

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2023**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Carmona
Jessica Einstein
Sarah Kupczyk
Pam Graham
Anne Lipp
John Rusche
Steve Sweeney

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Susan Collins

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Katie Glasier, Seaholm High School

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
ABSENT:**

Archie Reynolds, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION:

Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Leah Blizinski, City Planner
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

PRESENTERS:

Paul Urbiel, McKenna

GUESTS:

Rebecca Brinn, Lilly Brinn, Bob Gibbs,
Joe Wrobel and Brandon Wynn

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

No items presented

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Lilly Brinn who attends Roeper School and presented to the Parks and Recreation Board a proposed Little Library for Adams Park for her Girl Scout Silver award. The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout and gives the chance to show that you are a leader who is organized, determined, and dedicated to improving your community. L Brinn told the board that she could submit her plans for review.

PM Laird stated there are two little libraries, one at Booth and one at Barnum and adding another would be fantastic to the City of Birmingham park system. The next steps would be to share the location of placement at Adams Park and then present to the Parks and Recreation Board.

PM Laird stated that the Department of Public Services does ~~provided~~ provide maintenance to the existing little libraries.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved by Rusche, seconded by Graham, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 3, 2023, regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Jessica Einstein, Pam Graham, Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp, John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

It was moved by Einstein, seconded by Lipp, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 24, 2023, special meeting as submitted.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Jessica Einstein, Pam Graham, Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp, John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No items presented

NEW BUSINESS:

Revised 2024 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates

IAFS Folk presented to the Parks and Recreation Board the revised 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting dates for approval.

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Sweeney to approve the revised 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting dates as submitted.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Jessica Einstein, Pam Graham, Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp, John Rusche and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

No items presented

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Urbiel from McKenna walked through the next steps of the process:

• **30-Day Public Comment Period**

The prescribed process set forth by MDNR for recreation plans requires that the draft Plan be available to residents and stakeholders during a minimum 30-day, well-publicized public review and comment period.

After December 4th (at the end of the advertised comment period), we will synthesize any comments and work with City staff to appropriately incorporate comments into a revised draft in anticipation of City Commission consideration.

• **City Commission Consideration**

At the December City Commission meeting, the McKenna team will present the revised draft to City Commission. The required Public Hearing will also be noticed in anticipation of that meeting and take place on December 18th; the Commission may adopt the Plan that same evening.

Urbiel stated that McKenna has received comments regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Gibbs has some concerns about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and could warrant additional workshops. Gibbs stated that the plan falls short of the slated objectives. For example the parks fall short for being walkable with hard surfaces. Gibbs goes on to say how the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is not inhering to the 2040 plan.

Gibbs asked PM Laird about a detailed letter that was sent October 24, 2023. PM laird stated she would have to check, and didn't recall that particular letter.

Gibbs went on to say about the drainage issues on the pathways and how they are not walkable.

Graham asked that staff educate the Parks and Recreation Board on the different surfaces that can be used in different circumstances for the City of Birmingham park system.

Park Updates:

Adams Park

PM Laird stated that sidewalk corrections (punch list item) were completed last week. The department continues to monitor the centerpiece Elm tree (warranty item). Recently, due to signs of stress, our City staff arborist found it was planted too deep.

The landscape subcontractor for Michigan Recreational Construction (MRC) performed removal of 8 to 10 inches of topsoil to correct this. Perennials (Black-Eyed Susans) had to be removed in order to perform this work and monitor the condition of the tree.

The department will evaluate the condition of the tree in the late spring, after leaf bud.

PM Laird stated the seat backs for the see-saw and a stationary cyler for the composite structure are on order and are intended to be installed by December 31, 2023. This modification to the playground was made possible by a grant, "Play is Essential" through the mParks foundation.

PM Laird stated that preliminary designs for a centrally located donor plaque are underway. The plaque will also recognize Oakland County and mParks for the respective grants received.

DPS staff performed necessary aerification, top dressing and seeding work to the open space/soccer field area in late October.

Barnum Park

Groundwater Energy Passive System (GEPS)

PM Laird explained in order to attempt to correct drainage issues in the Sanctuary and surrounding area, the Department of Public Services (DPS) contracted with Exlterra once again to install the Groundwater Energy Passive System (GEPS®) in this location. The installation occurred November 6th through the 8th. PM Laird shared the layout installation plan.

Park Amenities-Seasonal Closures

PM Laird informed the Parks and Recreation Board that the drinking fountains in parks are no longer in operation and many have been removed for the season.

PM Laird stated that the tennis and pickleball courts will remain available through November 30th or until the first significant snowfall, whichever comes first. Nets will be removed from all locations to prevent damage from weather.

Gibbs commented on the lack of handicap accessibility ~~to~~ at Adams Park.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

No items for next meeting

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Chair Carmona adjourned the meeting at 7:16 pm

Connie J. Folk, Ice Arena and Facilities Superintendent

Approved