



Resolution 2022-250

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF A DIAMOND FACILITIES AND SPORTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) AND DIRECTING RECREATION, ASSET MANAGEMENT AND/OR PLANNING DEPARTMENTS TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE LIAISON(S) TO ADVISE/SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY LED TAC OF MPRB PARTNERS WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THE TAC WILL REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD RECREATION COMMITTEE BETWEEN 6 MONTHS AND 12 MONTHS OF ITS FORMATION WITH INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE OR ENHANCE FIELDS RELATED TO DIAMOND SPORTS IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS AND SPECIFICALLY THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) dismantles historic inequities in the provision of park and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community and the environment;

Whereas, The Board of Commissioners, through Resolution 2016-282 (South Service Area Master Plan), Resolution 2017-353 (Downtown Service Area Master Plan), Resolution 2019-106 (North Service Area Master Plan), Resolution 2019-135 (East of the River Parks Master Plan), and Resolution 2021-310 (Southwest Service Area Master Plan), has provided direction for the evolution of neighborhood parks in the Minneapolis parks system;

Whereas, The creation of each Service Area Master Plan was supported by a Community Advisory Committee, formed and charged through separate resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners, which guided the development of concepts plans incorporated into the Service Area Master Plans;

Whereas, The development of the Service Area Master Plans reduced the volume of diamond sports fields by 40% or nearly 50 total fields throughout the system and this fact demonstrates the need to plan for those fields more effectively and efficiently;

Whereas, The creation of each Service Area Master Plan was also supported by robust engagement of the community as documented as part of a presentation of each Master Plan as it was presented to the Board of Commissioners;

Whereas, Significant effort in the creation of each Service Area Master Plan was directed to a proper apportionment of park area to diamond sports (baseball and softball) and field sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, etc.), especially relative to the limited space available to accommodate additional fields in the Minneapolis' neighborhood parks;



Whereas, Diamond sports advocates have indicated that facilities available for high quality play in Minneapolis neighborhood parks and the planned evolution of facilities under the Service Area Master Plans fail to meet needs for diamond sports;

Whereas, Diamond sports involve both male and female options, but one has dominated field usage over time therefore a close examination of how girls' sports can be prioritized within a set of recommendations around our diamond sports facilities.

Whereas, The MPRB desires broad involvement of the community, balanced representation in committee composition and activities, and robust participation in the development of directions and actions intended to reconcile identified deficiencies identified by staff or community partners.

Whereas, A technical advisory committee, formed by the Board of Commissioners, will examine field improvements, programming direction, reservation processes and maintenance expectations of diamond sports fields as identified in the Service Area Master Plans and formulate possible recommendations for sustaining and improving the quality of and access to diamond sports programs and facilities in Minneapolis and investigate increased revenue opportunities for diamond sports permits;

Whereas, Technical Advisory Committees as defined in the adopted Community Engagement Policy are usually associated with projects, but can offer a flexible and inclusive means of investigating specific topics or cut through programming that impact local parks but also impact system wide amenities;

Whereas, through the Master Planning process the amount of diamonds available in the MPRB system has been reduced by nearly 40%;

Whereas, by developing collaborative relationships with partners MPRB can more effectively address the needs of facility users by increasing community engagement structures;

Whereas, Title IX dictates equity in funding for female athletics;

Whereas, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is a publicly funded youth sports organization in the City of Minneapolis that is the only option for many youth in the city;

Whereas, Technical Advisory Committees, as defined in the adopted Community Engagement Policy, would have the responsibility to: inform and work collaboratively with other committees (including those of the Board of Commissioners), provide professional recommendations, consider timelines and budgets, provide relevant data, and make records and proceedings accessible and public; and



Whereas, This resolution is supported by Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036, under Goal 2: “Steward a continuum of recreation and nature,” Goal 3: “Provide core services with care,” and Goal 4: “Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships.”

