



Parks And Recreation Board – Regular Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026 – 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, Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp; Alternate Board Members Narlu Castellano, Joseph Wrobel

Absent: Board Member Jessica Einstein

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

III. Announcements, Introductions of Guests & Chair Comments

The Chair acknowledged Lance Shipman of Penchura.

IV. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda

None.

V. Approval of the Minutes – January 13, 2026

Motion by Graham

Seconded by Lipp to approve the January 13th minutes.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

VII. New Business

A. Pembroke Park Playground Update

PRM Laird, Mr. Shipman, and DPSD Zielinski presented the item and answered questions.

Board members discussed the following regarding the item:

- The plans were well done.
- The zip line, increased number of swings, and shade structure will be particular highlights.
- It might be appropriate to move the entrance to the northwest corner in the future. Perimeter sidewalks around the park would also be an appropriate future addition. There is a limit to how accessible the park can be without sidewalks.
- The Board should further evaluate what types of swings should be installed. It might be appropriate for one set of toddler and flex swings to have solid surface access with a pedestrian path leading to it.
- The proposed locations of concrete, woodchips, and poured in place surfaces made sense.
- An accessible path should lead to any future type of restroom facility, if one is added.
- If there is desire to electrify the shelter now or in the future, extending the underground electric utilities to the shelter would be appropriate.
- The presentation to the public should emphasize that these updates are being approached sustainably with some of the equipment being retained and reused. Noting the equipment that will be retained on the graphics might be appropriate.
- Replacing the proposed fabric shade structure with a steel one might allow for use in more types of weather. A steel structure is also likely to be more durable and to have greater longevity.
- The location of the existing water fountain makes sense for the presently proposed layout.
- Future path locations could be determined by observing the desire paths made by pedestrians into and around the park.
- Slightly condensing the play area in order to increase swing accessibility could be positive.
- The flex swing is a preferable option for increased accessibility.

Motion by Lipp

Seconded by Kupczyk to approve the updated draft concept plan and playground layout for the Pembroke Park Playground Improvement project as presented, provided that staff and playground structures address accessibility to a swing or swings by way of a pathway and installing a flex swing option there, and to forward to the City Commission for their consideration and final approval.

Board members discussed the following regarding the motion:

- While removing the single shade structure from the sandbox could be considered in order to reduce costs, installing it is preferable because it can reduce the debris in the sandbox.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

VIII. Miscellaneous Communications

There are plans to add a cricket field to Boulan Park in Troy, Michigan.

This was of interest since it would be a novel recreational use for the local area, and since the Board often considers how recreational opportunities in Birmingham can be appropriately expanded.

IX. Reports from Staff

X. Items for Next Meeting

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Connie Folk

Connie Folk, Ice Arena and Facilities Superintendent



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist