

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 2024

Pam Graham, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Collins
Pam Graham
Steve Sweeney
Anne Lipp
Jessica Einstein
Joseph Wrobel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Heather Carmona
Sarah Kupczyk

Collins nominated Anne Lipp as the Vice Chair for the meeting.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Ella Bassett, Orchard Lake St. Mary's
Preparatory School

ADMINISTRATION:

Scott D. Zielinski, Director DPS
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Ice Arena and Facilities
Superintendent
Brendan McGaughey, Parks and Forestry
Foreman
Leah Blizinski, City Planner
Brad McNab, Parks and Recreation Assistant
Foreman

PRESENTERS:

Sue Grissim, Grissim, Metz, Andriese Associates
(GMA)
Jim Surhigh, HRC
Lance Shipman, Penchura

GUESTS:

Bryan Frank, Birmingham Rotary, John
Westerheide, Birmingham Rotary, David Young
and Jack Burns

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

1. Congratulations – Birmingham High School A Figure Skating Team – Winning 1st place at States
2. Jessica Einstein – Regular Parks and Recreation Board Member
3. Save the Dates
 - a. Arbor Day – Friday, April 26th by Quarton Lake Tennis Courts by Quarton Elementary
 - b. Budget Hearing: Saturday, April 27th 8:30 am
 - c. DPS Open House: Saturday, May 11th 10am-2pm
 - d. Ice Show: Saturday, May 18th 11am-1pm & 4-6pm

DPS Director Zielinski stated that the Parks and Recreation Board Agenda will be modified to add the YMCA Updates to the Parks and Recreation Board Agenda.

It was moved by Einstein, seconded by Lipp, that YMCA updates be added to the Parks and Recreation Board agenda.

Ayes, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Anne Lipp, Steve Sweeney, Jessica Einstein, Joseph Wrobel

Nays, None
Absent, Heather Carmona, and Sarah Kupczyk

Graham was appointed to the YMCA and meets every Wednesday and is open to the general public. Graham stated that there will be a facility tour on Wednesday, April 10th at 3pm. Graham also stated a community event will be on Monday, April 29th, TBD.

It was moved by Wrobel, seconded by Lipp, to approve the March 5, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board Agenda.

Ayes, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Steve Sweeney, Anne Lipp, Jessica Einstein, Joseph Wrobel

Nays, None
Absent, Sarah Kupczyk and Heather Carmona

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No items presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved by Wrobel, seconded by Lipp, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 5, 2024 regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes,

Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Anne Lipp, Steve Sweeney, Jessica Einstein, Joseph Wrobel

Nays,

None

Absent,

Heather Carmona, and Sarah Kupczyk

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No items presented

New Business #1: Booth Park Entry Plaza & Trail Improvements Kick Off Meeting

PM Laird introduced Sue Grissim from Grissim, Metz, Andriese Associates (GMA) for the Booth Park Entry Plaza & Trail Improvement project.

Sue Grissim shared with the Parks and Recreation Board historical photos, met with a donor who is interested in donating a bench, garden, etc. Grissim reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board trail surfacing, concrete or asphalt into gravel with lumber edges, vs. accessibility vs. cost vs. durability/maintenance. Trail is used by walkers, and bikers. Would like more accessibility for the main trail but cost will be the limiting factor.

Jim Surhigh, HRC will be designing the site grading and paving, stormwater management and bios wale design, site electric and lighting, and sewer and water services. HRC shall provide engineering and construction documentation of the restroom building. HRC will complete the topographic survey for the site as well as lead the effort for securing the EGLE permit for work in the regulated floodplain for the Rogue River.

DPS Director Zielinski indicated to the Parks and Recreation Board to email him or PM Laird for any other ideas that could be shared with the consultants. DPS Director Zielinski encourages the Parks and Recreation Board to look at other parks and trails to look at what they like, what works, how we should do it for this project.

Sweeney asked if Birmingham allows "prefab" materials. DPS Director Zielinski stated he would have to confirm with the City of Birmingham building department.

New Business #2: No Mow (Lo Mow) May – Trial Run

DPS Director Zielinski stated the department would like permission to identify a few areas on city properties and parks to create a site or several sites to evaluate the impacts of limited mowing or no mowing and encourage the natural growth of pollinators with habitats and increase the number of bees.

PM Laird stated that signage to educate people that “No Mow (Low Mow) May” locations with descriptions of why said locations are chosen and what the goal of choosing the said location. Other educational opportunities include a dedicated webpage, email notification along with the City of Birmingham social media accounts.

The Board suggested locations on the borders of parks, big enough for the testing/research. Discussion about the size of plot, size of the room and the city may not mow the area at all, not just for the month of May.

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Collins, to direct the staff to select a few areas for soft launch of “No mow” spaces in the City of Birmingham.

Ayes, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Anne Lipp, Steve Sweeney, Jessica Einstein, Joseph Wrobel

Nays, None
Absent, Heather Carmona, and Sarah Kupczyk

New Business #3: Screech Owl Box/Wood Duck Box

Assistant PM McNab shared with the Parks and Recreation Board that the Department of Public Services, Parks Division was recently approached by a resident who was looking to install screech owls and wood duck boxes along Linden Trail as they appeared to be improperly placed.

It was moved by Einstein, seconded by Lipp to approve the installation of the owl boxes/duck boxes along the Linden Trail.

Ayes, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Anne Lipp, Steve Sweeney, Jessica Einstein, Joseph Wrobel

Nays, None
Absent, Heather Carmona, and Sarah Kupczyk

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

No items presented.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:**1. Birmingham Rotary Centennial Anniversary**

PM Laird introduced members from the Birmingham Rotary to discuss contributing \$50,000 to the full inclusive Poppleton Playground.

2. Playground Presentation

PM Laird introduced PR Assistant McNab and thanked him for his work on the playground presentation. The presentation includes a variety of playgrounds in the City of Birmingham parks, surfacing material used and maintenance considerations.

PR Assistant McNab went through with the Parks and Recreation Board on the difference manufactures that are currently installed in the City of Birmingham park systems. PM Laird stated that vendor location does make a difference and having Penchura as a local vendor for replacement parts when they are needed.

PR Assistant McNab stated to the Parks and Recreation Board that the City of Birmingham has three (3) full time certified playground safety inspectors and he is one of the three that will conduct the inspections of the playground equipment.

Lance from Penchura explained to the Parks and Recreation Board the difference between the different accessible playground equipment, inclusive vs. ADA accessible playgrounds. Lance stated that Penchura's playground equipment might be more expensive but in the long run there is less maintenance.

3. Bloomfield Hills High School NHS Volunteer

PM Laird stated that Bloomfield Hills High School NHS Volunteer have offered to volunteer to clean up trash & debris in the near future.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

No Items Suggested

Vice Chair Graham stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Vice Chair Graham adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm

Connie J. Folk, Ice Arena and Facilities Superintendent