

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2021

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
Ellie Noble, Sarasota, FL
Dominick Pulis
John Rusche

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

R.J. Carrel, Groves High School

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT:

Alison Chapnick Groves High School
Kyle Sayers, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION:

Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services
Brooks Cowan, City Planner
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

PRESENTER:

Bruce Lemons, President at Foresite Design, Inc.

GUESTS:

Anne Lipp, Linda Forrester and
Arnold Forrester

It was moved by Collins, seconded by Rusche to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, November 9, 2021 regular meeting as amended.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham,
Ross Kaplan, Ellie Noble, Dominick Pulis and
John Rusche

Nays,

None

Absent,

None

Agenda item #1: Recommendation for Pickleball Site Location

PM Laird introduced Bruce Lemons, president at Foresite Design, Inc. PM Laird stated that the City of Birmingham engaged the services of Foresite Design, Inc. a local architect with a unique and primary focus in the design and implementation of athletic and recreational facilities, to perform site assessments and potential designs for each of the five potential locations.

PM Laird recapped the process that the city has taken in determining the proposed pickleball locations.

PM Laird stated working through the Capital Projects Sub-Committee they reviewed all feedback from the first survey and the site assessments of all five locations by Foresite Design, Inc. to narrow the options to three (3) locations. PM Laird stated a second survey (Pickleball 2.0) with Crestview Park, Kenning Park and St. James Park was posted to Engage Birmingham in November, closing November 30, 2021. PM Laird stated the recommendation is to move forward with Kenning Park as the site for pickleball.

Lemons stated that there is a cost savings when installing multiple pickleball courts at one location.

Carmona stated although only one location is recommended that does not mean that additional pickleball court locations could not be added based on costs.

Collins asked if the Kenning Park location is too close to the businesses and if there could be some type of screening installed around the pickleball courts.

Linda Forrester stated that having eight pickleball courts at Kenning Park would be a great and location and would be used a lot. Arnold Forrester stated that having additional courts scattered around the City of Birmingham would not be used.

Pulis asked if benches, picnic table or shade structures could be added once the landscape survey is finalized.

PM Laird stated that shade structure was not included in the estimated budget for the pickleball court project.

PM Laird stated that when bid documents are created additional items such as screening, seating and shade structure could be added to the bid documents. PM Laird stated that there would be some type of screening added around the pickleball courts.

3

It was moved by Pulis, seconded by Collins to support Kenning Park as a proposed site for new pickleball courts, pending departmental review, and to forward to the City Commission for their consideration. Further, to recommend proceeding with design development services including construction drawings and bid documents with Foresite Design, Inc.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham,
Ross Kaplan, Ellie Noble, Dominick Pulis and
John Rusche

Nays,

None

Absent,

None

Agenda item #2: Request for Art Donation Installation:

a) Ray Katz "Astral Projection" – Art on Loan Application

CP Cowan presented to the Parks and Recreation Board Artist Ray Katz sculpture "Astral Projection" as part of the City of Birmingham Public Arts Board's 2021 Call For Entry which was presented at the November 9, 2021 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

CP Cowan stated the proposed location is Crestview Park near the corner of Southlawn and Southfield. The Public Arts Board (PAB) liked the variety of colors, shapes, and height that "Astral Projection" which would bring to the area.

CP Cowan stated the PAB also preferred the one base pad that would be required for installation and would be more ideal for a sculpture on loan. At the November 9, 2021 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting the request was postpone until the Public Arts Board (PAB) coordinated with city staff as it was related to the possible installation of the pickleball courts at Crestview Park.

CP Cowan stated that since pickleball are not being considered at Crestview Park that the PAB would like approval of the sculpture on loan titled "Astral Projection" by Ray Katz to be located at Crestview Park near the corner of Southfield and Southlawn and would be on loan for three (3) years.

CP Cowan stated that the pad installation would be coordinated with the engineering sidewalk program that takes place in the spring/summer. CP Cowan stated that the pad could be tailored to the artwork.

It was moved by Pulis, Seconded by Rusche to recommend approval of the application for the sculpture on loan titled "Astral Projection" by Ray Katz to be located at Crestview Park near the corner of Southfield and Southlawn.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham,
Ross Kaplan, Ellie Noble, Dominick Pulis and
John Rusche

Nays,

None

Absent,

None

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Birmingham Ice Sports Arena Renovation/Addition Project-City Commission Update 12-6-21

DPS Director Wood presented to the Parks and Recreation Board the report that was presented to the City Commission by Robert Stempien, Senior Vice President Plante Moran for the project of the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena from the last six months.

DPS Director Wood stated there would be ribbon cutting ceremony in the near future.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Golf Course Updates

a. Golf Course Finance Report-October, 2021

DPS Director Wood provided the golf course finance report to the Parks and Recreation Board. DPS Director Wood stated that Jacky Brito, Golf Course Manager is working on the year-end report for the 2021 golf course season.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

b. City of Birmingham Schedule of Golf Transfers

DPS Director Wood provided the schedule of golf transfers through October, 2021 to the Parks and Recreation Board that was requested at a previous Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3 Reminder: Nomination of 2022 Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson at the January 11, 2022 meeting

RC Folk reminded the Parks and Recreation Board of the elections for chairperson/vice-chairperson that will be conducted at the January 11, 2022 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

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:

Lipp stated to the Parks and Recreation Board that she is speaking on behalf of the Figure Skating Club of Birmingham and the ice skating community that an ice show date should be announced. Lipp stated that other surrounding ice arenas have already announced their ice show date and if the City of Birmingham will not be having an ice show for this year that should also be announced.

RC Folk stated that the ice show is the combination of the ice skaters from the Learn To Skate ice skating program and the Figure Skating Club of Birmingham. RC Folk stated that the ice show is similar to a dance recital.

RC Folk stated there are factors of deciding a date for the ice show and there has been discussion with PM Laird.

PM Laird stated that there are current ice skating instructors on staff with the City of Birmingham that could assist with directing an ice show.

Collins stated that the ice show could occur in early June, 2022.

Maryann Bruder a zoom participant stated that she would like the date of the ice show be announced as well.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No Public Comments

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator