

City of Birmingham
Parks And Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2025, 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, Vice Chair Pam Graham; Board Members Jessica Einstein, Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp; Alternate Board Members Narlu Castellano, Joseph Wrobel

Absent: Board Members Susan Collins, Steve Sweeney

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

III. Announcements, Introductions Of Guests & Chairperson Comments

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

VC Graham provided the update.

IV. Open To The Public For Items Not On The Agenda

V. Approval Of The Minutes - December 3, 2024

Motion by Lipp

Seconded by Graham to approve the minutes as submitted in our packet.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. New Business

1. Nomination of 2025 Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

Nomination by Graham

For Heather Carmona to continue as chair.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None

Nomination by Carmona

To nominate in my stead Pam Graham.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None

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

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

Board members' comments were as follows:

- The team that worked on the grant were commended.
- Donations for the park project will be accepted as well.
- Further in-depth review of this project will not occur at the Board level until discussions of capital arise.

VIII. Miscellaneous Communications

Any communications can be found in the evening's agenda packet.

IX. Reports From Staff

1. Park Capital Planning

DPSD Zielinski summarized the report and staff answered informational questions from the Board.

Board members' comments were as follows:

- Staff will be meeting with stakeholders and vendors for all of the neighborhood parks to work on improvements.
- There have been some resident comments that Pembroke and Poppleton have identical playgrounds. It might be appropriate for each neighborhood playground to be different. Neighborhood stakeholders for each park should be informed of the playground designs of the next closest parks.
- Page 99 of the Parks and Recreation plan has some guidance for park amenities.
- The decision to look at the Pumphouse Park and West Lincoln Park playgrounds made sense. These are two parks that need updates to playgrounds without necessitating improvements to the parks as a whole.
- It would be ideal to have some of these improvements implemented within this calendar year in order to show residents the benefits of the bond vote. It would also be ideal to implement these improvements before the City asks residents to vote on another bond for the Senior/Recreation Center.
- Improving playgrounds has also been a priority of a number of Commissioners, making this decision politically appropriate.
- When these plans are presented to the Commission, it would be good to clarify what 'accessible' and 'inclusive' means.
- Including accessible swings and hardscape would be appropriate. Accessible hardscape may also have economic or maintenance benefits as well.
- If accessible hardscape does provide an economic benefit, emphasizing that in public presentations would be appropriate.
- The City's long-range planning meetings are well done and provide useful information.
- Parking and design work for the Senior/Recreation Center are likely to affect St. James

Park, and its master planning process. The Senior/Recreation Center project architect works with a landscape architect, which will help inform some of the changes to St. James Park.

- It would be worth exploring adding additional rentable facilities for small gatherings in some of the parks. Adding facilities could increase the number of events that could be held in the parks.

X. Items For Next Meeting

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Connie Folk, Ice Arena and Facilities Superintendent

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist