



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, September 29, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.

Town Lake Center

721 Barton Springs Road, Assembly Room

Austin, Texas 78704

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jane Rivera, Chair; Richard DePalma, Vice Chair; Alison Alter, Michael Casias, Rick Cofer, Tom Donovan, Alesha Larkins, Francoise Luca, Alex Schmitz, Mark Vane, Pat Wimberly

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of August 25, 2015.

Board Member Cofer made a motion to approve the minutes from August 25, 2015. Board Member Donovan seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-0.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None.

D. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Consent

2. Make a recommendation to the City Council to approve the negotiation and execution of an agreement with the successful proposer, Lone Star Tennis, for the management and operation of the Austin Tennis Center.

3. Make a recommendation to the City Council to approve the Permanent Use (2,525 sq. ft.), and Temporary Work Area (4,443 sq. ft.), Temporary Staging Area (36,923 sq. ft.), and Temporary Access Area (128,342 sq. ft.), not to exceed 547 Calendar Days on parkland located at 12017 Amherst Drive (Balcones District Park), related to the Waters Park Relief Main project. Total mitigation value is \$244,469.

Vice Chair DePalma made a motion to approve Items 2 and 3 on the Consent agenda. Board Member Wimberly seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-0.

Non-Consent

4. Discussion and possible action to nominate additional representatives to the Joint Committee of the Environmental Board and the Parks and Recreation Board.

Board Chair Rivera proposed the nomination of Board Member Donovan and Board Member Vane. Board Member Alter made a motion to approve. Board Member Cofer seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-0.

5. Board Chair to appoint a Working Group of the Parks and Recreation Board to review the scope of work for the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Master Plan.

Board Chair Rivera proposed the appointment of Chair Rivera, Board Member Casias, and Vice Chair DePalma. Board Member Cofer made a motion to approve. Board Member Alter seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-0.

6. Make a recommendation to the City Council to approve the negotiation and execution of an agreement with Players Inc. for the operation of a food and beverage concession within Zilker Metropolitan Park.

Kirk Scanlon, Contract Administrator, Parks and Recreation Department, made a presentation to the Board regarding this agreement. Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, and Terry Nicholson, Senior Buyer Specialist, Purchasing Office, were also available to respond to questions. Kirk Scanlon discussed the history of this agreement and the Request for Proposals process involved. Vice Chair DePalma discussed review of this item at the Concessions and Contracts Committee and thanked staff for providing the bid tabulation from the evaluation process. Terry Nicholson responded to questions from the Board regarding evaluation, the interview process, and the available extension options. Kirk Scanlon discussed the performance review process with the current concessionaire. Terry Nicholson explained that in the future, proposals could be provided to the Board members provided that they sign a nondisclosure agreement. Kirk Scanlon discussed the various methods used to advertise the request for proposals to the community and discussed potential reasons for a low number of responders. Assistant Director Cora Wright elaborated on the proposal review process as it relates to the Purchasing Office guidelines, and suggested that additional information could be provided to the Board if desired. The Board discussed a desire for future conversations with the department at the Concessions and Contracts Committee regarding the information provided on concessions. Kirk Scanlon responded to questions regarding the potential extension of the existing contract, and the 8-9 month timeline necessary for reissuing the RFP.

Board Member Cofer made a motion to reject the staff recommendation, request the RFP be reformed in consultation with the Austin Restaurant Association and other stakeholders, and that the RFP be publicized broadly and reissued. Board Member Casias seconded the motion. No vote was taken due to a substitute motion.

Board Member Luca made an alternate substitute motion to approve staff's recommendation for the approval of the negotiation and execution of an agreement with Players Inc. for the operation of a food and beverage concession within Zilker Metropolitan Park. Board Member Schmitz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 8-3 with Board Members Casias, Cofer, and Vane against.

7. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the renaming of the Austin Tennis Center.

Gregory Montes, Park Development Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department, made a presentation to the Board regarding this renaming application. Gregory Montes explained that two applications for renaming were received, one for Carol J. Welder and one for Sarah Pernell. This item was considered at the Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee, however, the two parties were not in agreement regarding a joint naming.

Citizen Communication

Tom Weber addressed the Board representing the application in favor of renaming the facility after Carol Welder. He shared that until he attended the Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee, he did not know there was a competing application. He spoke with respect of the contributions of the competing applicant. He also noted the longevity of the contributions of Carol Welder, and the various activities she has participated in in the tennis community. He shared that himself and Robin Moten met to discuss this issue and believed they had found a solution whereby the courts would be named after Sarah Pernell and the facility itself after Carol Welder because of the broader scope of her contributions to the Austin community.

Robin Moten addressed the Board representing the application in favor of renaming the facility after Sarah Pernell. She shared that following the Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee she understood that the parties were to discuss the joint naming. She discussed Sarah Pernell's contributions to the Austin tennis community. She shared that she has unanswered questions about which and how many courts were being considered for naming after Pernell.

Board Member Vane expressed concern about the relationship between the two applicants, and noted that this naming was the textbook example for why the naming ordinance needs amendment. He expressed concern about whether or not both parties were happy with the solution of naming the courts after Sarah Pernell.

Board Member Vane made a motion to not rename the Austin Tennis Center. Board Member Donovan seconded the motion. No vote was taken due to a substitute motion.

Vice Chair DePalma requested to hear from applicant Tom Weber regarding his thoughts and comments. Mr. Weber expressed disagreement that either party may have been coerced and expressed concern about the effect this situation may have on the relationship between the two parties.

Board Member Schmitz made a substitute motion to rename the whole Austin Tennis Center after both applicants, hyphenated and listed in alphabetical order. The motion was not seconded.

Board Member Alter made a substitute motion that the Board is unable to make a recommendation at this time pending the proposed ordinance; the Austin Tennis Center naming is precisely the type of case for which the new ordinance is supposed to provide guidance. Board Member Schmitz seconded the motion.

Board Member Wimberly requested that all previous motions be withdrawn for parliamentary procedure. All Board Members were in agreement and withdrew their motions.

Board Member Luca made a motion to not change the name of Austin Tennis Center pending the potential changes to the naming ordinance. Board Member Wimberly seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 10-1 with Board Member Cofer against.

8. Make a recommendation to the City Council to initiate an Ordinance creating a moratorium on the naming and renaming of parkland and park facilities under city code Chapter 14-1 until the Parks and Recreation Board and the Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee of the City Council have made recommendations to the City Council regarding amendments to Chapter 14-1.

Chair Rivera introduced this item and discussed the forthcoming proposed ordinance amendment related to naming and renaming of parks and park facilities. Gregory Montes, Park Development Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department, discussed the process to date to amend this ordinance in order to address some challenges the department faces. Chair Rivera reminded the Board that only the City Council has the authority to halt the naming ordinance as it currently stands.

Board Member Alter made a motion to recommend the City Council initiate an Ordinance creating a moratorium on the naming and renaming of parkland and park facilities under city code Chapter 14-1 until the Parks and Recreation Board and the Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee of the City Council have made recommendations to the City Council regarding amendments to Chapter 14-1. Board Member Casias seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-0.

9. Make a recommendation to the City Council to approve an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2016 fee schedule adding a Lifetime Swim Pass fee of \$0.00 for City of Austin Residents 80+ allowing free access to all City of Austin operated/managed aquatic facilities.

Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department, responded to questions regarding this item. The Board did not wish to receive the full staff presentation. Board Member Vane followed up on an inquiry from the Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee regarding the fiscal impact of this action. Assistant Director McNeeley responded regarding the fiscal impact, estimating an impact of \$171 to \$289 per individual, and committed to providing the Board with actual attendance figures after the next swim season.

Board Member Casias made a motion to recommend to the City Council approval of an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2016 fee schedule adding a Lifetime Swim Pass fee of \$0.00 for City of Austin Residents 80+ allowing free access to all City of Austin operated/managed aquatic facilities. Board Member Cofer seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 10-1 with Board Member Wimberly against.

E. BRIEFINGS

None

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Hensley discussed the Director's Report for the month. She noted several items that will be coming forward including the naming ordinance, programming briefings if desired, the Seaholm project,

the upcoming board schedule, and the aquatics master plan. Director Hensley shared the results of the most recent budget cycle including 17 new positions added to the department and other contractals and commodities. She also reported that the department received \$1.15 million to be divided among the different Council districts. Additionally, some Council offices chose to give a portion of the remainder of their FY 15 budgets to the department for improvements in their districts. Director Hensley shared several updates from the Office of Special Events. She also noted for the Board several upcoming community meetings.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Alter requested that the November 4 Special Called meeting on the budget discuss the issue of revenue and how that interacts with the general fund.

Board Member Casias requested an update on the Nash Hernandez Building including the current status and available funding.

Board Member Cofer requested an item related to fishing from the Boardwalk Trail into Ladybird Lake. Board Member Cofer also requested information regarding Barton Springs Pool fees including the history of the changes and the distribution of revenue that comes from those fees.

Board Chair Rivera requested an update regarding the parking situation at the Caswell Tennis Center.

Vice Chair DePalma requested additional information be provided to the Board in preparation for the public hearing on the parkland dedication changes.

Board Member Vane requested more information regarding the issue of reviewing proposal responses via nondisclosure agreements.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.