

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 1, 2022**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Pam Graham
Ross Kaplan
Anne Lipp
Ellie Noble
John Rusche

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
ABSENT:**

Zachary Miketa, Seaholm High School
Matthew Windsor, Seaholm High School

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

PRESENTER: Tiffany Smith, president, MCSA, Group, Inc.

GUESTS: Jack Burns, Kyle Goulding, Debbie Hormel, Ron Hormel,
Eliza Lipp, Linda Orlans and Joe Orlans

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Carmona, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 11, 2022, regular meeting as submitted.

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

Agenda item #1: Trail Improvements Concept Plan-Public Input Session

Carmona confirmed there is no action required, rather a public input session to receive comments regarding the trail improvement concept plan.

PM Laird introduced Tiffany Smith, president MCSA Group, who reviewed the concept plan assets provided in the Meeting Agenda Packet.

PM Laird began by highlighting that trail improvements were planned for and called out on the project priority list in preparation for the Parks and Recreation Bond. PM Laird stated the goal of tonight's meeting is to get feedback and comments from the public and the board. On Engage Birmingham there is a survey that is available until November 30, 2022. In addition, the concept plan is being reviewed with other city departments, boards and committees.

Carmona added that there was an extensive review during the last Parks and Recreation Board meeting, but concept plan shown does not include feedback from the board.

PM Laird confirmed that this presentation does not include feedback from last month: all feedback will be compiled and redistributed in the next phase.

Tiffany Smith, president, MCSA, Group, Inc. walked through the concept plan which has not been approved.

Booth Park North Corner

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

Museum Trail:

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

Booth to Linden Trail:

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

Carmona opened up discussion with members of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Kaplan asked about the Booth Park section and was there any investigation about not putting the restroom facility centered as the main view into Booth Park.

Smith stated that the further you place the restroom facility in the park the more costly utilities will be.

Kaplan asked about the parking lot proposed in the museum plan. Smith stated that is a single barrier-free parking space. Kaplan confirmed based on the concept plan that one of the lawn waves at Booth Park will be leveled.

Graham had two areas of comments related to sidewalks and trail maintenance. Graham recommends that there be a new sidewalk added along the south side of Willits Street with our own development and the museum property.

3

Graham spoke about the abrupt end of the asphalt trail along Maple Rd. before the safe crossing near Baldwin Road. Graham stated there is a difficult section of the trail connected to Booth Park due to a tree that needs shoring up the area to make it more passible, and the second relates to the end of the trail where it connects to Baldwin Road.

Rusche asked what would be the frequency of cleaning and maintenance for the proposed restroom facility at Booth Park.

PM Laird stated the restroom models under consideration have automatic locking features and frequency of cleaning and maintenance would be daily and with an ongoing cost occurring.

Rusche asked once the plan is approved how the plan could be funded.

ACM Ecker stated that Parks and Recreation Board would recommend the concept plan to the City Commission.

ACM Ecker stated the City Commission would then authorize the funds. In addition to city funding there are several other funding sources that the city could pursue. The engineering department has a sidewalk fund that could potentially be utilized for adding sidewalks along the museum property. The concept plan will also be reviewed by the multimodal board. And the multimodal board has a sidewalk gap plan that shows areas that don't have sidewalks and the board could agree that connectivity is important.

ACM Ecker stated that MCSA, Group, Inc. would assist the city for applying for grants as well. ACM Ecker stated that there sustainability grants and funding through the Oakland County Parks budget since there are all kinds of utilities throughout the park.

Lipp referenced a public comment made last month related to access and inclusivity when she inquired about bathroom specifics.

Consultant Smith stated that MCSA, Group, Inc. designs a lot of restrooms with the most recent one for Kentwood. Instead of having those fold down changing tables, which are vandalized frequently an accessible and inclusive bench could be installed such as what was installed at Kentwood that would be inclusive.

Noble stated that when she was walking Booth trail and arrived at the house located at Baldwin Road it was dicey, there were private property signs installed and she could not find a way to continue to Baldwin Road without going onto the private property.

Carmona stated the area needs to be addressed in the proposed concept plan. ACM Ecker and PM Laird agree the plan needs a balanced solution for the section of Booth Trail at Baldwin Road. Currently the concept plan does includes some property markers along the property line.

Consultant Smith stated that the proposed food truck/coffee cart location would not be in front of the donor wall at Booth Park.

Carmona opened the meeting for public comment for the trail Improvement concept plan.

Burns asked what the objective of building a restroom facility at Booth Park. Burns stated that maintenance costs will be expensive. Burns stated that improving the trails is an asset and asked if Manor Park trail could ever be enhanced as well.

