

**City of Birmingham
Parks And Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2024
851 South Eton - Conference Room**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Heather Carmona; Board Members Susan Collins, Jessica Einstein, Pam Graham, Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp; Alternate Board Members Narlu Castellano, Joseph Wrobel (not voting)

Absent: Steve Sweeney and Student Representative Ella Bassett

Staff: Department of Public Services Director Zielinski; Ice Arena and Facilities Superintendent Folk, Parks and Recreation Manager Laird, Parks and Recreation Assistant Foreman McNab, Recreation Coordinator Schultz

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS & CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

- 1. Tricia Schultz, City of Birmingham Recreation Coordinator**
- 2. Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee (SCC) - Update**

IV. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Graham

Seconded by Lipp to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024 regular meeting.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Collins, Graham, Lipp, Carmona, Kupczyk, Einstein, Castellano

Nays: None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Booth Park Entry Plaza & Trail Improvements Project - Update

Sue Grissim, Principal & Project Manager, Grissim Metz Andriese Associates (GMAA), DPSD Zielinski, and PRM Laird presented the item and answered informational questions from the Board.

Board members raised the following points during discussion:

- The lighter, cream restroom exterior and the artificial window were preferred over other options.
- Studies have shown that hand dryers are unsanitary, but the Board member would defer to the City on their use.

- It would be valuable to add a grate to the floor under the hand dryers in order to deal with accumulated water.
- It might be possible to install sinks with the soap and hand dryers included.
- A lower-mounted, ADA-compliant sink would be available, which should also make it easier for children to wash their hands.
- GMAA should make sure matters of maintenance, condensation, and ventilation are sufficiently addressed.
- It could be beneficial to design the restroom in a way that it could largely be cleaned by power washing, hose, or something similar.
- Wall-mounted toilets would be preferable over floor-installed toilets. An adult-sized changing table would be preferable over an infant-sized one.
- It was noted that there are different preferences on automatic versus manual flushing. It was recommended that the Board defer to GMAA on the matter of flush type.
- The floors will need to be resistant to moisture and as non-slip as possible. Some amount of visual texture would be preferable.
- The butterfly bush, and other plantings, should be checked to make sure that they are not invasive.
- Keeping more grasses than flowering plants near the children's play areas and tables in order to reduce bees in those areas.
- Hydrangeas may be less appropriate in a natural park environment, and they have a tendency to spread. If they are used sparingly they could be acceptable.
- Any lighting and cameras should be placed so that they do not interfere with each other, and the lighting should also be installed so as to avoid conflicting with any evening movie nights in the park.

2. Booth Park Phase Two - Donor Recognition Policy

The Board discussed updates to the donor recognition policy. Staff answered informational questions and integrated updates into the draft policy during the discussion. Any updates were added by Board consensus.

Motion by Collins

Seconded by Lipp to recommend City staff take the new donor policy with the amendments discussed today to City Commission for approval.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Collins, Graham, Lipp, Carmona, Kupczyk, Einstein, Castellano

Nays: None

3. Birmingham Well Sites Park Designations

PRM Laird presented the item and answered informational questions from the Board.

Motion by Lipp

Seconded by Collins to recommend the City Commission review Baldwin, Pumphouse Park, and West Lincoln Well sites and consider designating each as park property.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Collins, Graham, Lipp, Carmona, Kupczyk, Einstein, Castellano

Nays: None

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Communications may be found in the evening's agenda packet.

IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF

1. City of Birmingham Recognition Program

PRM Laird presented the item. Staff answered informational questions from the Board.

2. National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Benchmarking Report

RC Schultz presented the item. Staff answered informational questions from the Board.

Board members' comments were as follows:

- The benchmarking data provided in the Parks and Recreation Board's strategic plan was not as relevant as it should have been. It included data from some for-profit businesses, which do not serve as reasonable comparable for a municipality like Birmingham.
- Joining the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in order to gain this benchmarking data is useful.
- The City should generally strive to be aware of developments, grants, amenities, and other things other municipalities have.
- The Parks and Recreation Department could benefit from benchmarking Birmingham's programming and staffing to other municipalities.
- It is also beneficial for different City departments to continue collaborating on City programming, like if the Library and the Parks and Recreation Department were to collaborate on an educational program for children in the parks.

X. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.



Connie Folk, Ice Arena and Facilities Superintendent

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

approved