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the formation of a Diamond Facilities and Sports Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and directing Recreation, Asset Management and/or Planning departments to identify possible liaison(s) to advise/support this community led TAC of MPRB partners with the expectation that the TAC will report back to the Board Recreation Committee between 6 months and 12 months of its formation with initial recommendations/suggestions to improve or enhance fields related to Diamond Sports in the city of Minneapolis and specifically the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Diamond Sports Technical Advisory Committee to operate under the following charge:

- Work collaboratively with current and/or potential partners/customers to provide input leading to final recommendations for consideration by the Board of Commissioners;
- Review and be familiar with each Service Area Master Plan related to diamond sports;
- Become knowledgeable about the topic of diamond sports by gathering and sharing data, statistics, and other factual information related to diamond sports;
- Advise MPRB staff relative to findings related to diamond sports throughout the term of the committee;
- Are authorized to examine and investigate data related to field usage, participant outcomes, field types, lighting regulations,
- Create climate resilient solutions within recommendations for field maintenance and expansion to ensure the latest science is examined and explained
- Strive to understand the needs of community members and stakeholders;
- Apply equity principles in decision-making based on training provided by MPRB staff;
- Report back to appointers or appointing bodies quarterly, as requested, on the plan process, information presented, data discoveries, and possible recommendations;
- Deliver well-grounded and feasible recommendations for improved diamond sports facilities; if directions to expand diamond sports facilities, identify locations and determine available and appropriate funding sources for acquisition;
- Examine possible partner collaborations to expand programming options for youth within MPRB offerings and outside of those options.



- Work within the framework of each Service Area Master Plan to the greatest degree practicable and where not practicable, demonstrate methods of fair allocation of spaces in neighborhood parks reflecting what is shown in each Service Area Master Plan; and
- Evaluate potential scenarios and deliver to the Board of Commissioners a preferred, actionable direction(s) for diamond sports within eight months of the committee's initial meeting.

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.



TO: Recreation Committee

FROM: Mimi Kalb, Assistant Superintendent, Recreation

DATE: 7/20/22

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF A DIAMOND FACILITIES AND SPORTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) AND DIRECTING RECREATION, ASSET MANAGEMENT AND/OR PLANNING DEPARTMENTS TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE LIAISON(S) TO ADVISE/SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY LED TAC OF MPRB PARTNERS WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THE TAC WILL REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD RECREATION COMMITTEE BETWEEN 6 MONTHS AND 12 MONTHS OF ITS FORMATION WITH INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE OR ENHANCE FIELDS RELATED TO DIAMOND SPORTS IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS AND SPECIFICALLY THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

BACKGROUND

This action would result in the creation of a Diamond Sports Technical Advisory Committee charged with evaluating diamond sports facilities and offering recommendations for improvement diamond sports play and access at neighborhood parks throughout the Minneapolis park system.

The allocation of space for diamond sports and field sports within Minneapolis' neighborhood parks is guided by Service Area Master Plans created specifically for each of five recreation service areas in the park system. The directions embodied in each master plan were guided by Community Advisory Committees and robust engagement of the community. A fair and appropriate allocation of space for diamond sports and field sports was a central discussion point in the creation of each service area master plan. The master plans reflect then current understanding of the populations supporting diamond and field sports, as well as a reasonable aggregation and distribution of spaces for diamond and field sports.

Advocates for diamond sports have noted that Minneapolis facilities fail to match standards used in other communities, especially suburban communities. They desire to improve conditions for diamond sports through participation in a committee aimed specifically at diamond sports. Through study, the advocates aim to define a series of actions that might be considered by the Board of Commissioners to advance conditions and access related to diamond sports and facilities.

RECOMMENDATION



This resolution is submitted on behalf of Co-Chair Menz.

This action is supported by the following elements of Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036:

This action is supported by the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036.

Goal:

- 02. Steward a continuum of nature and recreation
- 03. Provide core services with care
- 03. Provide core services with care
- 05. Expand focus on health equity

Strategy:

- 06. Improve overall quality of multi-use fields and diamonds, including expansion of premier fields throughout the system.
- 07. Design, evolve, and maintain high quality athletic facilities including fields, diamonds, skateparks, ice rinks, courts, and tracks to support a range of multigenerational sports balancing tradition and emerging trends.
- 15. Ensure that athletics are supported equitably throughout the system through a combination of partnerships, traveling sport leagues, activity councils, and MPRB-led programs.

Attachments:

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Jbr 7.20.22.