**City of Birmingham**
**Parks And Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**
**November 12, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**
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 Pam Graham, Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp, Steve Sweeney; Alternate Board Members Narlu Castellano, Joseph Wrobel; Student Representative Ella Bassett

**Absent:** Board Members Susan Collins, Jessica Einstein

**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

**Guests:** Sally and Jeffrey Johnson

## III. ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS & CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

### 1. Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee (SCC) - Update

Ms. Graham provided the 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 November 12, 2024 regular meeting as submitted.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Yeas: Graham, Lipp, Carmona, Kupczyk, Castellano, Wrobel, Sweeney
Nays: None

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

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

Staff provided the update and answered informational questions from the Board.

Board members raised the following points during discussion:

- It would be useful to communicate Booth Park's closure as widely as possible.
- If the Farmers' Market is available to provide more children's activities during Booth Park's closure, that could be helpful.
- Repairing the playground, converting the mulch to a smoother, more accessible surface, and

making the bathrooms more accessible would be valuable future projects for the Park.
- The updated plans are not yet reflected in the documents.
- A quieter air hand dryer could be beneficial because the louder ones can scare children.

Motion by Lipp
Seconded by Kupczyk to support the full park closure site control plan for the Booth Park Entry Plaza and Trail Improvement project.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Yeas: Graham, Lipp, Carmona, Kupczyk, Castellano, Wrobel, Sweeney
Nays: None

**2. E Bike Request/City of Birmingham Parks and Regulation Rules**

Staff presented the item and answered informational questions from the Board.

Board members raised the following points during discussion:
- A speed limit, prohibitions of certain behavior, and/or a trial period might all be more appropriate than entirely banning class two e-bikes.
- Policies should be devised to avoid damaging the trails.
- Approving class one e-bikes would not likely pose an issue.
- Allowing class two e-bikes could increase accessibility.
- The City might be able to approve the use of class two e-bikes on a case-by-case basis.
- Staff should look into the concerns raised by class two bikes, and determine whether approving class two bikes on a case-by-case basis is feasible.
- Staff could explore using approvals of class two bikes at the DNR level as a qualification for using a class two bike within Birmingham.

Public Comment
Jeffrey and Sally Johnson commented on the item.

**3. Park Capital Planning**

DPSD Zielinski presented the item. Staff answered informational questions from the Board.

Board members raised the following points during discussion:
- Poppleton Park may be the best location for additional pickleball courts.
- A walking path within Pembroke could be valuable.
- Many residents walk their dogs off-leash in Poppleton Park. It may be worth exploring the creation of a fenced-in dog run within Poppleton.
- Using bond money to improve the playground equipment at Poppleton in the nearer-term would be beneficial and would indicate to residents that the bond money is having positive impacts. Other parks that primarily have playground equipment should also be prioritized for nearer-term playground-related improvements.
- Pembroke and Pumphouse parks would benefit from improvements, and Pembroke should have a shelter installed. A restroom at Pembroke could also be under consideration.
- Some funds for maintenance and repair could be directed towards Kenning Park.
- Moving the design work for Kenning up could be beneficial.
- The RFP for Kenning should seek a professional with familiarity in age-inclusive and accessible playground equipment.

## VIII. MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

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

## IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF

### 1. Final Booth Park Phase Two - Donor Recognition Policy

Staff answered informational questions from the Board.

Board members' comments were as follows:

- All donors should be invited to any grand opening or ribbon cutting event.
- Section C4 was well done.
- $2500 is an appropriate minimum for being recognized on the donor wall.

## X. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Connie Folk, Ice Arena and Facilities Superintendent

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist