

City of Birmingham
Parks And Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
October 28, 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 Susan Collins, Jessica Einstein, Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp; Alternate Board Member Joseph Wrobel (arrived 6:32 p.m.); Student Board Member Abigail Murphy

Absent: Board Member Steve Sweeney; Alternate Board Member Narlu Castellano; Student Board Member Jack Bassett

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

III. Announcements, Introductions Of Guests & Chairperson Comments

VC Graham noted the SCC had not resumed meeting and thanked staff for organizing the Pumpkin Patch event.

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

V. Approval Of The Minutes – September 9, 2025

Motion by Wrobel

Seconded by Einstein to approve the minutes of our September 9th meeting.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None

VI. Unfinished Business

1. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Acceptance Resolution

The Chair and PRM Laird summarized the item.

2. West Lincoln Well and Pumphouse Park Playground Update

PRF McNab presented the item. Staff answered informational questions.

Board members raised the following points during discussion:

- It looks more like a park, the staff work is appreciated, the colors are inviting, and residents are excited about the changes.

3. Poppleton Park Playground Improvements Update

PRM Laird and DPSD Zielinski presented the item. Staff answered informational questions.

Board members raised the following points during discussion:

- Feedback from children in the community on the plans has been positive and enthusiastic.
- The downtown area has parallel parking spots with a generous buffer between spots. Those are likely not as necessary in this context.
- Some accessible vehicles have rear loading options instead of side loading options.
- Option B seems to best align with the Board's consensus. Parallel spots make sense because it preserves existing trees and has the least impact on the park.
- Allowing regular on-street parking for the majority of the parking would be sufficient and save on costs as opposed to delineating specific spots. Adding more access points to the park in this case would be useful to families arriving with strollers, wagons, or other wheeled items.
- The majority of people visiting the park are local and will be able to use multi-modal transit to visit the park.
- Having a higher number of accessible parking spots makes sense since the accessibility of the park will be an attraction.
- Having more sports leagues or intergenerational recreational activities could help address residents' concerns about recreational opportunities across the lifespan.
- The playground is a portion of a 17-acre park, which leaves a lot of space for intergenerational use.
- The Board has done a pretty good job of accommodating a wide variety of needs in these designs. The Board should clarify its bare-minimum expectations in order to best support this range of needs.
- The Board is interested in exploring options in the future for adding fitness equipment areas to Poppleton.
- A brainstorming session on programming could be held in the future.

Public Comment

Danny Seidman supported adding more exercise opportunities to the park for people across the lifespan and various levels of challenge, approving Option B north of the crosswalk, locating accessible parking closest to the park, and adding more access points.

Bella Fichtenberg supported adding more exercise opportunities to the park for people across the lifespan and limiting the amount of additional parking offered.

Motion by Lipp

Seconded by Kupczyk to approve the updated draft concept plan and playground layout for the Poppleton Park Playground Improvement Project as presented, and to forward to the City Commission for their consideration and final approval, AND, to recommend the parallel parking option along Oxford Street, option B as laid out in our packet, incorporating five ADA parking spots and prioritizing the additional access spots for strollers.

Board members made the following comments on the motion:

- It was a great motion.
- This adds important accessible parking while limiting the impact on the park.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None

VII. New Business

1. Park Rules and Regulations

PRM Laird and DPSD Zielinski presented the item. Staff answered informational questions.

Board members raised the following points during discussion:

- Children wearing helmets on e-bikes and scooters is an important way of reducing the likelihood of brain injuries.
- Some content and grammatical issues make it appropriate for this to be reviewed by staff and the City Attorney before publication.
- It is likely outside of the Parks and Recreation Board’s remit to explore offering permits for photography drones.
- The meaning of ‘dog park user’ should be clarified. The process if a dog attacks a person within a dog park should be clarified. The policies should clarify if, in the case of one dog being the clear aggressor, all involved dogs must be evaluated.
- Since tennis lessons are permitted, pickleball lessons should be permitted with the same requirements.
- The two internal discussion paragraphs regarding tennis and pickleball should not be included in the final rules.

Public Comment

Tom Boltik supported including residents living near the pickleball courts in all surveys, and only allowing Birmingham residents to use the pickleball courts.

Ava Boltik supported adding signage that emphasizes that Crestview is a neighborhood park and considering how residential neighbors are impacted by pickleball courts.

Tracy Boltik commented regarding the sounds of living close to the pickleball courts at Crestview and the parking congestion stemming from the pickleball courts, and supported more of a neighborhood focus for Crestview Park.

Motion by Einstein

Seconded by Lipp to table.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

VIII. Miscellaneous Communications

1. All Communications received - Poppleton Park Playground Improvements

IX. Reports from Staff

X. Items For Next Meeting

- 1. Poppleton Park Playground Communication**
- 2. Pickleball Communications**

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.



Connie Folk, Ice Arena and Facilities Superintendent

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

approved