhamnews.

Ryan Dix <ryandix76@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 27, 2016 at 10:43 AM

To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Cc: Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, Mark Nickita <mnickita@bhamgov.org>, Carrie Laird <claird@bhamgov.org>, Racky Hoff <rackyhoff@hotmail.com>, Patty Bordman <pbordman@bhamgov.org>, Carroll DeWeese <cdeweese@bhamgov.org>, Pierre Boutros <pboutros@bhamgov.org>, Stuart Sherman <sshernan@bhamgov.org>, "Andrew M. Harris" <aharris@bhamgov.org>, Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

Joe,

Thanks for the quick response! I was under the impression that PP was going to be on the agenda tonight but it seems that I have my wires crossed.

Well, in that case, I'll say that I've reviewed and really like the current proposal for for Adams Park and look forward to the updates.

Thanks!

Ryan

[Quoted text hidden]

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Thu, Oct 27, 2016 at 11:37 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Add email chain please to agenda for next week under Communications.

Thanks!

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: [248.530.1702](tel:248.530.1702)
cell: [248.515.3795](tel:248.515.3795)

[Quoted text hidden]



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Poppleton Park improvements

4 messages

Andrew McCuiston <andrew.mccuiston@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 29, 2016 at 11:29 PM

To: cfolk@bhamgov.org

To who it may concern:

Will there be another public input meeting about the direction of the park?

I am eager to participate as I think improvements to the park are well overdue, but many residents in our neighborhood are hung up on the excess parking that was proposed - and for the record I don't think 80+ spots are necessary either.

Thank you,

Andrew McCuiston
[248.885.3105](tel:248.885.3105)

Sent from my iPhone

 **Fianl October5noticetohomeownersandgroups (1).pdf**
32K

Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Mon, Oct 31, 2016 at 8:16 AM

To: "Wood, Lauren" <Lwood@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

This came in over the weekend

[Quoted text hidden]

Andrew McCuiston
[248.885.3105](tel:248.885.3105)

Sent from my iPhone

--

Connie J. Folk
City of Birmingham
Recreation Coordinator
2300 East Lincoln
Birmingham, MI 48009
Cfolk@bhamgov.org
[248.530.1642](tel:248.530.1642) (T)
[248.645.6629](tel:248.645.6629) (F)

 **Fianl October5noticetohomeownersandgroups (1).pdf**
32K

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Mon, Oct 31, 2016 at 10:46 AM

To: andrew.mccuiston@gmail.com

Cc: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Andrew,

I am in receipt of your email sent Saturday to Connie Folk.

We appreciate your remarks and they will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Board.

At this time, a concept site plan for Poppleton Park was established via public input sessions and then supported by the Parks and Recreation Board.

Eventually, the concept park plan will be presented to the City Commission. One of the major variables to resolve at Poppleton Park was reviewing parking opportunities to relief the neighborhood from the traffic during heavy used periods at the park. Over the years, this has been discussed at multiple public meetings.

Especially having a site over 17 acres, more parking on site would provide that relief. It is only called out conceptually many factors need to occur before anything occurs at the park. There will be other public forums going forward in which discussions will ensue regarding Poppleton Park.

Please feel free to contact me anytime to discuss further or for an update on this park. Watch the City website for upcoming public meetings about this, too.

Thanks again for your remarks.

Lauren

To who it may concern:

Will there be another public input meeting about the direction of the park?

I am eager to participate as I think improvements to the park are well overdue, but many residents in our neighborhood are hung up on the excess parking that was proposed - and for the record I don't think 80+ spots are necessary either.

Thank you,

Andrew McCuiston
[248.885.3105](tel:248.885.3105)

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton

Birmingham, MI 48009

office: [248.530.1702](tel:248.530.1702)

cell: [248.515.3795](tel:248.515.3795)

Andrew McCuiston <andrew.mccuiston@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 31, 2016 at 12:04 PM

To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Cc: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Awesome and thank you!

I agree some addition in parking is necessary.

Looking forward to providing any helpful feedback we can.

Thanks,

Andrew McCuiston

[Quoted text hidden]



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park Proposal

2 messages

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 11:22 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 3:35 PM

Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park Proposal

To: Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carroll DeWeese** <cdeweese@bhamgov.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 3:04 PM

Subject: Re: Poppleton Park Proposal

To: Sean <seancvaughan@yahoo.com>

Cc: Pamela Vaughan <vaughan.pamela@yahoo.com>, Carroll DeWeese <carrolldeweese@comcast.net>, Joe Valentine <Jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Attached is a release from the city about the park. With the changes it will possibly need some more parking. It does not have to be in the park per se (e.g., it could be street parking alongside the park). Right now it is a concept plan. It is not a commitment to proceed. Community members need to make their concerns heard. The parking does not necessarily have to be along Woodward. This is all up for discussion.

The normal process is that city staff will review a proposal. In the case of a park proposal, the Parks and Recreation Board will then review a proposal, possibly modify it, and then make a recommendation to the City Commission. Nothing can proceed without the approval of the City Commission and the authorization of funds by the City Commission. Keeping members of the City Commission informed is one important step. You and your neighbors should also send your concerns to the City Manager Joe Valentine. You might ask him to forward your concerns to members of the Parks and Recreation Board and members of city staff that work with the parks. Be aware of when the Parks and Recreation Board meets and plans to review any aspects related to Poppleton Park. The meetings are open to the public.

I was heavily involved in the plans for Barnum Park. The original proposal had twice as much parking proposed within the park than was finally approved. Note that the parking standards often assume that people will be driving to the park and not walking to the park. The normal standards have a bias toward non-walkable communities. Barnum always seems to have parking available, even with the reduction from the original recommendation. I do not know what would be optimal for Poppleton, but citizen involvement should result in a level and location that most can feel is at least acceptable.

Thank you for letting your concerns be made known. You have taken a first step in alerting others to your concerns and hopefully moving in a direction that addresses your concerns.

Carroll DeWeese

932 Purdy
Birmingham, MI 48009

248-642-4256 (home)

carolldeweese@comcast.net (personal email)

On Mon, Nov 7, 2016 at 8:06 PM, Sean <seancvaughan@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Carroll,

We reside in Poppleton Park on Wimbledon Drive. There has been quite a bit of concern in our neighborhood about the new park improvement concept plan which would require the removal of large mature trees in order to be able to accommodate a new parking lot.

While we would like to see improvements made to our park, we prefer they happen without having to remove trees and add such a large parking area.

I'm not sure what the correct path is in order to voice our objections so please advise what it is that we need to do or whom we should contact.

Thank you,

Sean Vaughan
421 Wimbledon Drive

Sent from my iPhone

—
Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

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 **Poppleton Park Concept Plan Review.pdf**
36K

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>
To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 11:25 AM

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702

cell: 248.515.3795

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **A. J. Desmond & Sons, Margaret Desmond** <MDesmond@ajdesmond.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 4:18 PM
Subject: RE: Poppleton Park Proposal
To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Thank you for this information Lauren. I will be at the Dec. 8 meeting.

Margaret Desmond

From: Lauren Wood [mailto:lwood@bhamgov.org]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2016 3:59 PM
To: A. J. Desmond & Sons, Margaret Desmond <MDesmond@ajdesmond.com>
Cc: rakyhoff@hotmail.com; Mayor Pro Tem Mark Nickita <mnickita@bhamgov.org>; Commissioner Patty Bordman <pbordman@bhamgov.org>; Commissioner Pierre Boutros <pboutros@bhamgov.org>; Commissioner Carroll DeWeese <cdeweese@bhamgov.org>; Commissioner Andrew Harris <aharris@bhamgov.org>; Commissioner Stuart Sherman <ssherman@bhamgov.org>; Carlos Nunez <nunezc@dteenergy.com>
Subject: Re: Poppleton Park Proposal

Hi Margaret,

We are in receipt of your recent email and comments pertaining to the Poppleton Park concept plan. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and taking the time to write us.

I recognize there are many questions regarding this plan and in an effort to address these questions we will be holding an informational meeting regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan on December 8, 2016 at City Hall in the Commission Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Please share this meeting date and time with anyone that may be interested in attending. To assist in providing information and updates regarding Poppleton Park we have created a City website page as an additional source for information. This page can be found at www.bhamgov.org/poppletonpark.

Thank you again for your interest and input during this process.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham

Department of Public Services

851 S. Eton

Birmingham, MI 48009

office: 248.530.1702

cell: 248.515.3795

On Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 9:47 AM, A. J. Desmond & Sons, Margaret Desmond <MDesmond@ajdesmond.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor Rackeline Hoff,
Mayor Pro Tem Mark Nickita,
Commissioner Patty Bordman,
Commissioner Pierre Boutros,
Commissioner Carroll DeWeese,
Commissioner Andrew Harris,
Commissioner Stuart Sherman and
Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services,

I am writing to share my concerns with the Poppleton Park proposal. I am a resident of the neighborhood, my home backs up to the park. The primary reason we bought our house in August 2015 was because of its location to the park. We enjoy being around the park; it hums pleasantly. Neighbors and others walk and ride bikes to the play lot. People run their dogs in some parts of the park. On a nice day, the tennis courts are constantly occupied. Games of baseball, pick-up soccer and other activities are frequent. Others hang out throughout the park. It is a relaxing, re-energizing place to be. The park is currently an asset to the neighborhood.

Disappointingly, the proposed changes to the park do not appear to strengthen its resources. Instead they appear to change the whole character of the park.

While I have several concerns with the plan and its potential impacts, I am particularly distressed with the parking lot off of Woodward. With 88 parking spaces, this will be among the largest parking lots off of Woodward between Ferndale and Pontiac. With the closure of the Northwood parking lot, this is now especially troublesome. I am afraid the park will become something quite different than the intended 'Community Park'. Quickly, the Poppleton Parking lot will be a very appealing Cruise hangout. As those who are near and/or use Woodward know, the Dream Cruise is no longer a one day event. Cruisers increasingly hang out on all warmer evenings, especially on weekend afternoons and evenings from May through October, often tailgating with drinking, smoking, loud music and louder engines.

As a Woodward business owner in Royal Oak, A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Directors, I have much experience with the Cruisers. In front of our building we have eight city-owned parking spaces which attract Cruisers, Spring through Fall. The visits by the Cruisers results in frequent destruction to our property. Bushes and flowers are trampled and often destroyed. Lots of bottles and other trash are regularly left in our parking lot and in the bushes. Cruisers urinate on the brick wall, resulting in the wall needing to be repainted multiple time every year and the bushes being damaged. Cruisers also relieve themselves in other parts of the property (behind the dumpster at the back of the building, well into private property, is particularly popular). Cruisers hang around late into the night, often loudly. Because the eight spaces are city-owned, we cannot close off the property and the Royal Oak police do not have the resources to be constantly patrolling the area. The property we do close off is still trespassed. Realize, all of this occurs in front of a funeral home.

Please consider the very negative impact this parking lot will have on the Poppleton Park neighborhood. This plan will not refresh a lovely Neighborhood Park; it will repurpose it into a Cruise hub.

Sincerely,

Margaret Desmond

380 Wimbledon, Birmingham

11/23/2016

City of Birmingham MI Mail - Fwd: Poppleton Park Proposal

A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Directors
32515 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton park

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:43 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

file

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Date: Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 4:01 PM

Subject: Re: Poppleton park

To: Allison Klein <allisonklein22@gmail.com>

Allison,

Just so you are aware I appreciate you keeping in touch with me about Poppleton Park.

Because there have been questions still regarding the plan and in an effort to address these questions we will be holding an informational meeting regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan on December 8, 2016 at City Hall in the Commission Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Please share this meeting date and time with anyone that may be interested in attending. To assist in providing information and updates regarding Poppleton Park we have created a City website page as an additional source for information. This page can be found at www.bhamgov.org/poppletonpark.

Thank you again for your interest and input during this process.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

On Wed, Aug 24, 2016 at 9:11 AM, Allison Klein <allisonklein22@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Ms Wood -

I was curious if there were any update about plans for Poppleton Park? I know at the January meeting the consultant said they'd be coming back with some recommendations at some point but I haven't seen if that had happened.

11/23/2016

City of Birmingham MI Mail - Fwd: Poppleton park

Thanks!
Allison Klein
734 rivenoak st

Sent from my iPhone



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:11 AM

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Allison Klein <allisonklein22@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 22, 2016 at 4:04 PM
Subject: Re: Poppleton Park
To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Thanks so much for reaching out to let me know. I'll post to our neighborhood Facebook group as well.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 22, 2016, at 3:17 PM, Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org> wrote:

Hi Allison,

Just wanted to let you know there will be a concept site plan for Poppleton Park on the October 5th Parks Board meeting agenda for review and comment.

Keep an eye on the city website for the complete agenda posted late next week.

Any questions, feel free to contact me.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton meeting date

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:12 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

for file

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lauren Wood** <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Date: Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 10:01 AM

Subject: Re: Poppleton meeting date

To: Allison Klein <allisonklein22@gmail.com>

Allison,

Thank you for your request of an alternative date for the informational session about the Poppleton Park concept site plan. While we recognize not everyone may be able to attend a particular meeting, we have attempted to schedule this extra informational meeting several weeks out while arranging the schedules for those involved in presenting at this special informational meeting. In doing so, we also had to accommodate this informational meeting prior to the presentation of the concept plan to the City Commission before the end of the year, which is set for December 12th. Therefore, this added informational meeting regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan has been scheduled for December 8, 2016 at City Hall in the Commission Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

While we regret the selected date may not work for all residents, we certainly do want to accommodate those unable to attend and ensure everyone has correct information about the plan to formulate their position for either support, opposition or modification of the concept plan. As a result, the information presented during the informational meeting will be made available on the City website, as well as, hard copies available at the meeting and at Department of Public Services office following the meeting. We also plan on placing a notice at the park announcing the informational meeting details.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

On Wed, Nov 16, 2016 at 8:10 AM, Allison Klein <allisonklein22@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Ms Wood,

11/23/2016

City of Birmingham MI Mail - Fwd: Poppleton meeting date

I'd like to ask that you consider changing the date of the Poppleton Park meeting so that more residents will be free to attend. The conflicting holiday shopping, derby and seaholm concerts make the current date challenging. Some neighbors have suggested January 26 which seems like a better fit.

Thank you,
Allison

Sent from my iPhone



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton park

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 10:40 AM

To: "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Gamboa, Marianne" <MGamboa@bhamgov.org>

Already asked and answered.

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: [248.530.1702](tel:248.530.1702)
cell: [248.515.3795](tel:248.515.3795)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lauren Wood** <lwood@bhamgov.org>
Date: Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 10:01 AM
Subject: Re: Poppleton park
To: Allison Klein <allisonklein22@gmail.com>

Hi Alison,

Hope all is well with you.

Attached find the approved minutes from the meeting you requested. Plus, a link below for easy access to the minutes from all Parks and Recreation Board meetings.

http://www.bhamgov.org/government/boards/parks_agendas.php#revize_document_center_rz170

Thanks for your interest and nice hearing from you.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: [248.530.1702](tel:248.530.1702)
cell: [248.515.3795](tel:248.515.3795)On Tue, Nov 8, 2016 at 8:33 PM, Allison Klein <allisonklein22@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Ms Wood,

Would I be able to receive a copy of the minutes from the February 2, 2016 Parks Department meeting please?

Thank you,
Allison

On Wed, Aug 24, 2016 at 4:53 PM, Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org> wrote:

Hi Allison,

While work is still in progress for the concept site plan, we have no new plans to reveal yet.

I am hoping one of the upcoming Park Board meetings will have a proposed concept plan to share with everyone.

Please feel free to contact me before the next meeting of Sept. 13th for an update.

Nice to hear from you and have a wonderful evening.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham

Department of Public Services

851 S. Eton

Birmingham, MI 48009

office: [248.530.1702](tel:248.530.1702)

cell: [248.515.3795](tel:248.515.3795)

On Wed, Aug 24, 2016 at 9:11 AM, Allison Klein <allisonklein22@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Ms Wood -

I was curious if there were any update about plans for Poppleton Park? I know at the January meeting the consultant said they'd be coming back with some recommendations at some point but I haven't seen if that had happened.

Thanks!

Allison Klein

734 rivenoak st

Sent from my iPhone

 **February22016parksboardminutes.pdf**
392K



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:39 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

for file

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Rusche** <JPRusche@aol.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 8, 2016 at 4:01 PM

Subject: RE: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

To: Andrew Harris <aharris@bhamgov.org>

Cc: lwood@bhamgov.org

Hi Andy,

Here is another idea if parking is located along Woodward. Plant hedges or some other landscaping that will prevent the "car watchers" from seeing Woodward.

John Rusche

From: Andrew Harris [mailto:aharris@bhamgov.org]**Sent:** Tuesday, November 08, 2016 8:46 AM**To:** John Rusche**Subject:** Re: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

John,

I plan to pose your questions about limited use of the contemplated parking to city staff. In the meantime, I shared a four page memorandum from our Director of Public Services regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan, which may be helpful. I look forward to the continued "give and take" on this issue and others...all in the best interests of our city.

Best,

Andy

On Mon, Nov 7, 2016 at 8:02 PM, John Rusche <jprusche@aol.com> wrote:

Thank you, Andy for your prompt reply. We'll keep the give and take going. One thought. If the 88 parking spaces move forward, without cutting the trees along Woodward, can there be parking time limits without meters to discourage the all-day workers. Also can it be restricted so people don't use it to observe the Woodward drag races. It seems like the perfect place to bring your lounge and a cooler of beer and watch the cars go by.

John Rusche

Sandy Group a Division of GP Strategies

300 East Big Beaver Road | Suite 500 | Troy, MI 48063-1223 USA

Office: [248-729-4665](tel:248-729-4665) | Mobile: [248-219-8114](tel:248-219-8114) | Fax: [248-729-4700](tel:248-729-4700)

E-mail: jrusche@gpstrategies.com

Web: www.sandycorp.com

From: Andrew Harris [<mailto:aharris@bhamgov.org>]

Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2016 9:31 PM

To: John Rusche <jprusche@aol.com>

Subject: Re: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

John,

Thank you for your comments, which I read this evening. I have a few items to mention in response to your concerns.

First, as you indicated, I have heard from several Poppleton Park area residents, almost all (if not all) expressed concern about parking on the west side of the park adjacent to Woodward. Some, like you, have also mentioned the acceptable levels of parking on Oxford. This input will be a critical part of my "fact finding" as a Commissioner who will vote on the concept plan for the park. I recently asked our City Manager if Poppleton Park would come before the Commission during our next meeting on 11/14 and learned it will not. Please, however, continue to share your thoughts on the park since I suspect it will come before the Commission at a later date.

You're the second citizen in the last week who mentioned their concern about the crosswalk at Woodward and Oak. I took a closer look at the intersection Thursday night and agree it appears unsafe. I think this intersection (along w/ the speed limit on Woodward) will be incorporated into our next Master Plan, which the city plans to work on in 2017. This process will involve many opportunities for citizen input. If there are opportunities to address this intersection before then, I'll share them with you.

Thanks again for your message and please continue to keep me abreast on matters affecting the city.

All the best John...

Andy

On Sun, Nov 6, 2016 at 10:48 AM, John Rusche <jprusche@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Commissioner Harris,

Hopefully you will be hearing from many residents of the Poppleton Park neighborhood regarding proposed improvements to our namesake park. Judging from comments on our Facebook Group page, most residents are in favor of the improvements except the idea of removing beautiful, mature trees to create a parking lot for 88 vehicles along Woodward.

We question the need. Adjacent to Poppleton park there are 30-35 parking places on the west side of Oxford. (I think there should be no parking on the east side of Oxford.) I walk or drive on Oxford every day. It is very rare when most of the parking is occupied. And I believe it is rarer still that people are parking on the residential side streets. Removing the trees for parking will ruin the character of the park.

It would provide free all-day parking for Birmingham workers, just a short walk to downtown. Similar to what is happening at the Kroger parking lot.

It would also provide great parking and great views all summer long for what could become the Poppleton Park drag strip.

We would much rather have you spend available resources on a safe crosswalk at Woodward and Oak Blvd. Also do something to make the landscaping on the west side of Woodward, across from Poppleton Park, look more attractive and better kept.

Finally, we would like to see the speed limit on Woodward reduced to 35 mph, as it is in Ferndale. It would greatly improve the sense of safety and walkability of our piece of Woodward. It wouldn't even delay the drivers very much. Without stopping for traffic signals, driving the two miles between 14 Mile and Big Beaver, at 45 mph takes 2 minutes 40 seconds. At 35 mph it takes 3 minutes 25 seconds. 45 seconds longer!



Thank you for the time and energy you give to our community.

Best regards,

John Rusche
358 Henley Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
[248-731-7068](tel:248-731-7068)



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppelton Park Concept Plan Feedback

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 11:17 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

File

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 9:22 AM

Subject: Fwd: Poppelton Park Concept Plan Feedback

To: Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stuart Sherman** <ssherman@bhamgov.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 5:37 PM

Subject: Fwd: Poppelton Park Concept Plan Feedback

To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lisa Buss <lhenrym@gmail.com>**Date:** November 8, 2016 at 2:43:47 PM EST**To:** undisclosed-recipients;**Subject:** Fwd: Poppelton Park Concept Plan Feedback

Good Afternoon,

Poppelton park is a beautiful and open space and is what I consider to be the heart of our unique neighborhood. The park provides a calm and green oasis for families to play safely.

As a parent of two small children (2 and 4) and resident of poppelton park, I am concerned about some of the proposed improvements to our park. Specifically, the proposed parking lot and entrance off Woodward. I do not support any parking lot and personally do not believe any additional parking is needed. I frequent the park 2-3 times per week during peak months and the lot off oxford is hardly utilized.

I am concerned this lot would negatively impact our neighborhood by acting as a commuter lot/parking for uses other than the park and would destroy the beauty of our park.

I do not support the removal of any trees from Poppelton Park. The parking lot would require the removal of many mature trees which would ruin the character of this beautiful park.

I do support the idea of making some general improvements to the park play structures, as they are a bit worn. I think creating some additional paths to the equipment could be helpful for some families as well. I am concerned about too much hardscaping of the park because I really value the open green space.

I love Birmingham's Motto of 'a walkable community' and believe we can continue to build on that. It would be great to have a pedestrian crosswalk at Woodward and Oak so residents can cross safely. That would also allow more families outside our neighborhood to walk to the park, rather than driving and parking somewhere.

People really do value walkable communities and green space/mature trees and that is what makes our city so unique and desirable.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate that you will consider my concerns.

Lisa Buss
916 Knox
lhenrym@gmail.com

—
Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

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Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park Renovation Concerns

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 11:23 AM

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claire@bhamgov.org>

File

This may be a duplicate, but use this one because it has Joe's reply.

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 6:16 PM

Subject: Re: Poppleton Park Renovation Concerns

To: Kristie Bidlake <kristiecoplin@gmail.com>

Mr. and Mrs. Bidlake,

Thank you for your email message sharing your concerns with the Poppleton Park concept plan. I realize there are many questions with the concept that has been developed and to help assist in answering these questions, an information meeting is being planned to address these concerns. Additional information regarding this informational meeting will be provided shortly and an information webpage on Poppleton Park is also being developed. As this information is available, it will be shared with you to help address your questions and concerns.

Again, thank you for your interest and input regarding the concept plan for Poppleton Park. Your input is valued and appreciated.

Best Regards,
Joe Valentine

On Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 5:31 PM, Kristie Bidlake <kristiecoplin@gmail.com> wrote:

I am writing today as a concerned citizen of the Poppleton Park neighborhood. Based on the recent rendering of Poppleton Park and recent letter written by Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services, it is blatantly apparent that there is a current disregard for what is best for the residents who live on, near, and enjoy Poppleton Park on a daily basis. A potential parking lot off of Woodward is not only flawed logic, but puts our neighborhood at risk for noise, theft, and reduced home values.

The proposed parking lot directly off of Woodward is based off a flawed logic. Most residents of Birmingham use Poppleton Park for the play equipment. With small children and strollers, most residents driving to Poppleton Park usually park off of Oxford, as it is closest to the play equipment and most easy to transport small children and all of the necessary items needed to tend to small children. Parking off of Woodward will be even further away from the play equipment, and will not be utilized by those driving to the park for the play equipment. There is a better opportunity to expand the current parking lot, as it is closer to the play equipment than a lot off of Woodward would be.

The proposed parking lot off of Woodward will also be a nuisance to the neighborhood on summer nights. Have you ever driven by the any of the businesses on Woodward between 13 and 14 mile on a summer night? All of the kids hanging out with their cars, drinking beer, selling drugs, and revving their engines will be our future. The noise that is currently created from "cruisers" leaving city limits on summer nights is enough to wake up babies, dogs, and sleeping adults – but that will get worse with cruisers peeling out of the parking lot onto Woodward. Will this parking lot be closed after dark to reduce crime and noise? Will the parking lot be patrolled on a regular basis for loitering? Do the police have enough manpower to have a police officer in this area full time to keep the noise down and make sure the area is safe for walkers at night? These are all concerns that need to be addressed for the safety and well-being of Poppleton Park residents.

This proposed parking lot will also reduce the value of homes directly on or near the park. Currently, the park is a big draw for neighborhood sales. Will the city plan to reimburse residents based on lost home value due to noise and unwanted guests? We recently bought a home in the neighborhood and I am now concerned about my future home value with the proposed parking lot.

Lastly, the most recent letter by Lauren Wood does not address the reduction of mature trees in Poppleton Park. There is absolutely no way that all of the beautiful trees between Woodward and the park will be able to stay in place with a parking lot. The proposed plan includes the planting of new trees, but that is not the same as beautiful mature trees that have taken 50+ years to grow in size.

There are many more options in making Poppleton Park a more accessible park, such as:

- 1) Increasing the size of the current parking lot
- 2) Creating a cross walk on the north side of Woodward to connect east and west Birmingham, so families can safely cross at Oak and Woodward
- 3) Reducing the speed limit to a safer limit such as 35 MPH. Currently, cars drive by so fast on Woodward it is hard to feel safe walking, in our walkable community.

I beg you that you please listen to what the residents of Poppleton Park want for the future of this park. This park is utilized by us on a daily basis, while your parking plans are for visitors who only visit once or twice a year. Again, this is where we live, this isn't a place that we just visit. The proposed parking lot will have detrimental changes to our every day.

I look forward to your response.

Kristie and Chris Bidlake

139 Wimbledon Dr.

Birmingham, MI 48009

[517.877.2058](tel:517.877.2058)

—
Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009

11/23/2016

City of Birmingham MI Mail - Fwd: Poppleton Park Renovation Concerns

(248) 530-1809 Office Direct

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Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:44 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

file

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
 Department of Public Services
 851 S. Eton
 Birmingham, MI 48009
 office: 248.530.1702
 cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 5:24 PM

Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park

To: "Andrew M. Harris" <aharris@bhamgov.org>, Carroll DeWeese <cdeweese@bhamgov.org>, Mark Nickita <mnickita@bhamgov.org>, Patty Bordman <pbordman@bhamgov.org>, Pierre Boutros <pboutros@bhamgov.org>, Racky Hoff <rackyhoff@hotmail.com>, Stuart Sherman <sshernan@bhamgov.org>, Tim Currier <tcurrier@bhlaw.us.com>

Cc: Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

Given the common communications that have been received recently, which include many incorrect interpretations of the concept plan, along with other concerns, I intend to set up another public meeting by the Parks & Recreation Board so individuals that were not involved previously will have an opportunity to learn more about this concept plan and what was considered in its development. Once a date is set, I'll let you know.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carroll DeWeese** <cdeweese@bhamgov.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 3:54 PM

Subject: Re: Poppleton Park

To: Donal O'Leary <doleary703@gmail.com>

Cc: Carroll DeWeese <carrolldeweese@comcast.net>, Joe Valentine <Jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

I note that you have sent your concerns to all members of the City Commission. This is a good first step. Due to the Michigan Open Meeting Act, I cannot do a reply to all, but I am including the City Manager Joe Valentine on this email so that he is also aware of your concerns.

Attached is a release from the city about the park. With the changes it will possibly need some more parking. It does not have to be in the park per se (e.g., it could be street parking alongside the park). Right now it is a concept plan. It is not a commitment to proceed. Community members need to make their concerns heard. The parking does not necessarily have to be along Woodward. This is all up for discussion.

The normal process is that city staff will review a proposal. In the case of a park proposal, the Parks and Recreation Board will then review a proposal, possibly modify it, and then make a recommendation to the City Commission. Nothing can proceed without the approval of the City Commission and the authorization of funds by the City Commission. Keeping members of the City Commission informed is one important step. You and your neighbors should also send

your concerns to the City Manager Joe Valentine. You might ask him to forward your concerns to members of the Parks and Recreation Board and members of city staff that work with the parks. Be aware of when the Parks and Recreation Board meets and plans to review any aspects related to Poppleton Park. The meetings are open to the public.

I was heavily involved in the plans for Bamum Park. The original proposal had twice as much parking proposed within the park than was finally approved. Note that the parking standards often assume that people will be driving to the park and not walking to the park. The normal standards have a bias toward non-walkable communities. Bamum always seems to have parking available, even with the reduction from the original recommendation. I do not know what would be optimal for Poppleton, but citizen involvement should result in a level and location that most can feel is at least acceptable.

With the changes at Bamum Park, I am not aware of any disruption of things being taken from people's yards, etc. With people using the park, there are more "eyes" to see what is going on. Bamum now feels safer and more personal than it originally felt. If a path is built, it just needs to be somewhat away from the property lines to pull people into and through the park and does not need to be close to property lines.

You will see in the attachment that many trees were added to Bamum Park. Many were the result of community members providing dollars out of their own pockets to purchase trees. A successful park needs the support of its users. I agree that mature trees are valuable in themselves and take many years to replace. Great caution is needed in taking down a mature tree, except in cases of disease. Trees help provide character to any park or home.

Thank you for letting your concerns be made known. You have taken a first step in alerting others to your concerns and hopefully moving in a direction that addresses your concerns.

Carroll DeWeese
932 Purdy
Birmingham, MI 48009

[248-642-4256](tel:248-642-4256) (home)

carrolldeweese@comcast.net (personal email)

On Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 11:46 AM, Donal O'Leary <doleary703@gmail.com> wrote:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed changes to Poppleton Park. I am a resident on Wimbledon Drive and my backyard abuts the park. This was a major reason we purchased our home recently.

My concern is mainly regarding the proposed PARKING CHANGES. Creating new parking running parallel to Woodward would be a disaster. Just as all strip parking on Woodward has become further south, this parking lot would become a mecca for "dream cruisers" throughout the year. As I'm sure you know, the dream cruise has expanded to basically every weekend in the year for some individuals along Woodward Ave. They meet every weekend to show off their cars, drink beer etc. I have great fear that this proposed parking lot will quickly become solely a haven for out-of-towners to come show off their cars and will provide no benefit for those interested in going to the park.

The proposed change is to allow easier access to the park. However, the vast majority of the small number of park users is for the playground areas which would be a long walk from the proposed parking lot. These users (which are virtually all from the neighborhood), would continue to just walk to the park or park on the street nearby the play structures.

Finally, creation of this parking lot would require killing MANY MATURE TREES. These trees are decades old, are beautiful, provide a sound buffer from Woodward Ave.

The current parking lot is virtually always empty, even on the most beautiful of days. The need for creation of new parking is simply not supported, would be intrusive, would cause noise, and would invite strangers to show off their cars and likely increase crime in the area.

I am also not excited about a walking path being created that would run right behind my back yard inviting all to take a look at what I have. I imagine that some of my yard fixtures, furniture, grills and art would quickly disappear.

Overall the proposed changes would clearly have a negative impact on my home values and that of others in the neighborhood. Our neighbors are organizing to present a solid front to oppose these changes. We vote and we want to be heard. The Poppleton Park neighborhood is one of the most beautiful in all of Birmingham.

Please do not support a proposal which will diminish this outstanding area.

Sincerely,

Donal S. O'Leary, Ph.D.

444 Wimbleton Drive

Birmingham, MI 48009

Doleary703@gmail.com

—
Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
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151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
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(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

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 **Poppleton Park Concept Plan Review.pdf**
36K



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Wilson - Poppleton Park Response

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 11:20 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>
Date: Thu, Nov 10, 2016 at 3:34 PM
Subject: Fwd: Wilson - Poppleton Park Response
To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Stuart Sherman <ssherman@bhamgov.org>
Date: Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 4:39 PM
Subject: Fwd: Wilson - Poppleton Park Response
To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda Wilson <linda.wilson918@gmail.com>
Date: November 9, 2016 at 4:36:25 PM EST
To: rakyhoff@hotmail.com, mnickita@bhamgov.org, pbordman@bhamgov.org, pboutros@bhamgov.org, cdeweese@bhamgov.org, aharris@bhamgov.org, ssherman@bhamgov.org
Subject: Wilson - Poppleton Park Response

November 9, 2016

Dear Mayor Hoff and Birmingham City Commissioners,

Thank you for recognizing that Poppleton Park could use a little TLC. Although some improvements to Poppleton Park are warranted, we believe you have overstated the changes needed, or desired. It seems that you dream for our park to look more like Beverly Park or Springdale Park with their large asphalt parking lots and cement picnic pavilions which are rented out for class reunions and large parties. It's obvious from our neighborhood communications that our residents do not share your dream.

We read with interest the November 7, 2016 memo from Lauren Woods, Director of Public Services. It filled in a number of details concerning your concept for our park. Despite your technical definition of Poppleton Park as a community park, we can assure you that those of us who live here see it as a neighborhood park that is shared with the community for baseball games, soccer practice and playground use. Perhaps it would be easiest to reclassify Poppleton Park as a neighborhood park as seen by the residents instead of trying to reestablish it as the community park that it is not.

A note on two of the community parks and their improvements as listed in the memo. Shain Park has always been the main city park although, ironically, the prime parking spaces and favorite play structures were removed for its improvement. Kenning Park has multiple opportunities for city recreation although many parking spaces were removed to create the skate park and the firing range. It still has high parking demand for daily use of the year-round tennis and skating facilities. By definition, Poppleton Park does not have the same needs as these parks, so the parking standards framed in Lauren Wood's memo regarding "Area Space Standards and Parking Ratios for Outdoor Sport Facilities as outlined in Time-Saver Standards for Landscape Architecture" do not apply. Also, both of these examples are surrounded by the city or the neighborhood. Neither of these are exposed by parking off of a main road like Woodward.

We have not heard a single positive comment regarding your proposal to add 88 parking spaces along Woodward or the removal of so many trees, a point which was tactically avoided in the memo. Cutting down a large number of mature trees and replacing them with saplings does not measure up to our definition of improvement especially in a city known for its mature plantings. In fact, the addition of these parking spaces will change the atmosphere of the park and could have a profound negative impact on the neighborhood and its safety. Those who visit the playground will always park along Oxford because the playground is on the north east side of the park. So, perhaps limiting parking to one side of Oxford would be helpful. We cannot visualize a parent walking all of the way from Woodward in order to get to the playground. It lacks common sense.

It's understood that Birmingham workers currently park at Kroger and the doctor's offices on the east side of Woodward in order to avoid paying daily parking in the structures. The additional spaces along the park will be heartily welcomed by them. It will also provide a perfect opportunity for those who need a place to hang out, especially from June through August for many of the all summer dream cruisers.

As 25-year Poppleton Park residents we urge you to consider fully the preferences of the residents. Reach out to those who will be directly affected by your actions, specifically those who own property adjacent to the park who will have jogging paths outside their back doors. Question the residents with small children that use the park regularly. Canvas the sports teams that use the park for baseball or team practices.

Most importantly, some of this money would be better spent on making our "walkable community" safe for walking by providing a crosswalk at the Woodward and Oak intersection. This would enable safe and easy access to the Farmer's Market, Tim Horton's and downtown. The current practice of running across the median is a liability for the citizens and the city. The expectation that everyone should walk down to Oakland in order to cross Woodward is

not feasible.

The charm of Poppleton Park is one of the reasons we chose our home. We moved here in 1990 with two young children and were thrilled to have the park and play area so close. Our girls played safely at the playground. We played on and supported the Poppleton Park baseball team in the 90's. The baseball diamond and the open grass areas have been used consistently during the warmer months. Parking is rarely a disturbance.

We urge you to amend your plans in consideration of the neighborhood's vision. Please avoid over developing our park to meet your own concept which could lower housing values, increase security concerns and have a long term, undesirable impact on our homes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott A. and Linda H. Wilson

292 Henley

Birmingham, MI 48009

—
Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
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jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

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Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Proposed 'Improvements' to Poppleton Park

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:42 AM

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

for file

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lauren Wood** <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Date: Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 4:06 PM

Subject: Re: Proposed 'Improvements' to Poppleton Park

To: jlgierer@gmail.com

Cc: "Valentine, Joe" <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Hello Jacqueline and Daniel,

We are in receipt of your recent email and comments pertaining to the Poppleton Park concept plan. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and taking the time to write us.

I recognize there are many questions regarding this plan and in an effort to address these questions we will be holding an informational meeting regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan on December 8, 2016 at City Hall in the Commission Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Please share this meeting date and time with anyone that may be interested in attending. To assist in providing information and updates regarding Poppleton Park we have created a City website page as an additional source for information. This page can be found at www.bhamgov.org/poppletonpark.

Thank you again for your interest and input during this process.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

On Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 8:49 AM, Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org> wrote:

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Stuart Sherman <ssherman@bhamgov.org>
Date: Tue, Nov 8, 2016 at 7:08 PM
Subject: Fwd: Proposed 'Improvements' to Poppleton Park
To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jacqueline Seidman <jlgierer@gmail.com>
Date: November 8, 2016 at 6:50:36 PM EST
To: Jac <Jlgierer@gmail.com>
Subject: Proposed 'Improvements' to Poppleton Park

Please consider my following concerns as a new (March '16) resident of Wimbleton Drive in the Poppleton Park neighborhood. The single largest draw to purchase our home was the abundant green space of PP and the old-fashioned neighborhood feel.

Based on the recent rendering of Poppleton Park and recent letter written by Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services, I am concerned the city is abandoning its ideals as a walkable community in the effort to appease MDOT or fix a problem that simply doesn't exist. Recently the logic of acreage to parking was shared, which would imply that parking is insufficient. To the contrary, a simple observational study would reveal that the vast majority of park utilizers walk to the location. The existing parking lot is NEVER in use. I am a primary care physician who deals with a largely urban and underserved population. Many of my patients come to walk/exercise in PP at my recommendation because the areas around their homes are unsafe. Not once have I heard a complaint about an inability to park. Just recently I was at a restaurant and had a discussion with a waitress who lives in Royal Oak who was excited about the proposed Woodward Parking because "it will be nice to have somewhere to park for free for work." I suspect many others will utilize it as city parking, rather than for intended park use. In addition, a parking lot off Woodward is likely to turn into its predecessors; a loitering spot for Dreamcruisers and others. The lot, combined with the large empty space of the park, could potentially open up our neighborhood to greatly increased crime and noise pollution. If it is essential that the acreage/parking formula be following, then perhaps the park should be rezoned as a neighborhood park, as it is much smaller than comparable community parks.

Our experience just with the Big Beaver closing this past summer revealed that the Birmingham PD is unequipped and understaffed to deal with the increased volume of traffic into our neighborhood. We had a rash of breaking/enterings and tire thefts - this would give an opportune entrance/exit and hiding point for such activity. Also, we query who would monitor the maintenance of the park with the proposed picnic structures -even now, cleanup is a local neighborhood community effort.

I am all for improvements to the park, specifically the preservation of mature trees and greenspace, improvements to the current play structures, and even the potential expansion of the current parking lot. However, I do not feel that parking off Woodward is the answer.

This proposed parking lot will also reduce the value of homes directly on or near the park. Currently, the park is a big draw for neighborhood sales. Will the city plan to reimburse residents based on lost home value due to noise and waste?

Please stay firm in your commitments to maintain Birmingham as a walkable community and a city of trees. The proposal ignores both. These are the features that entice residents to live in the area and pay the taxes. With short-sighted changes such as those proposed, you risk loss of a taxpayer basis.

I beg you that you please listen to what the residents of Poppleton Park want for the future of this park. This park is utilized by us on a daily basis, while your parking plans are for visitors who only visit once or twice a year. Again, this is where we live, this isn't a place that we just visit. The proposed parking lot will have detrimental changes to our every day.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Gierer and Daniel Seidman
652 Wimbleton Drive

—
Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

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Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park

7 messages

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:11 AM

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Allison Klein <allisonklein22@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 22, 2016 at 4:04 PM

Subject: Re: Poppleton Park

To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Thanks so much for reaching out to let me know. I'll post to our neighborhood Facebook group as well.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 22, 2016, at 3:17 PM, Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org> wrote:

Hi Allison,

Just wanted to let you know there will be a concept site plan for Poppleton Park on the October 5th Parks Board meeting agenda for review and comment.

Keep an eye on the city website for the complete agenda posted late next week.

Any questions, feel free to contact me.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 10:44 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

file

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 5:24 PM

Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park

To: "Andrew M. Harris" <aharris@bhamgov.org>, Carroll DeWeese <cdeweese@bhamgov.org>, Mark Nickita <mnickita@bhamgov.org>, Patty Bordman <pbordman@bhamgov.org>, Pierre Boutros <pboutros@bhamgov.org>, Racky Hoff <rackyhoff@hotmail.com>, Stuart Sherman <ssherman@bhamgov.org>, Tim Currier <tcurrier@bhlaw.us.com>

Cc: Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

Given the common communications that have been received recently, which include many incorrect interpretations of the concept plan, along with other concerns, I intend to set up another public meeting by the Parks & Recreation Board so individuals that were not involved previously will have an opportunity to learn more about this concept plan and what was considered in its development. Once a date is set, I'll let you know.

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Carroll DeWeese** <cdeweese@bhamgov.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 3:54 PM

Subject: Re: Poppleton Park

To: Donal O'Leary <doleary703@gmail.com>

Cc: Carroll DeWeese <carrolldeweese@comcast.net>, Joe Valentine <Jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

I note that you have sent your concerns to all members of the City Commission. This is a good first step. Due to the Michigan Open Meeting Act, I cannot do a reply to all, but I am including the City Manager Joe Valentine on this email so that he is also aware of your concerns.

Attached is a release from the city about the park. With the changes it will possibly need some more parking. It does not have to be in the park per se (e.g., it could be street parking alongside the park). Right now it is a concept plan. It is not a commitment to proceed. Community members need to make their concerns heard. The parking does not necessarily have to be along Woodward. This is all up for discussion.

The normal process is that city staff will review a proposal. In the case of a park proposal, the Parks and Recreation Board will then review a proposal, possibly modify it, and then make a recommendation to the City Commission. Nothing can proceed without the approval of the City Commission and the authorization of funds by the City Commission. Keeping members of the City Commission informed is one important step. You and your neighbors should also send your concerns to the City Manager Joe Valentine. You might ask him to forward your concerns to members of the Parks and Recreation Board and members of city staff that work with the parks. Be aware of when the Parks and Recreation Board meets and plans to review any aspects related to Poppleton Park. The meetings are open to the public.

I was heavily involved in the plans for Bamum Park. The original proposal had twice as much parking proposed within the park than was finally approved. Note that the parking standards often assume that people will be driving to the park and not walking to the park. The normal standards have a bias toward non-walkable communities. Bamum always seems to have parking available, even with the reduction from the original recommendation. I do not know what would be

optimal for Poppleton, but citizen involvement should result in a level and location that most can feel is at least acceptable.

With the changes at Bamum Park, I am not aware of any disruption of things being taken from people's yards, etc. With people using the park, there are more "eyes" to see what is going on. Bamum now feels safer and more personal than it originally felt. If a path is built, it just needs to be somewhat away from the property lines to pull people into and through the park and does not need to be close to property lines.

You will see in the attachment that many trees were added to Bamum Park. Many were the result of community members providing dollars out of their own pockets to purchase trees. A successful park needs the support of its users. I agree that mature trees are valuable in themselves and take many years to replace. Great caution is needed in taking down a mature tree, except in cases of disease. Trees help provide character to any park or home.

Thank you for letting your concerns be made known. You have taken a first step in alerting others to your concerns and hopefully moving in a direction that addresses your concerns.

Carroll DeWeese
932 Purdy
Birmingham, MI 48009

[248-642-4256](tel:248-642-4256) (home)

carolldeweese@comcast.net (personal email)

On Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 11:46 AM, Donal O'Leary <doleary703@gmail.com> wrote:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed changes to Poppleton Park. I am a resident on Wimbledon Drive and my backyard abuts the park. This was a major reason we purchased our home recently.

My concern is mainly regarding the proposed PARKING CHANGES. Creating new parking running parallel to Woodward would be a disaster. Just as all strip parking on Woodward has become further south, this parking lot would become a mecca for "dream cruisers" throughout the year. As I'm sure you know, the dream cruise has expanded to basically every weekend in the year for some individuals along Woodward Ave. They meet every weekend to show off their cars, drink beer etc. I have great fear that this proposed parking lot will quickly become solely a haven for out-of-towners to come show off their cars and will provide no benefit for those interested in going to the park.

The proposed change is to allow easier access to the park. However, the vast majority of the small number of park users is for the playground areas which would be a long walk from the proposed parking lot. These users (which are virtually all from the neighborhood), would continue to just walk to the park or park on the street nearby the play structures.

Finally, creation of this parking lot would require killing MANY MATURE TREES. These trees are decades old, are beautiful, provide a sound buffer from Woodward Ave.

The current parking lot is virtually always empty, even on the most beautiful of days. The need for creation of new parking is simply not supported, would be intrusive, would cause noise, and would invite strangers to show off their cars and likely increase crime in the area.

I am also not excited about a walking path being created that would run right behind my back yard inviting all to take a look at what I have. I imagine that some of my yard fixtures, furniture, grills and art would quickly disappear.

Overall the proposed changes would clearly have a negative impact on my home values and that of others in the neighborhood. Our neighbors are organizing to present a solid front to oppose these changes. We vote and we want to be heard. The Poppleton Park neighborhood is one of the most beautiful in all of Birmingham.

Please do not support a proposal which will diminish this outstanding area.

Sincerely,

Donal S. O'Leary, Ph.D.

444 Wimbleton Drive

Birmingham, MI 48009

Doleary703@gmail.com

—
Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

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Poppleton Park Concept Plan Review.pdf
36K

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>
To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:47 PM

File

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

—— Forwarded message ——
From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>
Date: Sun, Nov 13, 2016 at 8:23 AM
Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park
To: Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stuart Sherman <ssherman@bhamgov.org>**Date:** November 12, 2016 at 10:35:52 AM EST**To:** Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>**Subject:** Fwd: Poppleton Park

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Beaudet <acb74@aol.com>**Date:** November 12, 2016 at 10:33:27 AM EST**To:** rackyhoff@hotmail.com, mnickita@bhamgov.org, pbordman@bhamgov.org, pboutros@bhamgov.org, cdeweese@bhamgov.org, aharris@bhamgov.org, ssherman@bhamgov.org,**Subject:** Poppleton Park

Dear City of Birmingham,

I have lived directly across from Poppleton Park at the corner of Kennesaw and Oxford for over a dozen years. It is a wonderful NATURAL, GREEN, space. The tendency to want to over "citify" this kind of space cannot be overstated. Very simply, leave nature alone.

The park's proximity to Woodward has consequences that other residents who don't live directly on the park may not experience. It is an easy draw to people just driving by. People pull up to the park at ALL hours. I have cleaned up cans/liquor bottles, glass in the street, cigarette butts, trash, even condoms left on the lawn. Car lights, conversations and music, and doors opening and closing easily disrupt a night of sleep. The port-a-potty this summer located so closely to the road was another great draw.

On the positive side, the park draws many people who use it as a place to picnic and play and fly kites and toss frisbees. It is a great place for families and children to use as an extension of their own back yard. I think the large sum of money slated for this park could be better utilized somewhere else. Plant more trees to buffer it from Woodward. Leave it green and natural. PLEASE.

Sincerely,
Jean Beaudet

Sent from my iPad

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>
To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:50 PM

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton

Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Clinton Baller <cmballer1@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Nov 16, 2016 at 6:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park
To: lwood@bhamgov.org

----- Forwarded message -----
From: "Clinton Baller" <cmballer@avidpays.com>
Date: Nov 15, 2016 4:20 PM
Subject: Poppleton Park
To: "Lauren Wood" <Lwood@ci.birmingham.mi.us>
Cc:

Lauren,

I will try to attend the Dec. 8 Poppleton Park informational meeting, but if you are soliciting opinions, I'd like to make mine known here, as the informational meeting isn't really a public hearing, and I did not attend any of the other meetings.

1. Improvements to Poppleton Park are most definitely warranted. I will trust the Parks Board and Commission to determine how much we should spend and on what, but I would view any expenditure as an investment in our city and something that would increase both property values and quality of life.
2. I have no problem with increasing the parking, and it appears not only that the proposed parking is reasonable in terms of the number of spaces, but that it is adequately buffered from both the park and the neighborhood. I am encouraged to hear that MDOT is supportive of the concept.
3. I think it is important that policymakers keep in mind that this is a *community* park and ought to be improved with the *community's* interests in mind. I understand how neighbors of this and other parks might feel, and I think we should do everything we can to listen and try to serve their interests while at the same time serving the interests of the community. Often we'll get lucky and be able to serve everyone's interests. But not always. The community should prevail in such a debate.

Best regards,

Clint Baller



Clinton Baller, President
Avid Payment Solutions
950 S. Old Woodward Ave., Suite 220
Birmingham, MI 48009
(888) 855-8644 ext. 101
(866) 671-9773 FAX

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>
To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:52 PM

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

—— Forwarded message ——
From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>
Date: Thu, Nov 17, 2016 at 5:10 PM
Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park
To: Lauren Wood <Lwood@bhamgov.org>
Cc: Stuart Sherman <ssherman@bhamgov.org>

—— Forwarded message ——
From: **Stuart Sherman** <ssherman@bhamgov.org>
Date: Thu, Nov 17, 2016 at 5:10 PM
Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park
To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Margaret Kowal <margaret.kowal@me.com>
Date: November 17, 2016 at 4:59:39 PM EST
To: ssherman@bhamgov.org
Subject: Poppleton Park

Dear Commissioner Sherman:

I'm a 20-year resident of Poppleton Park on Wimbledon Drive. My husband and I bought our house when I was pregnant with our first (of three) children. We chose this neighborhood specifically because of the nature of the open, green space of the park. We enjoy it as *it is* everyday.

We would ask that the City of Birmingham please not pave any part of the park and not cut down any trees.

Sincerely,
Margaret Kowal

Margaret Kowal
266 Wimbledon Drive
Birmingham, MI 48009
Cell: 248.709.2443
margaret.kowal@me.com

Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

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Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>
To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:56 PM

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Margaret Kowal** <margaret.kowal@me.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Re: Poppleton Park
To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>
Cc: Dan Kowal <dan.kowal@ey.com>, Pam Doyle <pamdoyle@aol.com>

Hello Lauren,

I appreciate your consideration and understand the timing. We appreciate that there will be this extra informational meeting, and I will adjust my calendar accordingly to attend on December 8. I look forward to participating in this very important discussion about the future of our precious Poppleton Park.

Sincerely,
Margaret Kowal

On Nov 21, 2016, at 1:51 PM, Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org> wrote:

Hi Margaret,

Thanks for keeping in touch with all of us on this matter. We have considered such request and below you will find my latest reply sent out to everyone about it.

Thank you for your request of an alternative date for the informational session about the Poppleton Park concept site plan. While we recognize not everyone may be able to attend a particular meeting, we have attempted to schedule this extra informational meeting several weeks out while arranging the schedules for those involved in presenting at this special informational meeting. In doing so, we also had to accommodate this informational meeting prior to the presentation of the concept plan to the City Commission before the

end of the year, which is set for December 12th. Therefore, this added informational meeting regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan has been scheduled for December 8, 2016 at City Hall in the Commission Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

While we regret the selected date may not work for all residents, we certainly do want to accommodate those unable to attend and ensure everyone has correct information about the plan to formulate their position for either support, opposition or modification of the concept plan. As a result, the information presented during the informational meeting will be made available on the City website, as well as, hard copies available at the meeting and at Department of Public Services office following the meeting. We also plan on placing a notice at the park announcing the informational meeting details.

We appreciate your input!

Lauren

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

On Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 12:45 PM, Margaret Kowal <margaret.kowal@me.com> wrote:

Hello Lauren:

I appreciate your reply and that there will be an informational meeting for community input regarding the concept plan for Poppleton Park. I'm highly interested in attending such a meeting. I am wondering, though, if it would be possible to move the meeting date to January?

I think that moving the meeting date to January would allow more people to learn about the concept, form an educated opinion and also allow time for people to plan their schedules around attending the meeting. I know of many families, including my own, that would like to attend, but who have previous commitments at their childrens' schools on December 8. (It's my understanding that there are school events and holiday programs at public, private and parochial schools in our area on the evening of December 8th).

I am cc'ing the commissioners on this request in hopes that there could be some dialog about changing the date of the meeting to January.

Thank you in advance for considering changing the meeting date to January.

Sincerely,
Margaret Kowal

Margaret Kowal
266 Wimbledon Drive
Birmingham, MI 48009
Cell: 248-709-2443
margaret.kowal@me.com

On Nov 21, 2016, at 10:26 AM, Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org> wrote:

Hi Margaret,

We are in receipt of your recent email and comments pertaining to the Poppleton Park concept plan. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and taking the time to write us.

I recognize there are many questions regarding this plan and in an effort to address these questions we will be holding an informational meeting regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan on December 8, 2016 at City Hall in the Commission Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Please share this meeting date and time with anyone that may be interested in attending. To assist in providing information and updates regarding Poppleton Park we have created a City website page as an additional source for information. This page can be found at www.bhamgov.org/poppletonpark.

Also, the information presented during the informational meeting will be made available on the City website, as well as, hard copies available at the meeting and at Department of Public Services office following the meeting. We also plan on placing a notice at the park announcing the informational meeting details.

Thank you again for your interest and input during this process.

Lauren

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

On Fri, Nov 18, 2016 at 10:20 AM, Margaret Kowal <margaret.kowal@me.com> wrote:
Dear Lauren:

I am a 20-year resident of Poppleton Park on Wimbleton Drive. My husband and I bought our house because it is on the park and because of the park being as it is — open, green, unpaved space. We would very much like for the park to remain as it is. After 20 years, I feel that I am a strong representation of our “community”. I believe that our community would like for Poppleton Park to remain largely as it is.

I read your communication to residents of Birmingham, dated November 7, 2016, and it raised a couple questions for me.

First, I do believe that the City of Birmingham has good intentions with its Master Plan for 2012-2016. I also believe that there are two larger and critical questions that need to be considered with regard to the Conceptual Plan:

“How are we defining community?”

“Does the Master Plan truly reflect the wishes of the majority of the ‘community’ on whose behalf the City is considering these improvements?”

I would propose that, if we polled the majority of people who are indeed the fiber of the “community”, we would learn that the ***Conceptual Plan does not represent*** what the “community” truly wants.

I am asking myself the following questions:

- Who generated the Master Plan of 2012-2016?
- Who called for analyzing the athletic fields, parking expansion and updating the playground equipment?
- Who was on the Parks and Recreation Board in September of 2014?
- Who was on the City Commission in September of 2014?
- Who called the joint meeting between the Parks and Recreation Board and the City Commission in September of 2014?

I ask all these questions in order to learn if it is the "community" driving the Master Plan? I look forward to and appreciate that there is a meeting, scheduled for Thursday, December 8, to further involve the community in the Concept Plan for Poppleton Park. I regret that I wasn't aware of earlier opportunities to express what I believe to be the opinion of the majority of our community.

I would ask that the City of Birmingham and our Commissioners please listen to the voice of the community. While it's wonderful that the City has the interest and resources to make improvements to Poppleton Park, I would ask that we revisit some of the details of how we manage and develop our *precious, open, green and unpaved space*.

Respectfully,
Margaret Kowal

Margaret Kowal
248.709.2443
margaret.kowal@me.com

Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>
To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 4:17 PM

Lauren

On this email there are a couple inside the email. Do you want it kept as one or pull out each one that was sent

[Quoted text hidden]

-

Connie J. Folk
City of Birmingham
Recreation Coordinator
2300 East Lincoln
Birmingham, MI 48009
Cfolk@bhamgov.org
248.530.1642 (T)
248.645.6629 (F)



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park Concept Plan

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:55 PM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Rusche <jprusche@aol.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 7, 2016 at 8:06 PM
Subject: RE: Poppleton Park Concept Plan
To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>
Cc: lwood@bhamgov.org

A couple of thoughts. The 14 marked spaces is not nearly the capacity of the parking lot. You can park on the curve and on at least one side of the drive. 25 or 30 is closer to the real number. Plus parking on just the west side of Oxford adds another 30-35 parking spaces.

If the 88 parking spaces move forward, without cutting the trees along Woodward, can there be parking time limits without meters to discourage the all-day workers. Also can it be restricted so people don't use it to observe the Woodward drag races. It seems like the perfect place to bring your lounge and a cooler of beer and watch the cars go by.

John Rusche

From: John Rusche [mailto:jprusche@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 7:30 PM
To: 'Joe Valentine' <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>
Cc: lwood@bhamgov.org
Subject: RE: Poppleton Park Concept Plan

Thank you, Joe and Lauren. I uploaded the document to the Poppleton Park FaceBook page.

John Rusche

Sandy Group a Division of GP Strategies

300 East Big Beaver Road | Suite 500 | Troy, MI 48083-1223 USA

Office: [248-729-4665](tel:248-729-4665) | Mobile: [248-219-8114](tel:248-219-8114) | Fax: [248-729-4700](tel:248-729-4700)

E-mail: jrusche@gpstrategies.com

Web: www.sandycorp.com

From: Joe Valentine [<mailto:jvalentine@bhamgov.org>]

Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 6:29 PM

To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Subject: Poppleton Park Concept Plan

Greetings!

Thank you to those that have shared your concerns with the Birmingham City Commission concerning the Poppleton Park concept plan. Your concerns have been received and are appreciated.

In review of some of the concerns expressed, there appears to be some confusion regarding the development of the plan and the considerations for what resulted in the plan. Attached is a communication from Public Services Director, Lauren Wood, providing some additional detail along with some questions and answers concerning the plan for your review.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone you feel may find it of interest. I would also encourage you to share it on any neighborhood Facebook pages or community forums as others may find it of interest as well. Should you have any further questions, please feel free in contacting Ms. Wood for further details.

Again, thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

—

Joseph A. Valentine

City Manager

City of Birmingham

151 Martin Street

Birmingham, MI 48009

[\(248\) 530-1809](tel:248-530-1809) Office Direct

[\(248\) 530-1109](tel:248-530-1109) Fax

jvalentine@bhamgov.org

Twitter: [@JoeValentine151](https://twitter.com/JoeValentine151)

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Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Reckless and Tremendous Traffic Through Poppleton Park Area

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:48 PM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Tue, Nov 15, 2016 at 2:41 PM

Subject: Fwd: Reckless and Tremendous Traffic Through Poppleton Park Area

To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Patty Bordman** <pbordman@bhamgov.org>

Date: Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 9:53 AM

Subject: Fwd: Reckless and Tremendous Traffic Through Poppleton Park Area

To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mel <melissa.burkland@gmail.com>**Date:** November 11, 2016 at 9:33:09 AM EST**To:** rackyhoff@hotmail.com, mnickita@bhamgov.org, pbordman@bhamgov.org, pboutros@bhamgov.org, cdeweese@bhamgov.org, aharris@bhamgov.org, ssherman@bhamgov.org**Subject:** Reckless and Tremendous Traffic Through Poppleton Park Area

Greetings,

I became a resident of South Poppleton Park earlier this year. I have been increasingly frustrated with the reckless drivers in our neighborhood. I noticed that there are signs restricting traffic through our neighborhood (which are terribly inconvenient for the residents). I suspect these signs were placed due to the proximity of where we live to try to keep our children and residents safe. It appears there is a long term issue with drivers using our neighborhood as a route to circumvent rush hour congestion. I have had 2 incidents this fall with my son and his friends being a couple seconds from being hit by a vehicle traveling 20-30 mph in our neighborhood, while

I was outside watching them play. Running and screaming frantically into Ridgedale and Poppleton streets to get a driver to stop their car to avoid killing my son and his friend that are carelessly chasing a missed football catch are frightening memories.

I strongly oppose introducing additional vehicular traffic through my neighborhood, by providing additional parking for a small neighborhood park that can only be accessed through residential streets. There are far too many children at play on bicycles, foot, hoverboards, skateboards, and strollers to safely introduce parking for more vehicles.

I visit Poppleton Park to play with my son on the swing set, take a walk, or play tennis a few times a week. I have only seen the parking lot overflow during a few baseball games. Most residents walk and bike to Poppleton Park. Given the small size, it seems it would be classified as a Neighborhood Park since there is only entrances through residential streets and via cross walk.

Frankly, I am frightened that a child will be injured or killed if additional traffic enters our neighborhood. For the safety of the residents of Poppleton Park, I strongly suggest that there are resources available to restrict vehicular traffic into this neighborhood and to eradicate all on and off-street parking options.

Additionally, we also had a few recent high dollar crimes against residents' personal property, which with more traffic is likely to have a high correlation to exploit this risk as well.

Regards,

Melissa Burkland

815 Ridgedale Avenue

617-388-0051

—
Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

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Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Objections to Proposed Poppleton Park Re-Design

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:51 PM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Thu, Nov 17, 2016 at 8:12 AM

Subject: Fwd: Objections to Proposed Poppleton Park Re-Design

To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mark Nickita** <mnickita@bhamgov.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 16, 2016 at 5:38 PM

Subject: Fwd: Objections to Proposed Poppleton Park Re-Design

To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Mark Nickita

Mayor Pro-Tem

City of Birmingham, MI

"never worry about action- only about inaction"

- Winston Churchill

@MarkNickita on Twitter**Mark Nickita on FB**

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joseph Nelson <joseph.k.nelson@gmail.com>

Date: November 16, 2016 at 5:36:17 PM EST

To: mnickita@bhamgov.org, cdeweese@bhamgov.org, ssherman@bhamgov.org, rackyhoff@hotmail.com, pbordman@bhamgov.org, pboutros@bhamgov.org, aharris@bhamgov.org

Cc: Cassandra Choi Nelson <chippychoi@gmail.com>

Subject: **Objections to Proposed Poppleton Park Re-Design**

Dear Birmingham Mayor and Council Members;

I am writing today as a concerned citizen of the Poppleton Park neighborhood. I saw the rendering of Poppleton Park and recent letter written by Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services, it seems obvious what is best for the residents who live on, near, and enjoy Poppleton Park on a regular basis.

In my case, I moved back to Birmingham after 30 years and bought a house VERY close to the park because it offered a unique local park feel, with lots of open space, and mature trees. It was exactly what I wanted... Distinctly different than Los Angeles, California where we left.

I also feel I paid a premium to live so close to the park when I bought the house in 2015. A premium I feel would evaporate given the proposed changes. To wit:

1. 88 spaces? That is an absurd jump in parking spaces. Poppleton is not a large park.
2. The proposed parking lot off of Woodward will also be a nuisance to the neighborhood on summer nights. Have you ever driven by any of the businesses on Woodward between 13 and 14 mile on a summer night? All of the cruisers hanging out with their cars, drinking, and revving their engines will be brutal. The noise that is currently created from "cruisers" leaving city limits on summer nights is enough to wake up babies, dogs, and sleeping adults – but that will get worse with cruisers peeling out of the parking lot onto Woodward. These are all concerns that need to be addressed for the safety and well-being of Poppleton Park residents.
3. Lastly, the most recent letter by Lauren Wood does not address the reduction of mature trees in Poppleton Park. There is absolutely no way that all of the beautiful trees between Woodward and the park will be able to stay in place with a parking lot. The proposed plan includes the planting of new trees, but that is not the same as beautiful mature trees that have taken 50+ years to grow in size.

There are many more options in making Poppleton Park a more accessible park, such as:

- 1) Increase the size of the current parking lot
- 2) Create a cross walk on the north side of Woodward to connect east and west Birmingham, so families can safely cross at Oak and Woodward

Please listen to what the residents of Poppleton Park want for the future of this park. This park is utilized by us on a daily basis, while your parking plans are for visitors who only visit once or twice a year. The proposed parking lot will have detrimental changes to our every day.

PLEASE SAVE OUR BEAUTIFUL PARK!

Thank you for your consideration,

Joseph and Cassandra Nelson
512 Rivenoak St
Birmingham, MI 48009

—
Joseph A. Valentine
City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009

11/23/2016

City of Birmingham MI Mail - Fwd: Objections to Proposed Poppleton Park Re-Design

(248) 530-1809 Office Direct

(248) 530-1109 Fax

jvalentine@bhamgov.org

Twitter: @JoeValentine151

To get the latest information regarding the City of Birmingham, please sign up for our communication tools by clicking here www.bit.ly/bhamnews.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park meeting Place and Time

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:48 PM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lauren Wood** <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Date: Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 10:02 AM

Subject: Re: Poppleton Park meeting Place and Time

To: Donal O'Leary <doleary703@gmail.com>

Donal,

Thank you for your request of an alternative date for the informational session about the Poppleton Park concept site plan. While we recognize not everyone may be able to attend a particular meeting, we have attempted to schedule this extra informational meeting several weeks out while arranging the schedules for those involved in presenting at this special informational meeting. In doing so, we also had to accommodate this informational meeting prior to the presentation of the concept plan to the City Commission before the end of the year, which is set for December 12th. Therefore, this added informational meeting regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan has been scheduled for December 8, 2016 at City Hall in the Commission Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

While we regret the selected date may not work for all residents, we certainly do want to accommodate those unable to attend and ensure everyone has correct information about the plan to formulate their position for either support, opposition or modification of the concept plan. As a result, the information presented during the informational meeting will be made available on the City website, as well as, hard copies available at the meeting and at Department of Public Services office following the meeting. We also plan on placing a notice at the park announcing the informational meeting details.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

On Wed, Nov 16, 2016 at 9:28 AM, Donal O'Leary <doleary703@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Wood,

I am writing to ask you all to reconsider the day for the community meeting for Poppleton Park. As you know, the proposed changes to our park has generated a lot of controversy, especially among the neighbors of the park which would be most negatively impacted by the proposed changes in parking.

The currently scheduled meeting conflicts with other community activities such as Derby band concert and the Seaholm Night Live. In addition, many of us think it would be much more appropriate to hold this meeting in a venue at which more people could attend. We propose moving the meeting to January 26 @ Derby Middle School where there is ample parking and no school-related activities scheduled which conflict with attendance.

Thank you,
Donal O'Leary
444 Wimbleton Drive



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppelton park meeting schedule

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 3:49 PM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>**Date:** Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 10:04 AM**Subject:** Re: Poppelton park meeting schedule**To:** Lisa Buss <lhenrym@gmail.com>

Hi Lisa,

Thank you for your request of an alternative date for the informational session about the Poppleton Park concept site plan. While we recognize not everyone may be able to attend a particular meeting, we have attempted to schedule this extra informational meeting several weeks out while arranging the schedules for those involved in presenting at this special informational meeting. In doing so, we also had to accommodate this informational meeting prior to the presentation of the concept plan to the City Commission before the end of the year, which is set for December 12th. Therefore, this added informational meeting regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan has been scheduled for December 8, 2016 at City Hall in the Commission Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

While we regret the selected date may not work for all residents, we certainly do want to accommodate those unable to attend and ensure everyone has correct information about the plan to formulate their position for either support, opposition or modification of the concept plan. As a result, the information presented during the informational meeting will be made available on the City website, as well as, hard copies available at the meeting and at Department of Public Services office following the meeting. We also plan on placing a notice at the park announcing the informational meeting details.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

On Wed, Nov 16, 2016 at 11:17 AM, Lisa Buss <lhenrym@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning,

I would like to request that you reschedule the poppleton park concept meeting, currently scheduled for December 8. This date is during the busy holiday season and held at city hall. Parking will be challenging and it may deter some

elderly people from attending. There are also several events scheduled for that evening at derby so many families will not have the opportunity to make their voices heard.

Maybe we can try to reschedule for January 26 at derby middle school where there is easy and ample parking. There doesn't seem to be any events that evening.

I would also like to suggest placing some signage about the meeting at the park and anywhere else in the neighborhood that would spread the word. Many of my neighbors were not aware of the proposed plan at all or the meeting.

Thank you for your support of the community.

Lisa Buss
916 Knox

Jeff Barrett
519 Rivenoak Street
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
248.464.2854
Barrett_Jeffrey@yahoo.com

November 28, 2016

Ms. Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services, and
Birmingham City Commissioners
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
(Sent via electronic-mail, individually)

RE: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

Dear Ms. Wood and Birmingham City Commissioners:

First of all, thank you for reinvesting in the city, the park system, and Poppleton Park. The park system is an important part of our community and is one of the reasons we choose to move to Birmingham and specifically in the Poppleton Park area (we live adjacent to the park at Rivenoak and Oxford).

Regarding the Concept Site Plan for Poppleton Park, the general plan that was presented on October 5, 2016 did capture and take into account the feedback of the neighborhood and community input. However in a couple areas there seems to be a disconnect including the need for a new parking lot constructed within the park and overall use of the existing green space in the northwest portion of the park.

Positives:

- Playground equipment upgrades.
- Baseball field improvements (the field itself is very well maintained by the city) - some improvements around the field are only needed.
- Architectural structure for the recently placed port-a-potty.
- Tree and some pathway and sitting enhancements around the park.

Issue:

The biggest complaint both in the original February 2016 meeting and then again at the October 2016 Concept Site Plan review was parking within Poppleton Park. In February, residents were opposed to constructing a parking lot within the park because of losing green space to a parking lot that was not needed. And the Concept Site Plan shown in October with proposed parking within the park, off of Woodward Avenue, would likely create unintended consequences (congregating in the parking lot unrelated to park use, late evening gathering, speeding and dangerous conditions from parking lot onto Woodward are a few examples).

There is more than sufficient parking along Oxford, Rivenoak, Kennesaw, Mohegan, Wimbleton, and Abbey for any peak use at Poppleton. The existing parking lot is rarely

full except for a handful of softball games, running gatherings, football pickup games, and on Dream Cruise Saturday. The parking lot comparison use in the November 7, 2016 Memo is a misleading assessment of parking needs and does not take in account Booth Park, an example of a high use park with no to little specific parking and which does not hinder the high use and function of the park (attached).

Regarding any parking lot construction within the Poppleton Park footprint, it appears we are putting the "cart before the horse" on the actual need. Please remove the parking plan off of Woodward from the Concept Site Plan. Moving forward with the improvements of playground equipment, pathways, and ball field area first and than determining any real parking needs based on any change in use is the more appropriate and cost conscious approach. And any parking lots costs that would not be needed put towards other needed City improvements.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jeff Barrett

Attachment: Comments on the November 7, 2016 Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan Memo from Lauren Wood.

by Electronic-Mail to:

Lauren Wood, lwood@bhamgov.org

Mayor Mark Nickita, mnickita@bhamgov.org

Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Harris, aharris@bhamgov.org

Commissioner Patty Bordman, pbordman@bhamgov.org

Commissioner Pierre Boutros, pboutros@bhamgov.org

Commissioner Carroll DeWeese, cdeweese@bhamgov.org

Commissioner Rackeline Hoff, rackyhoff@hotmail.com

Commissioner Stuart Sherman, ssherman@bhamgov.org



YTB
Comments on
pg 3+4

Department of Public Services

DATE: November 7, 2016
TO: Birmingham Community Members
FROM: Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services
SUBJECT: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

This communication serves to provide some additional information concerning the concept site plan for Poppleton Park. Following the presentation of the Poppleton Park concept plan to the Parks and Recreation Board, there appears to be some confusion concerning this concept plan. While everyone was invited to attend various public meetings during the development of this concept plan, I know not everyone is available to make the meetings or able to provide initial input during the creation of a very basic concept site plan. In order to help clarify any confusion, I have prepared this communication and welcome anyone to contact me directly to help clarify any parts of the concept plan.

The following is meant to provide some facts about how this process began, where we are and what it all means for Poppleton Park. Let me start off with some background information and then we will move on to some integral questions and answers.

HISTORY

By way of some background, Poppleton Park is a 17.21 acre City property classified as a community park. Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from the community. They may include areas of active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in neighborhood parks. Community parks can be either large in size, but also include smaller parks meant to serve the entire community. The City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2012-2016 has identified Poppleton Park as part of the park improvement plan for a variety of potential updates. In particular, its calls for analyzing the athletic fields, analyzing parking expansion and updating playground equipment at Poppleton Park.

In addition, as the result of a joint meeting of the City Commission and Parks and Recreation Board from September 15, 2014 Poppleton Park was highlighted among others as a priority. As a result, the Parks and Recreation Board worked to prepare a park concept site plan that will assist in the planning for long-term recreational improvements. This will help serve a variety of tasks such as establishing priorities, timelines, budgeting and preparing action plans to address community concerns over the upcoming years.

ONGOING PROCESS

A Poppleton Park Public Workshop was held at the February 2, 2016 Parks and Recreation Board meeting. The media, other interested parties and all Homeowner Association Presidents were sent notifications of all public meetings during this process. The Parks and Recreation Sub-committee reviewed all public input including all expressed ideas for the park and met on site in the park to determine all best interests in the creation of the concept plan. Input from local neighborhoods, residents and park and field users were prevalent during this entire process. The Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan was presented on October 5, 2016 at another Parks and Recreation Board meeting to endorse the concept site plan.

The outcome for the preliminary concept plan was generated based on the Public Workshop held in February, public communications, neighborhood requests, review of parking options and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan were all part of the review to establish a concept site plan for Poppleton Park. A concept site plan is the first step to establish a "wish list" for a particular city park. This then becomes a tool to assist with planning efforts and more public discussions going forward. Another ideal opportunity is to include this document as part of the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan which aids in applying for grants and garnering donations for possible site amenities in the years ahead.

CONCEPT PLAN ELEMENTS

- New and Larger Inclusive Playground Area
- Walking/Jogging Path
- Shelter and Picnic Opportunities
- Added Benches and Social Zones
- Drinking Fountains
- Natural Park Space Improved
- New Green Space/Multi-use Field
- Ballfield improvements, outfield
- New Trees
- "Access drive" to accommodate additional parking needs

↘ Feb. meeting did not discuss parking or entrance from Woodward, as it was noted there were access (deceleration needs) per MBOT that prevented such access. Attendees were happy with such no access allowed.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What is the objective for improving Poppleton Park?

A: As the second largest park classified as a community park, Poppleton Park has not received any significant improvements over the years and specific updates are called out in the current Master Plan. The 17.21 acre park is outdated and falls short on functioning as a community park. The objective through public meetings with the Parks and Recreation Board was to identify the desired upgrades and amenities for improving the park in order to develop a concept plan that can be used for future planning purposes.

most of these are existing amenities +/or would not warrant significant parking. The multi-use area already exists as useable grass open space and is used. CAB

Q: What is a Community Park?

A: Poppleton Park is one of our ten parks under this classification. Community parks contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from the community. They may include areas of active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in neighborhood parks. Community parks can be either large in size, but also include smaller parks meant to serve the entire community.

Q: What additional site amenities warrant more parking on site?

A: A new and larger accessible playground area, two picnic shelters, walking trail, improved ballfield, existing tennis courts, multi-use level play area, sunning berm area, and more seating and conversation areas, as well as, the application of existing standards based on uses and facilities in the park.

Q: How many parking spaces currently exist at the park and why are additional parking spaces being proposed in the concept plan?

A: Today there are 14 lined parking spaces within the park. The number of recommended parking spaces is based on the proposed uses and what recreation facilities are located at the park site. The resource used most often to determine standards for best management practices for area space standards and parking ratios for outdoor recreation facilities is Area Space Standards and Parking Ratios for Outdoor Sport Facilities as outlined in *Time-Saver Standards for Landscape Architecture*. Typically, the rule of thumb is 60 spaces per field. The rationale for this is based on the number of users of a baseball field, including all players, coaches and spectators. This standard along with the additional site amenities being added resulted in the additional estimated spaces being proposed.

On-site parking comparisons between Poppleton and other community parks is as follows:

Park	Acres	# Parking Spaces	Spaces Per Acre
Barnum	9	37	4
Shain	2	50	25
Kenning	21.71	251	11.56
Poppleton	17.21	14	.81
Poppleton Proposed	17.21	102*	6*

* Estimated based on concept plan.

This is an inappropriate + misleading table comparison.

These are more often used for other city uses.

rarely used.

used for BRC, Ice arena dominantly.

Q: What is the proposed impact on trees in the park under the proposed concept plan?

A: Approximately 13 trees may be removed due to their location in the proposed improved multi-use level play area – not along Woodward Avenue. About 90 trees are planned to be added to the park as part of the estimated budget for the concept plan as prepared by M.C. Smith. This would provide a net increase of approximately 77 new trees in the park. beautiful trees.

+ ones in proposed parking. These are likely all mature

If Barnum parking^{lot} was removed + Shain + Kenning are essentially used other than park parking – these parks are still used freely, accessible, + enjoyable.³

→ Booth park is a perfect example – there is little specific parking for the park + is the most used. Could you imagine a parking lot stuck in there! It would be a work.

(# of compact use)

Q: Does the City typically add trees as part of its Park improvement projects?

A: Yes, as an example, the following community park projects received additional trees as part of their respective projects.

Fantastic!

Park	Type of Improvement	Number of trees added
Barnum	New Design	308
Shain	New Design	99
Kenning	Parking Lot Renovation	41
Poppleton	Park Renovation	90*

* Estimated based on concept plan.

Questions?

Should anyone have additional questions concerning the Poppleton Park concept plan, I encourage them to contact me directly at lwood@bhamgov.org or (248) 530-1702 and I would be happy to assist them.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Tue, Nov 29, 2016 at 4:39 PM

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

For Parks Board packet. Thanks!

Lauren Wood
Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **John Rusche** <JPRusche@aol.com>
Date: Tue, Nov 29, 2016 at 4:30 PM
Subject: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan
To: mnickita@bhamgov.org
Cc: lwood@bhamgov.org

Dear Mayor Nickita,

In preparation for our December 8 and 12 meetings I would like to share some additional thoughts. Most neighborhood residents are in favor of the improvements except the idea of removing beautiful, mature trees to create a parking lot for 88 vehicles along Woodward. This parking lot is destined to become a major detriment to the neighborhood, and in all likelihood have a negative impact on property values. At best it will be used as a free parking lot for Birmingham workers. At worst it will become the go-to party place all summer long. It will not enhance our neighborhood park in any way.

Poppleton Park at 17 acres is classified as a community park. Why? From the Birmingham website: community parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve residents within a three mile radius. Our 10 community parks are: Allen and Hunter House, Barnum Park & Ice Rink, Booth Park, Kenning Park, Lincoln Hills Golf Course, Lincoln Hills Dog Park, Poppleton Park, Quarton Lake, Shain Park, Springdale Park and Golf Course. These parks differ greatly in size and function, but they all had pre-existing parking, or ample room to build a parking lot. Paving a parking lot was not a shock to the neighborhood. Barnum was the site of a school built in 1912, with an addition on 1929. Shain and Kenning simply cannot be compared to Poppleton from a usage and parking perspective.

On-site parking for Poppleton Park is very understated in planning documents. There are 14 striped parking spaces near the tennis courts, but there is room for about 35 spaces on the dead-end street leading to the 14 spaces. In addition there are 35 parking spaces on the west side of Oxford nearer to the child play area. (I think there should be no parking on the east side of Oxford.) So there are about 84 parking spaces without paving more green space. That's about 5 per acre.

Park	Acres	# Parking Spaces	Spaces Per Acre
------	-------	------------------	-----------------

Barnum	9	37	4
Shain	2	50	25
Kenning	21.71	251	11.56
Poppleton	17.21	14	.81
Poppleton Proposed	17.21	102*	6*

Best regards,

John Rusche

358 Henley Street

Birmingham, MI 48009

[248-731-7068](tel:248-731-7068)

From: John Rusche [mailto:jprusche@aol.com]

Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2016 10:43 AM

To: mnickita@bhamgov.org

Subject: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

Dear Commissioner Nickita,

Hopefully you will be hearing from many residents of the Poppleton Park neighborhood regarding proposed improvements to our namesake park. Judging from comments on our Facebook Group page, most residents are in favor of the improvements except the idea of removing beautiful, mature trees to create a parking lot for 88 vehicles along Woodward.

We question the need. Adjacent to Poppleton park there are 30-35 parking places on the west side of Oxford. (I think there should be no parking on the east side of Oxford.) I walk or drive on Oxford every day. It is very rare when most of the parking is occupied. And I believe it is rarer still that people are parking on the residential side streets. Removing the trees for parking will ruin the character of the park.

It would provide free all-day parking for Birmingham workers, just a short walk to downtown. Similar to what is happening at the Kroger parking lot.

It would also provide great parking and great views all summer long for what could become the Poppleton Park drag strip.

We would much rather have you spend available resources on a safe crosswalk at Woodward and Oak Blvd. Also do something to make the landscaping on the west side of Woodward, across from Poppleton Park, look more attractive and better kept.

Finally, we would like to see the speed limit on Woodward reduced to 35 mph, as it is in Ferndale. It would greatly improve the sense of safety and walkability of our piece of Woodward. It wouldn't even delay the drivers very much. Without stopping for traffic signals, driving the two miles between 14 Mile and Big Beaver, at 45 mph takes 2 minutes 40 seconds. At 35 mph it takes 3 minutes 25 seconds. 45 seconds longer!



Thank you for the time and energy you give to our community.

Best regards,

John Rusche

358 Henley Street

Birmingham, MI 48009

11/30/2016

City of Birmingham MI Mail - Fwd: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

[248-731-7068](tel:248-731-7068)



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park Concept; No to Woodward access Parking lot & cutting down dozens of trees

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 3:06 PM

To: "Folk, Connie" <cfolk@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>

Did you get this one?

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: 248.530.1702
cell: 248.515.3795

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Valentine** <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Date: Mon, Nov 28, 2016 at 7:54 AM

Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park Concept; No to Woodward access Parking lot & cutting down dozens of trees

To: Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Cc: Stuart Sherman <sshernan@bhamgov.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stuart Sherman** <sshernan@bhamgov.org>

Date: Sun, Nov 27, 2016 at 11:12 PM

Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park Concept; No to Woodward access Parking lot & cutting down dozens of trees

To: Joe Valentine <jvalentine@bhamgov.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Julie Byrne <julie@jbyrneinteriors.com>**Date:** November 27, 2016 at 8:08:21 PM EST**To:** "sshernan@bhamgov.org" <sshernan@bhamgov.org>**Subject: Poppleton Park Concept; No to Woodward access Parking lot & cutting down dozens of trees**

As a longtime resident of Poppleton Park (24) years, we have enjoyed using the park when our 3 boys were young for the playground/ baseball diamond & soccer fields. I have sat on the benches with the shade of the trees and enjoyed the undeveloped natural feel to the park as well as the lack of an access from Woodward which eliminated people who were not local or paying Birmingham taxes and using our park.

This current plan to update the park & spend 1.8 million dollars has shocked me into writing the city commissioners about my feelings on this issue.

With regards to adding more parking spaces, I have had 2 dogs since we have lived here & walk them twice a day past the park & the only times the lot is full is during baseball games & for the dream cruise. I am concerned about a Woodward access that will bring people (especially the cruisers on Fri. & Sat. nights into our neighborhood where they conveniently have a free place to park & as well as a bathroom to use that may get trashed as I have seen a lot of alcohol use whenever these people set up for an evening's entertainment of watching cars on Woodward even when it's not during the dream cruise.

Also you are now adding the cost of paving the bigger lot in the winter, police patrolling it, & maintenance clean up as parking lots get littered.

I feel 66 spaces is to many and needs to be reduced.

I understand your desire to make improvements to the park with the play area, adding drinking fountains, benches, running berm, etc but feel you should have it designed to keep the mature trees that exist already and not incur the expense of removing them & planting more trees.

As our elected officials I hope you will listen to the residents who use the park the most and be aware of our concerns and the need to make some changes to compromise with us when the park gets developed.

Thank you,

Julie Byrne

600 Henley

Julie Byrne

julie@byrneinteriors.com

248- 833- 3825

www.juliebyrneinteriors.com



—
Joseph A. Valentine

11/30/2016

City of Birmingham MI Mail - Fwd: Poppleton Park Concept; No to Woodward access Parking lot & cutting down dozens of trees

City Manager
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 530-1809 Office Direct
(248) 530-1109 Fax
jvalentine@bhamgov.org
Twitter: @JoeValentine151

To get the latest information regarding the City of Birmingham, please sign up for our communication tools by clicking here www.bit.ly/bhamnews.



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Fwd: Poppleton Park Redevelopment concept plan

1 message

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Thu, Dec 1, 2016 at 9:21 AM

To: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Mark Clemence" <mclemence@bhamgov.org>

Date: Dec 1, 2016 8:29 AM

Subject: Fwd: Poppleton Park Redevelopment concept plan

To: "Joe Valentine" <Jvalentine@bhamgov.org>, "Lauren Wood" <Lwood@bhamgov.org>, "Currier, Tim" <TCurrier@bhlaw.us.com>, "Grewe, Scott" <Sgrewe@bhamgov.org>

Cc:

Just an FYI. I received this e-mail.

Mark H. Clemence
Chief of Police
248-530-1875

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lisa Kaminski <lgreenek@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 10:38 PM

Subject: Poppleton Park Redevelopment concept plan

To: mclemence@bhamgov.org, sgrewe@bhamgov.org

Gentlemen -

After enduring a 6-month assault on our neighborhood due to the Big Beaver closure, it appears the City is now planning a "redevelopment" of our sacred Poppleton Park.

In response to the residents' outrage of the "concept plan," the city has scheduled an "informational meeting" on Thursday, Dec 8 @ 6:30 in the city commission room at City Hall. We are expecting a large turnout.

We understand that as city employees, the police department employees probably can not take a position on this concept plan, which includes an 88-space parking lot with an ingress and egress directly off of Woodward Avenue, disrupting the safety and serenity of our park and our neighborhood. However, we, the residents of Poppleton Park neighborhood, would greatly appreciate the presence of police department personnel at this "informational" meeting, as it's obvious this proposed Woodward parking lot will greatly increase the workload of the BPD. Perhaps you will have questions or can offer another opinion and insight on the effect of this development on the neighborhood and surrounding area.

We hope you can attend this meeting on Thursday, Dec 8 @ 6:30 in the City commission room.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kaminski
Henley Street



Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Poppleton Park Concept Plan

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Tue, Nov 8, 2016 at 12:51 PM

To: Therese Quattrocioni-Longe <tquattro@chmfoundation.org>, Art Stevens <art2953@gmail.com>, "Wiebrecht, Bill" <billwiebrecht@wowway.com>, John Meehan <john.meehan@att.net>, Lilly Epstein Stotland <lstotland@vescooil.com>, Ross Kaplan <rkaplan@neumannsmith.com>, ryan countryside <ryan.countryside@gmail.com>
Cc: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Good Afternoon All:

Poppleton Park is continuing to receive a lot of attention since the Board supported the concept plan on October 5, 2016. I have prepared the attached communication to provide some additional detail and to address some questions and answers concerning the plan.

Mr. Valentine has shared this with many individuals who have been expressing concerns with this concept plan. They have been asked to share it with others, place it on neighborhood Facebook pages and even use it in community forums.


If anyone has any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Lauren

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
Department of Public Services
851 S. Eton
Birmingham, MI 48009
office: [248.530.1702](tel:248.530.1702)
cell: [248.515.3795](tel:248.515.3795)

 **Poppleton Park Concept Plan Review (5).pdf**
36K

Communication/Discussion Item #1b



DATE: November 7, 2016
TO: Birmingham Community Members
FROM: Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services
SUBJECT: Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan

This communication serves to provide some additional information concerning the concept site plan for Poppleton Park. Following the presentation of the Poppleton Park concept plan to the Parks and Recreation Board, there appears to be some confusion concerning this concept plan. While everyone was invited to attend various public meetings during the development of this concept plan, I know not everyone is available to make the meetings or able to provide initial input during the creation of a very basic concept site plan. In order to help clarify any confusion, I have prepared this communication and welcome anyone to contact me directly to help clarify any parts of the concept plan.

The following is meant to provide some facts about how this process began, where we are and what it all means for Poppleton Park. Let me start off with some background information and then we will move on to some integral questions and answers.

HISTORY

By way of some background, Poppleton Park is a 17.21 acre City property classified as a community park. Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from the community. They may include areas of active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in neighborhood parks. Community parks can be either large in size, but also include smaller parks meant to serve the entire community. The City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2012-2016 has identified Poppleton Park as part of the park improvement plan for a variety of potential updates. In particular, it calls for analyzing the athletic fields, analyzing parking expansion and updating playground equipment at Poppleton Park.

In addition, as the result of a joint meeting of the City Commission and Parks and Recreation Board from September 15, 2014 Poppleton Park was highlighted among others as a priority. As a result, the Parks and Recreation Board worked to prepare a park concept site plan that will assist in the planning for long-term recreational improvements. This will help serve a variety of tasks such as establishing priorities, timelines, budgeting and preparing action plans to address community concerns over the upcoming years.

ONGOING PROCESS

A Poppleton Park Public Workshop was held at the February 2, 2016 Parks and Recreation Board meeting. The media, other interested parties and all Homeowner Association Presidents were sent notifications of all public meetings during this process. The Parks and Recreation Sub-committee reviewed all public input including all expressed ideas for the park and met on site in the park to determine all best interests in the creation of the concept plan. Input from local neighborhoods, residents and park and field users were prevalent during this entire process. The Poppleton Park Concept Site Plan was presented on October 5, 2016 at another Parks and Recreation Board meeting to endorse the concept site plan.

The outcome for the preliminary concept plan was generated based on the Public Workshop held in February, public communications, neighborhood requests, review of parking options and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan were all part of the review to establish a concept site plan for Poppleton Park. A concept site plan is the first step to establish a "wish list" for a particular city park. This then becomes a tool to assist with planning efforts and more public discussions going forward. Another ideal opportunity is to include this document as part of the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan which aids in applying for grants and garnering donations for possible site amenities in the years ahead.

CONCEPT PLAN ELEMENTS

New and Larger Inclusive Playground Area
Walking/Jogging Path
Shelter and Picnic Opportunities
Added Benches and Social Zones
Drinking Fountains
Natural Park Space Improved
New Green Space/Multi-use Field
Ballfield improvements, outfield
New Trees
"Access drive" to accommodate additional parking needs

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What is the objective for improving Poppleton Park?

A: As the second largest park classified as a community park, Poppleton Park has not received any significant improvements over the years and specific updates are called out in the current Master Plan. The 17.21 acre park is outdated and falls short on functioning as a community park. The objective through public meetings with the Parks and Recreation Board was to identify the desired upgrades and amenities for improving the park in order to develop a concept plan that can be used for future planning purposes.

Q: What is a Community Park?

A: Poppleton Park is one of our ten parks under this classification. Community parks contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from the community. They may include areas of active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in neighborhood parks. Community parks can be either large in size, but also include smaller parks meant to serve the entire community.

Q: What additional site amenities warrant more parking on site?

A: A new and larger accessible playground area, two picnic shelters, walking trail, improved ballfield, existing tennis courts, multi-use level play area, sunning berm area, and more seating and conversation areas, as well as, the application of existing standards based on uses and facilities in the park.

Q: How many parking spaces currently exist at the park and why are additional parking spaces being proposed in the concept plan?

A: Today there are 14 lined parking spaces within the park. The number of recommended parking spaces is based on the proposed uses and what recreation facilities are located at the park site. The resource used most often to determine standards for best management practices for area space standards and parking ratios for outdoor recreation facilities is Area Space Standards and Parking Ratios for Outdoor Sport Facilities as outlined in *Time-Saver Standards for Landscape Architecture*. Typically, the rule of thumb is 60 spaces per field. The rationale for this is based on the number of users of a baseball field, including all players, coaches and spectators. This standard along with the additional site amenities being added resulted in the additional estimated spaces being proposed.

On-site parking comparisons between Poppleton and other community parks is as follows:

Park	Acres	# Parking Spaces	Spaces Per Acre
Barnum	9	37	4
Shain	2	50	25
Kenning	21.71	251	11.56
Poppleton	17.21	14	.81
Poppleton Proposed	17.21	102*	6*

* Estimated based on concept plan.

Q: What is the proposed impact on trees in the park under the proposed concept plan?

A: Approximately 13 trees may be removed due to their location in the proposed improved multi-use level play area – not along Woodward Avenue. About 90 trees are planned to be added to the park as part of the estimated budget for the concept plan as prepared by M.C. Smith. This would provide a net increase of approximately 77 new trees in the park.

Q: Does the City typically add trees as part of its Park improvement projects?

A: Yes, as an example, the following community park projects received additional trees as part of their respective projects.

Park	Type of Improvement	Number of trees added
Barnum	New Design	308
Shain	New Design	99
Kenning	Parking Lot Renovation	41
Poppleton	Park Renovation	90*

* Estimated based on concept plan.

Questions?

Should anyone have additional questions concerning the Poppleton Park concept plan, I encourage them to contact me directly at lwood@bhamgov.org or (248) 530-1702 and I would be happy to assist them.

Residents: Don't pave Poppleton Park for a parking lot

[Jay Grossman](#), [hometownlife.com](#) 2:22 p.m. EDT October 28, 2016



(Photo: Junfu Han | staff photographer)

Rose Bolyard loves Poppleton Park so much, she named her dog Poppy.

“Our backyard bumps up right to the park at the north end,” Bolyard said. “We’re out there practically every day.”

Bolyard and a number of her Birmingham neighbors are raising concerns over a proposed master plan for the community park that calls for cutting down a number of mature trees on the west end of Poppleton to make room for a parking lot off Woodward Avenue.

“Adding 86 parking spots will alter the peaceful nature of the park,” she said. “Poppleton serves as a buffer to Woodward and it’s a habitat to tons of wildlife ... one day over the summer, we saw a six-point buck walking down our sidewalk.”

Therese Longe, chair of the city’s parks and recreation board, said the proposal is only a conceptual plan and that there’s plenty of room for suggestions and changes before it goes before the city commission for approval. The park is located on the east side of Woodward, about a half-mile north of Maple Road.

The parks board held a Poppleton Park public workshop last February to gather input for improvements. The concept plan was unveiled to the public at the board’s Oct. 5 meeting. No date has been set yet for when it goes before the commission for review.

Longe said at this point, the proposal is essentially a “wish list” that preserves the current softball fields, improves park drainage issues and replaces the current dated play structures with an accessible playground where special-needs children could play.