L. Orlans stated that she does not know if there is a need for a restroom facility at Booth Park. L. Orlans stated that the park draws teenagers and homeless in the evening. J. Orlans stated the budget is too expensive and she is against the proposed changes to Booth Park.

Carmona stated that no decisions will be made until the plan is finalized and the board is nowhere near finalizing the concept plan and during the development of the 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan the need for restroom facilities was ranked very high.

Carmona stated that the 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is available on the City of Birmingham website, at city hall, library, DPS and the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena.

Additional comment from a resident who lives on Harmon Street stated she often hears late night fighting and believes a change to enable more entertainment features and a bathroom would increase foot traffic, not necessarily Birmingham residents.

Carmona explained that before any final decisions are made, the board is working within the timeframe of the funding that we have, with the bond, as well as looking for additional funding. At this time, there are no construction times or exact approval times, but construction would not likely begin before 2024.

Kyle Goulding asked why Booth Park would not be a good location for a splash pad. Carmona stated that a splash pad would be slated for a larger park and that location has not been determined.

Carmona closed the public comment.

ACM Ecker confirmed that Booth Park is not being rezoned. Property owner notification is required by state law for rezoning, but this plan is not proposing rezoning or a change of use.

ACM Ecker stated there are many ways to stay informed by visiting the City of Birmingham website.

R. Hormel asked if the sequence of steps could be included in the Parks and Recreation Board minutes when looking at future concept plans.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: South Well Sites/ Well Sites

PM Laird provided an update to the previous South Wells Site discussion: the South Wells Sites, both parcels, have been designated by the City Commission as a park, and we are directed to do further research on each well site, individually, including Pump House Park (formerly referred to as Wakefield Well). The other well sites were not designated by the City Commission; they requested separate reviews for each location.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Graham stated the area adjacent to Fire Station #2 is not designated as a park and should the Parks and Recreation Board ask the City Commission to clarify the designation of the Fire Station #2 property.

ACM Ecker said the location is designated for public safety, fire and police, with no interest in changing the designation; however the City Commission may be open to having landscape improvements or other improvements considered.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Communication received from Sarah Kupczyk, October 11, 2022**

RC Folk provided the board the communication from Sarah Kupczyk.

PM Laird stated that administration will be meeting with Sarah and the architect at Adams Parks to review the play apparatus.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: Project Updates****a. Adams Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, November 12, 2022 at 10 am**

PM Laird stated that representatives from Roeper School, Oakland County and Mari Manoogian, Michigan State Representative will be in attendance.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board**b. Pickleball**

PM Laird stated the contractor will not be installing courts this year but will most likely begin in May, 2023.

Graham asked if there had been any follow-up of related pickleball rules, residents' complaints, park rule violations, parking, music and profanity.

PM Laird stated that pickleball rules will be posted when the courts are completed and the police are patrolling the area.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4: Golf Course Updates

a. Golf Course Report –October 28, 2022

PM Laird presented the golf course report.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

It was moved by Rusche, seconded by Noble to move VIII. Open To The Public For Items Not On The Agenda after III. Agenda Items on future Parks and Recreation Board Agendas as long as there are no presentations from outside sources.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble, and John Rusche

Nays,

None

Absent,

None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

D. Hormel stated she has seen the equipment is being used by the older Roeper students and dogs being off-leash and asked if no dog signs can be installed. The City could look at having neighborly conversations with the school as well as adding supplemental signs reiterating park rules that prohibit dogs near play equipment, requiring dogs being leash controlled, and advertising the location of the City’s off-leash dog park.

Carmona stated that Adams Park is a public park, and these behaviors could be addressed with the school administration. The City and Roeper does have a good relationship, and it's all about being neighborly and understanding it's a shared asset to the community.

Noble asked D. Hormel about the dogs being at the park before and after Adams Park renovations. D. Hormel stated that people have always brought their dogs. However, in the past they were typically people walking from within the neighborhood, and now it seems more people are arriving by cars.

Noble asked, similarly, about the kids on the equipment, and D. Hormel stated that the students used the swings prior to the Adams Park renovations.

R. Hormel was unaware that the City had an off-leash dog park at Lincoln Hills Golf Course and wondered if additional dog parks would be added to the City of Birmingham properties.

Kaplan stated there is long history of the City of Birmingham dog park and currently there is only one located at Lincoln Hills Golf Course at the end of the parking lot.

Kaplan stated that there are parks signs posting the parks and recreation rules and regulations and there is a QR code on each sign to link to detailed Parks Rules & Regulations.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator
Stacy Vail, Clerical

Approved