

**CITY OF MOUNTAIN BROOK
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES
August 9, 2022**

The City of Mountain Brook Parks & Recreation Board met at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at City Hall.

Board Members Present: Dean Nix
Charles Carper
Elizabeth Dunn
Helen Drennen

David Price
Aimee Reese
Meredith Waldrop
Trent Wright

Board Members Absent: Brian Lucas

Others Present: Tate Davis
Joel Eliason
Sam Gaston
LaTorya Mines

Billy Pritchard
Virginia Smith
Katherine Shepherd
Shanda Williams

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dean Nix called the meeting to order and asked for approval of July 12, 2022, meeting minutes. Upon a motion made by Elizabeth and seconded by Trent, the minutes for July 12, 2022, were approved.

1. Park Director's Report – Shanda Williams.

Parks:

- Jemison Trail
 - We finalized the contract with Wilbanks Engineering to design a solution for the creek bank erosion.
 - Nimrod Long and Associates has received the survey results for the new trail design. A plan will be presented to the Park Board for review at our meeting.
- Watkins Trail: We are finished with the pipe and headwall. We are in the process of adding new rock to the trail.
- Nature Trail: We are working with the Friends and Craig Beatty to figure out a good solution for the spur trail Mr. Beatty created. It is in a flood prone area and washes more than we expected, especially with all the recent hard rains we've received.
- Canterbury Park: I will present the master plan we have agreed to with the neighbors for the Park Board's review.

Sports Fields:

- Complex Improvements: (Phase 2)-Clements Dean
 - Clements Dean is still working on the punch list of small details to finish
 - The security cameras have been installed and they are working on the final connections.
- Field 1-Morris-Shea:
 - The restroom/concession building is complete except for the concession stand window. There is a temporary window in place until the correct one arrives.
 - The new batting cage nets have been hung.
 - Bill Shea is working on ordering the bleacher shades.

- The bleachers for the smaller corner fields are due to arrive next Tuesday.
 - Signs have been installed on the dugouts and concession stand.
 - The score tables are in, but still need covers. We have a few issues to work out with them. The one in right field doesn't sit on level ground and the one for left field is bigger than expected. Making room for it and the bleachers will be challenging.
 - The Sheas are trying to be completely finished with this contract by the end of the month.
- Field 1 Parking-Morris-Shea:
 - The contractor working on expanding Grants Mill Road will haul their spoils to the ravine behind Field 1 to fill it in and create a level area for future parking. They are experiencing a delay with digging, but should start hauling fill in the next couple of weeks. The Shea's are donating most of the work involved with the grading.
- Cherokee Bend Field-Duncan and Thompson:
 - We worked with them to fix a leak on the field and they need to finish painting one corner of the concrete to be completely done with this contract.
 - We are trying to figure out where to put 2-3 batting cages and think they will fit outside the fence by the climbing tower. These are in the proposed budget for FY23.

General news:

- FY-2023 Budget: We are on the second draft of the budget and will meet with the finance committee and council in a few weeks. These are a few of the things we are requesting:
 - Improvements to the Tot Lot- expanded play area, better accessibility, restroom
 - Improvements to Canterbury Park-better accessibility, drinking fountain, landscaping
 - Begin construction of the new Jemison Trail
 - Design improvements to BWF- bigger restroom, better access to the field, new lights and irrigation, possible walking track and/or park area.
 - Design Turf Field for the Jr High- including new tennis courts, parking, restroom
 - Equipment-Battery powered zero turn mower, leaf vac and trailer
- New Employee: We have hired a third new laborer, Dontez Jackson. We have one more full time position open if you know anyone that would be interested.

2. Sports Report –

Jim Jeter – MB Soccer – No Report.

Brad Hart – MBA Sports - Per Trent; MBA will start fall ball in a few weeks. The numbers in football were up this year. The rec players are going to be pen pals with the high school teams to build relationships between the players and programs.

Meredith Waldrop – MB LAX –Fall registration will start around August 15th. The numbers for LAX are looking good. They will have games at the Hoover Met.

3. Old Business – None

4. New Business – Jemison Trail Plan – Joel Eliason/Nimrod Long Assoc.

Joel highlighted major aspects of the plan. The trail has been surveyed. Plans include moving the trails to a higher location to make them more user friendly and avoid flood prone areas. They will add native plantings due to Jemison's unique environment. They will be adding approximately 16 additional parking spaces; 3 are dedicated as

handicap spaces. The primary trail will be ADA compliant. The Secondary trail's topography won't allow ADA compliance. It will allow access to the other side of the creek. It will cross the creek again with a possible bridge. The bridge will require Army Corps of Engineers' approval. The picnic area will be reorganized and include a new meadow area. There will be a Pollinator Garden near the parking area. They are working with the Birmingham Zoo to implement the Pollinator Garden. They hope to have the bid documents completed by the end of this year and have the project bid out in January. Meredith asked about a timeline for completion. Joel stated the project will probably be completed in phases to avoid having to close the park completely, so construction times are uncertain. Helen inquired if donors have/can donate for native plantings as a less expensive donation option.

Canterbury Park Plan – Shanda Williams

Shanda has been working with residents and Dale Brasher with Brasher Design Studio to make improvements at Canterbury Park. They came up with a conceptual design that will make the park ADA accessible. They will add a drinking fountain, new picnic area, landscape boulders and continuous power for irrigation timers. The general consensus of the Park Board was the plan looked great and residents were good with it, they recommended Shanda move forward with the current design.

Dog Ordinance Change – Shanda Williams

Due to ongoing complaints regarding dog waste at playgrounds and playing fields there is a proposed change to the current dog ordinance. The changes would include banning dogs from all parks with playgrounds, tennis courts and all athletic fields at all times. David stated this has been an issue for 10 plus years. During general discussion it was suggested to give residents one final warning/threat to clean up after your pets or else the Park Board will move forward with suggested changes to the dog ordinance. Trent stated the Park Board has been making threats for the past five years. Sam Gaston asked if there were any Eagle Scouts in need of a project. They could possibly create a dog park at Crestline Field for residents to use instead of Crestline Field. Currently no, but Shanda will add this to her list for future Eagle Scout Project ideas. Meredith/Aimee suggested just banning dogs at Crestline Field since it has the most violations. It was also suggested to phase in the sports fields ban based on need or impose fines on violators. After more discussion Dean suggested the park board read over the redline version of the proposed changes and email Shanda/Virginia input to take back to the City Council. Guest Tate Davis made a suggestion to enforce current ordinances and fine people with dogs at football games.

General Discussion – Guest – Billy Pritchard

Mr. Pritchard spoke at the beginning of the meeting and thanked the Park Board for their service to the City. He talked about how proud the city is with the athletic complex renovations. He is looking forward to upcoming projects including renovation of the Jr. High field. He reminded everyone of the upcoming city election in two weeks. Encouraged everyone to come out and vote and also reminded everyone that absentee

voting is available. Some Park Board members also thanked him for his service to the city.

Guest – Tate Davis

Dean acknowledged Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis stated he was there to observe the meeting.

5. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:55 p.m.

6. **Schedule next meeting:** Next meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.