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 been 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 Lake 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

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting 11/1/2016