

**COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING MINUTES**

April 29, 2015

THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CONVENED IN A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015 AT 2PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR, ROOM 1001, CITY HALL 301 W. 2ND STREET.

Council Member Leslie Pool called the meeting to order at 2:09 PM. In attendance were Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, Council Member Delia Garza, and Council Member Don Zimmerman, Water Wastewater Commissioner Dale Gray, Environmental Board Chair Mary Gay Maxwell, and Parks & Recreation Board Chair Jane Rivera.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes.

The minutes from the meeting of March 25, 2015 were approved on CM Garza's motion, and CM Zimmerman's second on a 4-0-0 vote.

Agenda Item #2: General Citizen Communications

There were 8 members of the public that spoke:

- **Sharon Blythe spoke on repairs and improvements to a park in Northwest Austin.**
- **Peter Steinhardt spoke on costs associated with PARD's facilities and programs.**
- **Roy Waley spoke on the City's pools located in East Austin.**
- **Jennifer Houlihan spoke on nominations to the Parkland Events Task Force.**
- **Ross Smith spoke on household hazardous waste collection in each Council district.**
- **Angelica Noyola spoke on the sustainability of the City's Aquatic program operations.**
- **Susana Almanza spoke on the sustainability of the City's Aquatic program operations.**
- **Farhad Madani spoke on the sustainability of the City's Aquatic program operations.**

CM Pool read the following citizen's names into the record who did not speak, along with their position on an agenda item:

- **Pam O'Connor signed up in opposition to item #6**
- **Elisa R. Montoya signed up in opposition to item #6**
- **Bertha Delgado signed up in opposition to item #6**
- **Ramon Maldonado signed up in opposition to item #6**
- **Sharon Blythe signed up in opposition to item #6**
- **Melissa Morrow signed up in support of item #7**

Agenda Item #3: Presentation from National Wildlife Federation on monarch population decimation and consideration of a recommendation to City Council concerning monarch butterfly gardens at City Hall and in City parks. (Marya Fowler, National Wildlife Federation)

Marya Fowler spoke on the current conservation efforts to help reverse the decline of the North American monarch butterfly.

Agenda Item #4: Discuss nominations of three members to be appointed to the Parkland Events Task Force by the Council Committee on Open Space, Environment and Sustainability per City Council Resolution No. 20150305-025.

CM Pool reminded the committee that three appointments need to be made. MPT Tovo spoke on the importance of diverse representation to have a balanced perspective on the new task force.

Agenda Item #5: Discuss household hazardous waste collection in each Council district. (Bob Gedert, Austin Resource Recovery)

Bob Gedert spoke on the proposed collection process schedule and cost estimates.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion regarding sustainability of the City's Aquatic program operations. (Kimberly McNeely, Parks and Recreation Department)

Kimberly McNeely spoke on the sustainability of citywide aquatic operations. McNeely described the current challenges in operational practices as not being environmentally, financially, or operationally sustainable. McNeely spoke on the desired aquatic state which includes sustainable family aquatic centers in combination with a balanced preservation of historical assets, smaller neighborhood pool and splash pads. McNeely also spoke on the determining factors of the proposed closure of two City pools.

CM Pool read the following citizen's names into the record along with their position on the item:

- **Cary Cordova signed up in opposition to the item**
- **Malcolm Yeaths signed up in opposition to the item**

Agenda Item #7: Consider and develop recommendations on an amendment to the August 2013 Parkland Improvement and Use Agreement with the West Austin Youth Association regarding Lamar Beach and Town Lake Metropolitan Park. (Kimberly McNeely, Parks and Recreation Department)

CM Pool moved to accept staff's recommendations and send the recommendations to the May 21, 2015 Council meeting for Council approval. The motion was approved unanimously on a 3-0-0-1 vote with CM Zimmerman off the dais.

Agenda Item #8: Receive public comment and develop recommendations relating to the negotiation and execution of a 50-year license agreement with DECKER LAKE GOLF, LLC to provide funding, design, development, management, and maintenance services for a golf course at Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park.

There were nine members of the public that spoke:

- **Brian Rodgers spoke in opposition to the item and presented various financial findings of his own.**
- **Warren Hayes spoke in support of the item and provided a presentation on the projected timeline of community benefits.**
- **Veronica Vargas spoke in support of the item but spoke on concerns regarding the project's proposed use of reclaimed water.**
- **Bill Oakey spoke in opposition to the item and spoke on concerns surrounding the license agreement.**

- Lou McCreary spoke in opposition to the item and spoke on language currently being used on a City website indicating that this project is already underway.
- Jeffrey Schryver spoke in support of the item and provided a presentation on the utilization of the park.
- Roy Waley was neutral on the item and clarified the aforementioned position of the Sierra Club. Whaley also suggested comprehensive planning for the economic opportunities for the local community.
- Melvin Wrenn spoke in support of the item and spoke on the history of East Austin.
- Richard Suttle spoke in support of the item and spoke on the project's deliberation process under the new City Council. Suttle encouraged further discussion with those for and against the project.

No action was taken on this item. CM Garza and CM Zimmerman were off the dais during the latter part of this item to attend the Mobility Committee meeting.

Agenda Item: Consider future agenda items.

Discussion of a resolution asking staff to provide clarification of the physical boundaries of the Town Lake Community Event Center Venue project.

Council Member Leslie Pool adjourned the meeting at 5:35 PM.

The minutes were approved on this the 27th day of May, 2015 on CM Zimmerman's motion, and on MPT Tovo's second. Vote 3-0-0-1.

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