

**CITY OF MOUNTAIN BROOK
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES
October 11, 2022**

The City of Mountain Brook Parks & Recreation Board met at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at City Hall.

Board Members Present: Dean Nix
Charles Carper
Elizabeth Dunn
David Price
Meredith Waldrop

Board Members Absent: Brian Lucas
Helen Drennen
Aimee Reese
Trent Wright

Others Present: Sam Gaston
Allen Jones
LaTorya Mines
Virginia Smith
Shanda Williams
Stephen Jones
Charles Townsend

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dean Nix called the meeting to order and asked for approval of both August 9th and September 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Upon a motion made by David and seconded by Charlie both August 9th and September 13, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

1. Park Director's Report – Shanda Williams.

Parks:

- Jemison Trail:
 - Wilbanks Engineering has completed their plan for the stream bank restoration last week and I have shared it with Nimrod for his review and make sure it works with the trail plans. I am waiting on an estimate to complete the work. I have attached the illustration below.
 - New Trail Plans: Details of the plan are still being finalized. The cost estimate has increased with additional parking and the corresponding paved access routes to the trail.
- New Park Sign Design: I have shared our idea with Joel Eliason to see how it will fit into the new trail design.
- Tot Lot Improvements: We are hoping to make big improvements to the Tot Lot by making it more accessible and adding a restroom. We hope to make it a big community project.
- Canterbury Park: Stone and Sons is fixing the street light and supplying power to the park so we can run the irrigation timer properly.
- Overton Park: We are trying to remove the eleagnus from between the fire station and tennis courts and remove it from the trees behind the tennis courts. It had gotten tangled in the emergency siren equipment and Tim from our parks crew has coordinated with Alabama Power, Jeff Co EMA, and Evans Tree Service to disconnect power, remove the brush, fix the siren, and restore power.

Sports Fields:

- Complex Improvements:
 - We should closeout the contract with Clements Dean in the next week or so.
 - Kids are being rough with the toilets by kicking the flush handles so we are changing those to automatic flush valves. We will do that at Field 1 also.

- The security cameras are installed. In the process of adding the new cameras, we have realized that the system running my existing cameras was outdated. We have ordered a new control box.
- Field 1-Morris-Shea:
 - We are still waiting on the bleacher shades, counter top, and score table covers.
 - We are still working on finalizing some of the remaining details of the project, including improving the drainage.
- Field 1 Parking-Morris-Shea:
 - The contract with Morris-Shea has been signed and work has begun. Dump truck loads of dirt and rocks are being hauled from the construction project on Grants Mill Road to fill the ravine behind Field 1. This fill is the first steps in making the area more useable as a parking lot. Photos included below.
- Cherokee Bend Field-Duncan and Thompson:
 - They ordered the stain to paint the corner of the concrete but have not completed it yet.
- Crestline Elementary:
 - The project is due to finish up in January as long as they get an important piece of equipment on time in the next few weeks.
 - There is an old concrete storm drain pipe that runs across the field that has gaps in it that cause our field to settle in spots every few years. Public Works is helping us by having a company slip line it with a fiberglass liner. The timing of this will be coordinated with Clements Dean because they will be digging a large 14ft deep hole in the same area to connect to the sanitation sewer line. We will wait until they are done to avoid damages to our work.
 - There is damage to the fence by the Pig that may have been caused by a car. We are in the process of having that fixed.
- Jr. High: The field will be closed for most of next year due to the installation of storm drain pipes and conversion to artificial turf. The pipe work is due to begin in January and we are working on the artificial turf plans now. We hope to time the beginning of the turf project with the end of the pipe project and be done before school starts in the fall. I have included the conceptual plan below.
- Brookwood Forest Elem: Sam from our construction crew will be leading in the replacement of the wooden ADA ramp to the restroom the week of Oct 10.

General news:

- FY-2023 Budget: The council approved the budget with the following projects and equipment included:
 - Improvements to the Tot Lot- expanded play area, better accessibility, restroom
 - Begin construction of the new Jemison Trail
 - Design improvements to BWF- bigger restroom, better access to the field, new irrigation, possible walking track and/or park area.
 - Adding batting cages to CBE and MBE
 - Design Turf Field for the Jr High- including new tennis courts, parking, restroom
 - Equipment-Battery powered zero turn mower, leaf vac and trailer, and replacing our turf trucks and trailers
- Island Improvement Project: We finished planting the shrubs at Jackson and Fairway except for the kousa dogwood. Our supplier did not have it in stock at that time. We will plant it when it becomes available. The neighbors were all pleased.
- Rainy weather: Last month I reported about the rainy weather and now it has turned dry. We have been running our irrigation and finding spots that need repair. Crestline field has had the worst response. Because of the gym construction, the water has been disconnected and they have been manually watering by a tank.
- Roof Repair: The metal roof on our building was resealed, but we have not had any rain to test it out.
- Dog Ban:
 - Since the ordinance was passed to ban dogs on sports fields and at playgrounds, we have gotten a variety of messages in both support and anger with the ban. The teachers were real vocal with their support of the ban. Crestline added their locks back to the gates to help with keeping dogs off the field. Several dog

owners have sent in emails expressing their thoughts. They have also repeatedly removed our signs at the entrances to the fields and parks. We have been using laminated signs because we were expecting this. Most people seem to be complying now so we will place more permanent signs next week.

- In an effort to try to accommodate the dog owners more, we are looking at the possibility of putting a temporary dog park at the end of Crestline field. This would be made from temporary fence panels and taken down as needed. We are also looking at the possibility of expanding the dog park at MBE. We are trying to see how these two ideas will work with the sports groups and school needs. We are looking at other green spaces as well. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know.

**2. Sports Report –
Jim Jeter – MB Soccer – No report.**

Brad Hart – MBA Sports – No report

Meredith Waldrop – MB LAX – Spring registration opens on November 1st. They are working on field space for the loss of the Jr. High space. Negotiating with Irondale’s Mayor for use of a school field. So far they have gotten positive responses. LAX spring season runs from January thru mid-April. LAX program numbers have increased.

3. Old Business – None

4. New Business – Eagle Project Tree ID – Charles Townsend

Charles Townsend would like to add 20-30 tree identification signs to trees along the walking trails. He plans to use the same type signs, font and company a previous scout used. He will work with Shanda and the city Arborist to identify the trees and locations. Shanda will approve the signs before they are printed and placed. The Park Board pre-approved this project idea with the understanding that Charles Townsend is to meet with Shanda for sign locations, tree identification, approval of sign verbiages and design.

General Discussion –

Stephen Jones introduced himself as an observer. He stated his property adjoins Overton Park. He was told the Park will be taking over the Fire Department property in the future. He decided he would attend Park Board meetings as plans develop for that property. Sam Gaston stated there are no plans for that property yet. Design will probably start in approximately 2 years. The plans will have to go before the Planning Commission and nearby residents will be notified and have an opportunity for input.

5. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:35 p.m.

6. Schedule next meeting: Next meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.