The concept plan also features new trees, benches, picnic shelters and drinking fountains. Plus, it adds some pathways throughout the park to allow residents with strollers, wheelchairs and balance issues easier access to the interior of the park.

“Poppleton Park is classified as a community park, meaning it is meant to serve the entire community, not just the immediate neighbors,” Longe said. “We’ve recently improved and updated several other community parks, including Barnum Park, Booth Park and Quarton Lake Park. We think that Poppleton Park, which is significantly underutilized, could be improved upon.”

The commission, in fact, just accepted Thursday a master plan for Adams Park.

“We’re always looking to improve the amenities offered in the city of Birmingham, both in our parks and in our neighborhoods,” Commissioner Stuart Sherman said after the meeting. “Our residents in Birmingham tell us how much they value the parks here and how it improve the quality of life.”

'The trees, the trees'

Part of the concept plan calls for the removal of approximately a dozen mature trees off Woodward to make room for more parking. Longe said a consultant from the Michigan Department of Transportation reviewed the park plan and stated Poppleton has a “significant shortage of parking spaces,” forcing people to park on neighborhood side streets for softball games and other occasions.

The 17-acre park currently has 14 parking spaces and one handicapped spot.



Residents living around Poppleton Park say they're concerned about cutting down a number of mature trees for a parking lot. (Photo: Junfu Han | Staff Photographer)

"It provides much-needed additional parking without impacting the neighborhood and doesn't sacrifice green space in the interior of the park," Longe said of the proposal. "This solution means residents wouldn't need to drive through the neighborhood to get to the park and will eliminate the need to park on neighborhood streets."

Anne Kuhnle doesn't buy it. She'd rather see trees over parking spaces.

"I've never seen the parking lot full," said Kuhnle, who visits the park often with her grandchildren. "And the people who use the park the most are people with young children and they're using the play area ... they are never going to park on Woodward and walk the entire park."

Matt Sullivan disagrees. He favors adding parking near Woodward rather than adding more parking spaces on the neighborhood end of the park.

"I looked at some of the other parks the city has improved over the years – especially Booth and Shain and Barnum – and I was really impressed with what Birmingham had done with these three parks," he said. "I think the city has a proven track record when it comes to park improvements."

Sullivan likes the idea of pedestrian pathways and believes improving the playground area will attract more visitors.

"I'm in Poppleton three, four times a week and I'm often the only person in the park," he said. "The park is definitely due for an upgrade."

At the same time, he believes adding 30-40 additional spaces would serve the public, without creating a huge disruption to layout of the park.

"I'm a tree lover and I would want to see as many saved as possible," he said. "I think they have a lot of space to build without having to sacrifice too many trees."

DPS Director Lauren Wood said M.C. Smith Associates & Architectural Group, the consultants hired to redesign Poppleton, provided preliminary construction estimates that peg the cost of the improvements at around \$1.8 million.

Wood said it took several months before the Adams Park plan went from the parks board to the commission and she anticipates Poppleton will follow the same time line.

"This is a wish list derived out of public community input," she said. "And while it is a concept plan, it's also a catalyst to help the city obtain grants and donations for future projects."



Poppy runs with her ball at Poppleton Park in Birmingham. (Photo: Junfu Han | Staff Photographer)

Bolyard, on the other hand, said her neighborhood already deals with the annual Woodward Dream Cruise that seems to extend to the entire summer. She's worried a parking lot off Woodward will just add to the noise.

"I can say without a doubt a large majority of my neighbors do not like this plan," she said. "There are many other projects in Birmingham that could probably use these funds."

jgrossman@hometownlife.com

586-826-7030

Twitter: @BhmEccentric

Read or Share this story: <http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/local/birmingham/2016/10/28/residents-dont-pave-poppleton-park-parking-lot/92889142/>

Poppleton Park meeting set for Thursday

Jay Grossman, hometownlife.com

3:48 p.m. EST November 30, 2016



(Photo: Junfu Han/Staff
Photographer)

Birmingham residents interested in learning about a proposed concept plan for Poppleton Park can attend an informational meeting set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at the city offices at 151 Martin Street.

DPS Director Lauren Wood is hoping for a good turnout.

"I just think it would be helpful for people to understand how we came up with the concept plan, and why we went in certain directions," she said Wednesday. "Like every other conceptual plan, some items might get addressed and others might not."

The 17-acre park is located on the east side of Woodward Avenue, north of Maple Road. The plan calls for adding 90 new trees, including new play equipment and a walking path. The proposal also include a new parking lot off Woodward Avenue.

"Adding the parking lot was a direct result of public input and neighborhood reactions over the years to traffic in the neighborhood and parking along the residential streets," Wood said. "The suggested 88 parking spaces provides a maximum amount to address these concerns over the years. There certainly could be less spaces when a final plan is determined."

Currently, the park has 14 parking spaces and one spot designated for handicapped parking.

Wood has led the city through several master planning processes involving other community parks. She believes Birmingham has a pretty good track record when it comes to providing amenities for the taxpayers. Preliminary construction estimates for Poppleton improvements are pegged at about \$1.8 million.

"There have already been two public meetings held to create the concept plan," she said. "This informational meeting is an added opportunity to help provide more details and answer questions."

No action will be taken at the meeting, and Wood said she plans on taking questions after the presentation. More information about the park plan is available at www.bhamgov.org/poppletonpark (<http://www.bhamgov.org/poppletonpark>).

jgrossman@hometownlife.com

586-826-7030

Twitter: @BhmEccentric

Read or Share this story: <http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/2016/11/30/poppleton-park-meeting-set-thursday/94682808/>



Source: Downtown Newsmagazine | Birmingham/Bloomfield/Rochester

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Parking to be expanded at Poppleton Park

by Lisa Brody

November 04, 2016

A preliminary concept plan to enhance and improve Poppleton Park in Birmingham would enlarge and update the play area, add pavilions, picnic areas, walking paths, seating areas, additional trees, as well as 88 more parking spaces along Woodward, preventing any incursion into the neighborhood, said Lauren Wood, director of public services.

In the past year, the Birmingham Parks and Recreation board was charged by the city commission to look at both Poppleton and Adams parks for conceptual work, with each having neighborhood meetings. A conceptual site plan was approved for Adams Park on Thursday, October 27, by the city commission.

Wood said the conceptual site plan for Poppleton Park, located off Woodward about a half-mile north of Maple, was created by MC Smith of E. Grand Rapids and was endorsed by the parks and recreation board at their October meeting but is still being fine tuned and will go before the city commission at a future date.

Workshops to determine the future of Poppleton Park began in February with information gathering. "A subcommittee was established, looking at what everyone was interested in," Wood said. "It was throwing everything into the pot to get everyone happy, because it is a community project."

Poppleton Park is a 17-acre park that currently has an outdated playground, two municipal tennis courts, a ball field, open space and 14 parking spaces along Rivenoak. "One of the challenges pointed out by the meetings was that one of the priorities was to evaluate parking and to relieve traffic on neighborhood streets," Wood said, noting that residents of the Poppleton neighborhood were concerned about traffic and congestion. "That was the catalyst."

The preliminary concept plan recommends an enhanced, universal, inclusive play system; a walking path; benches and seating areas; drinking fountains; two pavilions with picnic areas; maintenance of the tennis courts and improvement of the ball field; new trees; maintenance of green space; and the addition of 88 proposed parking spaces along the interior of Woodward, in a berm area, without the removal of any trees.

"The impact (of the parking spaces) is very minimal. We carved out where parking would go," Wood said.

A few residents have complained since the proposal was approved at the parks and recreation meeting, objecting to the major addition of the parking spaces and expressing concern about removal of trees.

"It's just a proposal; it's just a concept," Wood emphasized. "It has the least impact to the park, and it would not lose trees, and it would not remove open space – which was why this location was chosen."

She said that 13 trees total would be removed from the park, "but I have so many more trees going in. It's the best of both worlds. It's dressing up what's there. Nature will be preserved."



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(<http://patch.com/michigan/birmingham/s/fy4ku/3-steps-to-get-your-home-ready-for-the-holidays-and-what-it-ll-cost>)

Community Corner (/michigan/birmingham/around-town)

Poppleton Park Development Debate Is Pitting Neighbors Against City Of Birmingham

The city says the park needs some TLC. The neighbors worry the park will turn into a "Dream Cruise."

By Mera McKenna (Patch Staff) - (<http://patch.com/users/mera-mckenna>) November 21, 2016 4:47 pm ET
(<http://my.patch.com/article/26794602/edit>)

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BIRMINGHAM, MI — The future of Poppleton Park is a hot button issue and it's pitting neighbors against the city. Poppleton-area residents consider the park a neighborhood treasure that should largely remain untouched. Meanwhile, the city of Birmingham considers Poppleton a community park in need of some park TLC.

The brouhaha stems from the city's recently released concept site plan, which calls for a litany of improvements for the 17 acre park. Including more parking, trees, a covered picnic area, bathrooms, a bigger play area, a new walking trail and an improved ball field area.

"We were blindsided," Lisa Greene Kaminski told Patch. Kaminski, an 18 year resident of Birmingham, is at the forefront of the Poppleton Park neighborhood group, which has started a letter writing campaign to Birmingham City Hall in hopes of altering the proposed concept site plan.

She continued, "I'm not trying to put the city in a bad light. I'm trying to explain where we are in the process. The city had a meeting in October and there was no public notification. No notices sent out. No signage. You have to stalk the webpage to find out what's going on. The plan was already so far along and had been approved by Parks and Rec. We're not against better play equipment or better drainage. What we're all against is a Woodward access parking lot and a covered picnic pavilion. We feel that it is going to turn into a permanent Dream Cruise hang-out. There's going to be loitering, trash, noise. We don't want it to turn into a rest area."

The proposed plan calls for 88 additional parking spaces. Where did that figure come from? According to the city's website, the rule of thumb is 60 spaces per field to provide parking for players, coaches and spectators. In addition to the spots needed for other people at the park who are there playing tennis, at the play ground or walking in the park. Poppleton Park currently has 14 spaces.

Kaminski reveals it wasn't just the size of the lot that has many Poppleton Park residents worried. The neighborhood also was reportedly against the proposed parking lot one day turning into an RTA parking lot. The RTA millage, which was voted down in a razor thin margin this past election day, would have brought mass transportation to Metro Detroit and connected Washtenaw, Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties for the first time in history. Kaminski says, "There were concerns about the RTA that just went down. Are they going to put a stop there? We didn't know but we thought it might so we voted against it. Once it's a parking lot, what's to stop them from turning it into a parking lot for the RTA?"



SEE: Supermodel Cindy Crawford Selling \$60M Malibu Estate
(<http://patch.com/michigan/birmingham/s/fy8bg/see-supermodel-cindy-crawford-selling-60m-malibu-estate>)

The property is currently the most expensive listing in Malibu, even for the ultra-posh beachside town.

To be clear, the city has never mentioned the possibility that the Poppleton Park proposed parking expansion could one day become an RTA parking lot.

The neighborhood also has concerns over the decision-making behind Birmingham's spending rationale. Kaminski says, "We can't get a crosswalk but we can get an 88 spot parking lot? We'd like to have a crosswalk by Tim Horton's because we all like to go to the farmer's market and go into town and go out to eat but parking there is a premium. Kids in our neighborhood go to Holy Name Catholic School and they can't bike or walk there because we can't cross

safely. They're going to spend \$1.8 million for the new park and put an eight foot wide walking path which will run up alongside all of the houses of people that live along the park. We have so many miles of sidewalk in the city. Why do we have to have paved walkways?"

So, what's the next step for Poppleton Park? Kaminski and her neighbors hope to work with city hall to create a plan that works for everyone. The next meeting about Poppleton Park is scheduled for Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Birmingham City Hall Commission Room. Kaminski has reached out to city hall to change the venue however, explaining "The room at city hall holds 100 people. At that time of year we've got the Santa house, the holiday tree, the restaurants are busy. There's not going to be enough parking for all of the people who want to go to the meeting."

Patch has reached out to the city for a comment. We will keep you posted about developments and if the meeting location changes.

Photo by Mera McKenna/Patch

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Community Corner (/michigan/birmingham/around-town)

Poppleton Park: The City Answers Hot Button Concept Site Plan Questions

Lauren Wood, Director of Public Service, addressed the biggest questions surrounding the park's concept site plan.

By Mera McKenna (Patch Staff) - (<http://patch.com/users/mera-mckenna>) November 23, 2016 12:44 pm ET
(<http://my.patch.com/article/26798235/edit>)

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BIRMINGHAM, MI — A lot of information and potentially misinformation has been swirling around Birmingham from the moment the Poppleton Park concept site plan was released, which includes extra parking, a covered picnic area, bathrooms, a bigger play area and a new walking trail. There have been concerns that Poppleton Park could become a Regional Transit Authority stop, allegations that neighbors weren't notified about the plan, and debate over whether the park is a neighborhood park or a community park.

Lauren Wood, Director of Public Service for the city of Birmingham, separated fact from fiction about these hot button issues in an exclusive interview with Patch.

Patch: Some residents [reportedly \(http://patch.com/michigan/birmingham/poppleton-park-development-debate-pitting-neighbors-against-city-birmingham\)](http://patch.com/michigan/birmingham/poppleton-park-development-debate-pitting-neighbors-against-city-birmingham) have not received any notification about the park's development. How is Birmingham notifying residents about the Poppleton Park concept plan?

LW: "Parks and Recreation Board meetings are always public meetings and noticed at the meeting location, on our website and we email notifications directly to individuals that sign up for our electronic notification system. Plus, we go the extra step to mail out notice announcements to all Neighborhood Association Presidents about the meeting dates. One other item we are very mindful of is trying to reach the person not on electronic media. All agendas are posted at all public buildings, too. We use print media in these cases as well to promote the meetings."

Patch: A resident voiced concern that the proposed parking lot in Poppleton Park could become a parking lot for a future Regional Transit Authority stop. Is that a possibility?

LW: "This item has not been raised nor introduced during any of the concept plan process and was not contemplated as part of the plan. This was initiated by individual members of the public only after the concept plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Board."



SEE: Supermodel Cindy Crawford Selling \$60M Malibu Estate
(<http://patch.com/michigan/birmingham/s/fy8bg/see-supermodel-cindy-crawford-selling-60m-malibu-estate>)

The property is currently the most expensive listing in Malibu, even for the ultra-posh beachside town.

Patch: Who created the concept plan? Was it a mix of architects/officials?

LW: "M. C. Smith Associates and Architectural Group, Inc. provided professional services in connection with the preparation of the site concept plan for Poppleton Park. The outcome for the preliminary concept plan was generated based on the Public Workshop held in February, public communications, neighborhood requests, review of parking options and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan were all part of the review to establish a concept site plan for Poppleton Park. A concept site plan is the first step to establish a "wish list" for a particular city park. This then becomes a tool to assist with planning efforts and more public discussions going forward."

Patch: Technically, is Poppleton Park classified as a "community" park and not a "neighborhood" park?

LW: "Poppleton Park is one of our ten parks under this classification. Community parks contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from the community. They may include areas of active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in neighborhood parks. Community parks can be either large in size, but also include smaller parks meant to serve the entire community."

The next meeting regarding Poppleton Park is Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Birmingham City Hall Commission Room (151 Martin St., Birmingham). Patch will keep you posted on the latest developments.

Photo by Mera McKenna/Patch

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Nov 23
Birmingham
Tree Lighting



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(<http://patch.com/michigan/birmingham/calendar/event/20161123/64560/birmingham-tree-lighting>)

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Connie Folk <cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Upcoming Meeting Dates - Poppleton Park Concept Plan

Lauren Wood <lwood@bhamgov.org>

Wed, Nov 23, 2016 at 11:54 AM

To: "Longes, The" <tmquattro@gmail.com>, Art Stevens <art2953@gmail.com>, "Wiebrecht, Bill" <billwiebrecht@wowway.com>, John Meehan <john.meehan@att.net>, Ross Kaplan <rkaplan@neumannsmith.com>, ryan countryside <ryan.countryside@gmail.com>, Lilly Epstein Stotland <lstotland@vescooil.com>
Cc: "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>

Good Morning,

Just wanted to make you aware in advance of our next Parks and Recreation Board meeting some upcoming meeting dates recently scheduled. An informational meeting is set for **December 8th in the Commission Room at 6:30 PM** for interested persons to garner more information about the concept plan.

Following this on **December 12th** the Poppleton Park concept plan will be presented to the City Commission at their meeting which begins at **7:30 PM at City Hall**.

I had a webpage set up for Poppleton Park for us to keep the public informed and updated on this project. Go to www.bhamgov.org/poppletonpark for more details.

Attached is a document written to help clarify and answer questions from the public about the concept plan.

Also, below find a reply I have been using for all of the emails received from residents being sent to the City Commissioners, Joe Valentine and me about the Poppleton Park concept plan.

Thank you for your request of an alternative date for the informational session about the Poppleton Park concept site plan. While we recognize not everyone may be able to attend a particular meeting, we have attempted to schedule this extra informational meeting several weeks out while arranging the schedules for those involved in presenting at this special informational meeting. In doing so, we also had to accommodate this informational meeting prior to the presentation of the concept plan to the City Commission before the end of the year, which is set for December 12th. Therefore, this added informational meeting regarding the Poppleton Park concept plan has been scheduled for December 8, 2016 at City Hall in the Commission Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

While we regret the selected date may not work for all residents, we certainly do want to accommodate those unable to attend and ensure everyone has correct information about the plan to formulate their position for either support, opposition or modification of the concept plan. As a result, the information presented during the informational meeting will be made available on the City website, as well as, hard copies available at the meeting and at Department of Public Services office following the meeting. We also plan on placing a notice at the park announcing the informational meeting details.

Finally, Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Lauren Wood

Director of Public Services

City of Birmingham
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Communication/Discussion Item #2

Poppleton Park Concept Plan Review Final.pdf

11/23/2016

City of Birmingham MI Mail - Upcoming Meeting Dates - Poppleton Park Concept Plan

 55K



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: November 28, 2016
TO: Parks and Recreation Board Members
FROM: Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: Capital Projects for 2017-2018 - Proposed

As part of the budget process, the Department of Public Services submits proposed budget requests for the upcoming fiscal years to the City Manager. These are recommended expenditures and may not become part of the final budget. The Capital Improvement Project items for budget years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 are listed below. These are items over and above regular department operational expenditures.

2017-2018

\$517,200 Adams Park Improvements, including Professional Fees
\$250,000 Rouge River Trail Improvements
\$35,000 Park Field Improvements (Barnum-Open Space and Ballfield)
\$25,000 Drinking Fountains - Parks
\$35,000 Benches/Trash Receptacles/Bike Racks for Downtown Streetscape

2018-2019

\$30,000 New Backstop Fencing St. James
\$250,000 Rouge River Trail Improvements
\$35,000 Benches/Trash Receptacles/Bike Racks for Downtown Streetscapes
\$25,000 Drinking Fountains - Parks

Golf Report - November 2016

History of Rounds - Calendar Years 2012-2016

MONTH	2012			2013			2014			2015			2016		
	LH	SD	Total	LH	SD	Total	LH	SD	Total	LH	SD	Total	LH	SD	Total
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	405	1,572	1,977	0	292	292	0	0	0	0	0	0	321	0	321
April	2,420	2,591	5,011	1,573	2,260	3,833	3,705	652	4,357	3,087	1,713	4,800	2,389	1,616	4,005
May	4,433	4,129	8,562	4,314	3,797	8,111	4,393	3,493	7,886	4,892	4,293	9,185	5,461	3,898	9,359
June	5,206	4,522	9,728	5,774	4,406	10,180	5,330	4,216	9,546	5,556	4,268	9,824	5,591	4,269	9,860
July	4,707	4,651	9,358	5,098	4,286	9,384	5,139	4,636	9,775	5,718	5,218	10,936	5,784	4,855	10,639
August	4,128	4,449	8,577	5,195	4,695	9,890	4,376	4,084	8,460	4,408	4,403	8,811	4,273	3,873	8,146
September	3,145	3,071	6,216	3,019	3,154	6,173	3,074	2,746	5,820	3,411	3,059	6,470	3,163	2,696	5,859
October	796	2,495	3,291	2,795	1,779	4,574	915	2,493	3,408	2,666	908	3,574	2,037	1,990	4,027
November	0	1,104	1,104	576	0	576	33	675	708	1,489	0	1,489	2	1,097	1,099
December	0	412	412	53	0	53	0	124	124	514	0	514	0	0	0
TOTALS	25,240	28,996	54,236	28,397	24,669	53,066	26,965	23,119	50,084	31,741	23,862	55,603	29,021	24,294	53,315

NOTE: Nov Rounds are through Nov 15th

2016 Membership Analysis

MEMBERSHIPS	YTD Nov 2016		CY 2015		CY 2014		CY 2013		CY 2012		CY 2011	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Business	109	12.56%	109	12.73%	102	13.42%	99	13.20%	101	13.56%	84	14.81%
Non-Resident - Individual	465	53.57%	475	55.49%	406	53.42%	401	53.47%	398	53.42%	343	60.49%
Non-Resident - Dual	209	24.08%	194	22.66%	175	23.03%	185	24.67%	186	24.97%	111	19.58%
Non-Resident - Family	85	9.79%	78	9.11%	77	10.13%	65	8.67%	60	8.05%	29	5.11%
Total	868	100.00%	856	100.00%	760	100.00%	750	100.00%	745	100.00%	567	100.00%

RESIDENT MEMBERSHIPS	YTD Nov 2016		CY 2015		CY 2014		CY 2013		CY 2012		CY 2011	
	#		#		#		#		#		#	
Resident	1,874		2,090		1,733		2,007		1,843		1,244	

YTD 2016 and YTD 2015 Revenue Comparisons

REVENUES	SALES		SALES		DIFFERENCE
	YTD Nov 15, 2016		YTD Nov 15, 2015		
Greens Fee	\$577,584	68.57%	\$600,069	69.61%	(\$22,485)
Cart Fee	\$183,139	21.74%	\$177,865	20.63%	\$5,274
Food & Beverage	\$41,058	4.87%	\$47,923	5.56%	(\$6,865)
Beer	\$39,006	4.63%	\$34,826	4.04%	\$4,180
Wine	\$1,536	0.18%	\$1,386	0.16%	\$149
Total	\$842,322	100.00%	\$862,069	100.00%	(19,747)

City of Birmingham

Parks & Recreation Board

Proposed pickleball facilities in Birmingham

Enclosed proposal.

Oz Forrester 248 990 2387 linozfor@att.net

Communication/Discussion Item #5

rec'd 11/29/16
1226 pm

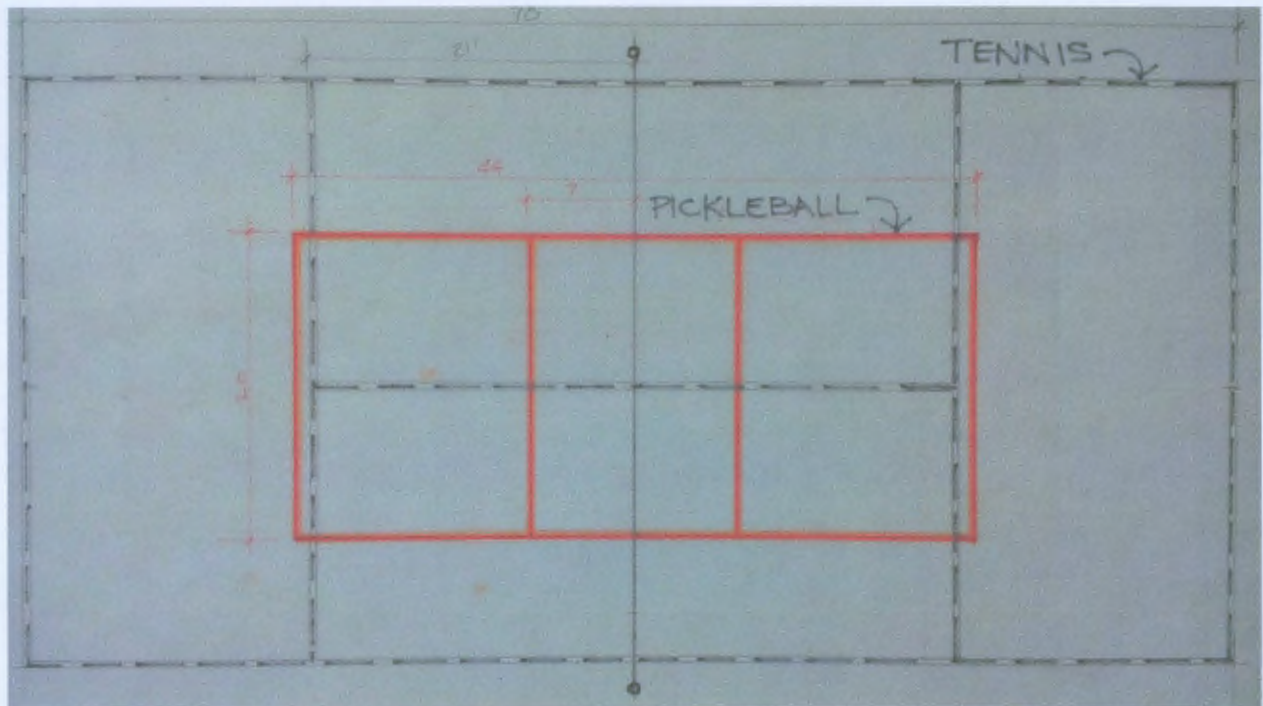
PICKLEBALL in BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham is rich in leisure activity opportunities with a 26 public parks plus Quarton Lake and the woodchip path along the Rouge River. Sport/recreation areas, in addition to school property that is open to the public, include baseball/softball diamonds, Ice Arena, skate park, two 9-hole golf courses, 16 tennis courts, Birmingham Racquet Club, Forest Hills Swim Club, fitness clubs/gyms, NEXT and even a dog park.

.Pickleball is a fast growing racquet sport that combines skills of platform & traditional tennis, played on a 20x44 foot court using a paddle & plastic whiffle ball. Origin of the name is debated! The national pickleball association is USAPA & the local group is SMPA, Southwest Michigan Pickleball Association which started in Royal Oak.

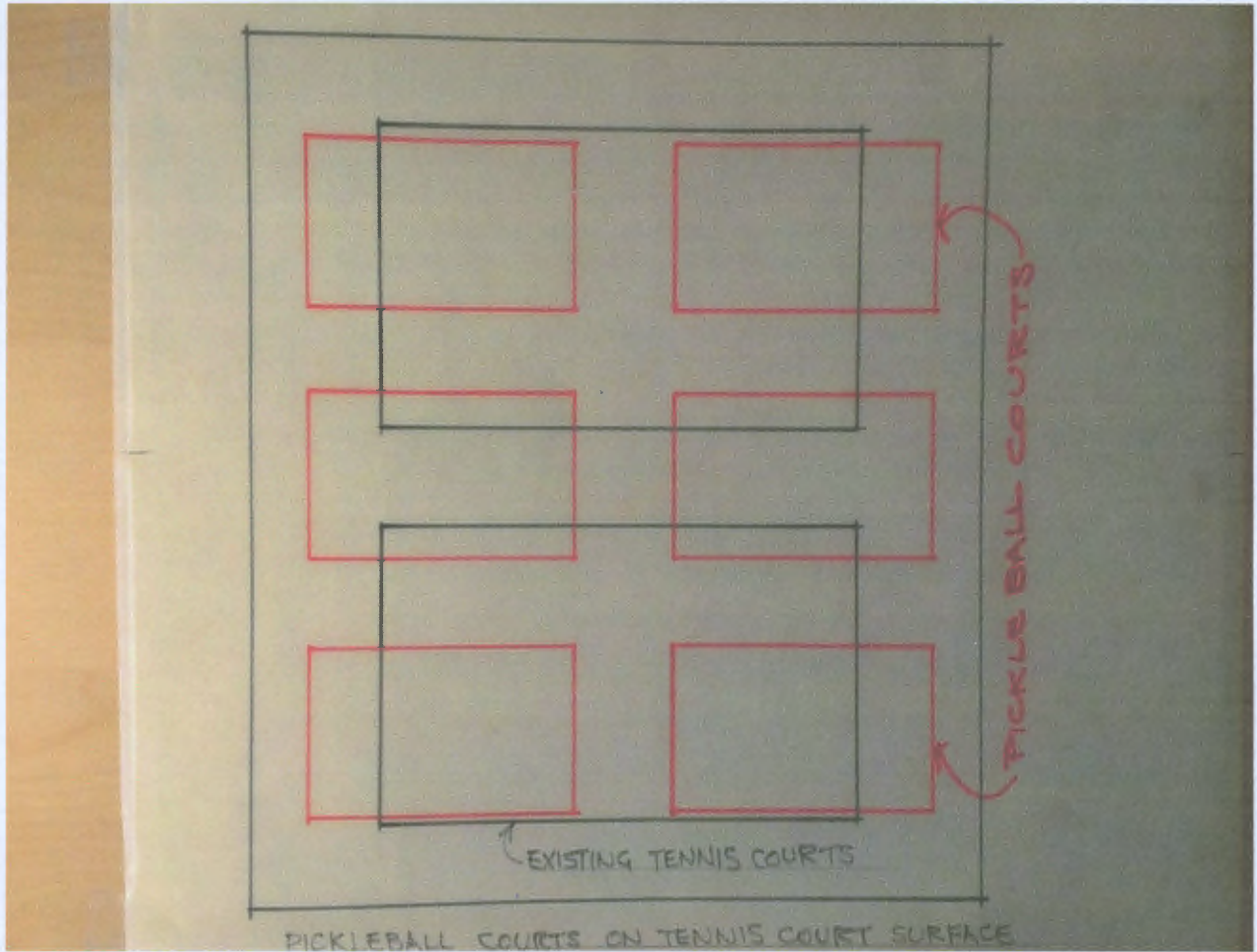
Beverly Hills, Rochester, Troy, Royal Oak & other communities have either or both outdoor & indoor pickleball courts. Birmingham has **one** pickleball court open to the public at NEXT in a gym shared with a grade school so access is limited. The Ice Arena offered courts Jun 1 thru Aug 1. These temporary courts are greatly appreciated, but do not address the need for all-season courts.

The least-cost method for Birmingham to provide pickleball courts is to add painted lines to an existing tennis court. Tennis nets are higher than pickleball nets, but are still playable. Extra lines may be a distraction to players of both sports. See illustration.



Pickleball lines on a tennis court.

Another option is to convert an existing 2-court tennis surface into a 6-court pickleball venue. Remove tennis nets, paint over lines on playing surface, add pickleball lines, posts & nets. Tennis net-posts can remain & may be used to support a low fence that separates pickleball courts. Exterior fencing is same for both tennis & pickleball. This conversion will permit a potential of 24 pickleball players v 8 for tennis. See illustration.



Pickleball courts on tennis surface.

New pickleball court venues can be built adjacent to existing tennis courts. As shown on previous illustration, a surface & fenced area same as a 2-court tennis venue is sufficient for 6 pickleball courts. Potential sites adjacent to existing tennis courts are Crestview Park at Southfield & Southlawn & Kenning Park each of which have sufficient parking.

Multiple courts are needed to accommodate the number of players attracted to the site. Royal Oak has two free 8-court outdoor venues. Play is informal where 10-20 people show-up & play at various times of day & evening. Ladder competition & rated-player events are also held.

An indoor pickleball venue must be considered in the future as more Birmingham residents play the game. It could be a structure attached to the Ice Arena where all other amenities are in place, or something like the Birmingham Racquet Club bubbles or space in an existing building.

Oz Forrester 248 990 2387 linozfor@att.net 11/20/16