



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**May 8, 2001
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, May 8, 2001 in the Board Room of the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office located at 200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Mary Ruth Holder, Rhonda Taylor, Jeff Francell, Rocky Medrano, Clint Small and Carol Kim.

Board Members Absent: Amy Babich

Staff Members Present: Jesus Olivares, Kimberley Jamail Mitchell, Chief Ruben Lopez, Stuart Strong and Dina Haines.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

- B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**, April 24, 2001 meetings. **Board Francell** made the motion to approve the minutes as written. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion. **The Board was in favor 7-0-0.**

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

D. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation Regarding Construction of Way Boat Dock at 4516 Rivercrest on Lake Austin. File No. SP-01-0186DS

Board Member Small stated item #1, the Way boat dock had been discussed at the prior navigation committee meeting. The owners have submitted letters of approval from the neighbors at the request by the navigation committee members. **Board Member Small** made the motion to approve the construction of the Way Boat Dock at 4516 Rivercrest. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

2. Make a Recommendation Regarding Construction of Thornton Boat Dock at 10702 River Terrace.

Board Member Small stated item 2, the Thornton boat dock met the 20% percent requirement and is an existing boat dock that is being remodeling and reduced in size. **Board Member Small** made the motion to recommend the construction of the Thornton boat dock. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

4. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Renaming of Northwest District Park to Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park.

Jim Rodgers, Georgian Burnett, Barrett Garrison, Craig Biddle, George Cofer, and Jon Beall all spoke to the Parks Board in support of the renaming of Northwest District Park to *Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park*. Also in support of renaming of the park and in attendance were **Lois Sheffield** and her son, **Steve Sheffield**. Mr. Beverly Sheffield helped design Northwest District Park. In addition to being personally involved in the drafting of the original plan, he helped create various other parks and many programs during his thirty-nine years with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Sheffield also served as the Director to the Parks and Recreation Department from 1963 to 1973. Highly respected for his leadership in many diverse public arenas and his devotion to this community, for which he deserves to be well recognized.

Board Member Holder informed the board members that this item had been before the Land and Facilities sub-committee and the sub-committee wholeheartedly recommended the name change. **Board Member Holder** made the motion to recommend to City Council the re-naming of Northwest District Park to *Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park*. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

5. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Renaming of the Colorado River Park to Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park.

Gloria Mata-Pennington, Alvino Mendoza and Gus Pena spoke to the Parks Board in support of re-naming the Colorado River Park to *Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park*. Mr. Guerrero began working with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department in the 1940s. "Mr. G." as he is fondly known, is loved for his attention and interest in the lives of the young people who frequented Pan Am Recreation Center during his tenure as Center Supervisor. Most recently, in October 2000, he was presented the Roberta P. Crenshaw Park Patron Award for lifetime Outstanding Service by the Adopt-A-Park program. Many stories were shared about the inspiration "Mr. G." provided to many people within the community and all felt the name change would honor him for his outstanding contributions to the community.

Board Member Medrano made the motion to recommend to City Council the re-naming of the Colorado River Park to *Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park*. **Board Member Taylor** seconded the motion. Board Member Holder informed the board members that this name change was also wholeheartedly supported by the Land and Facilities Subcommittee. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

3. Make a Recommendation to the Director Regarding Dog Off-Leash Area at Old West Austin Park.

Mark Stine, Chair, Old West Austin Neighborhood Association (OWANA) spoke to the Parks Board in support of allowing a temporary six-month trial period for the dogs off-leash at the south end of the park. Mr. Stine is on the OWANA Steering Committee and hopes to be a partner in a solution to this problem. Mr. Stine gave a letter to the board in which the OWANA and West Austin Youth Association (WAYA) might be able work together for allowing for a solution to the request for OWANA by allowing the off-leash for early hours and late in the evening. Mr. Stine was asking if the Parks Board could delay their vote while the neighbor was granted the six-month trial period.

Jesus Olivares passed out information to the board members regarding the vandalism that has been occurring at the park. Numerous signs stating the park rules requiring dogs to be kept on leashes have been removed or vandalized. Mr. Olivares held up a sign created by someone and placed in the park illegally to "allow" dogs off leash during the early and evening hours. Clearly, this sign is in violation of the ordinance prohibiting dogs off leash at Old West Austin Park. Mr. Olivares stated the Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of starting the Summer Playground Program in the park and the swimming pool was also underway to re-opened for the summer. Also mentioned was the new playscape underway at Old West Austin Park. As mentioned in previous meetings, children's activities in the park create a concern about allowing dogs off leash for the six-month trial period in this park.

After a brief discussion, **Board Member Holder** stated this item had been before the Land and Facilities sub-committee meeting and it was their recommendation not to recommend this park to be a leash free area. The sub-committee felt that due to safety concerns, size of the park, and neighborhood parking that this is not an appropriate park to create a leash free dog park.

Board Member Holder made the recommendation to the Director to **not** create a leash free dog park at Old West Austin Park. **Board Member Kim** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

6. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding a Parkland Use Agreement with the City of Austin Waterwaste Water Department for access to Lift Station on Stratford Drive.

Mark Stehling, Project Manager with Water and Wastewater Utility Department and **Bob Thonhoff**, Thonhoff Consulting Engineers, made a brief presentation to the board. The WWW department is engaged in the upgrade of the Bluffington #3 Lift Station to assure that the station meets regulatory and public safety standards. In order to meet state regulatory safety requirements, a 12-foot wide concrete road needs to be constructed over .07 acreage dedicated parkland. This driveway is necessary to complete regulatory requirements, structural restorations, conduct preventative maintenance and improve emergency response time to the lift station.

Board Member Holder made a motion to recommend that City Council approve the Land Use Agreement to construct access to the lift station. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares informed the board member of recent promotions with in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Farhad Madani, Division Manager of Aquatic and Safety Program

Gene Faulk, Division Manager for Golf and Tennis

Warren Struss, CIP Project Manager, Capital Improvement Program,

Ruben Lopez, Chief Park Police

Mr. Olivares informed the board members of the PARD budget. There will be 2 million dollar cut that PARD will have to work through next year's budget. Recently, PARD has been able to unfreeze 20 positions for new hires.

Mr. Olivares also informed the members of a memorial for Officer William Jones. The Memorial will be Monday, May 28, 2001 on Robert E. Lee Road at 2:45 p.m.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Rocky Medrano informed the members that the Montopolis ball fields were moving right along, but were held up a little due to recent rains.

Land and Facilities Committee

Items discussed are:

Dog Off Leash Proposal

TEA 21 (will be brought back to Land and Facilities May 15, 2001)

Ms. Holder also informed the members of a meeting she, Rosemary Castleberry and Amy Babich attended. The meeting was a joint sub-committee meeting made up of the Urban Transportation Commission's Bicycle/Pedestrian Sub-committee and the Land and Facilities Sub-committee to discuss pedestrian and bicycle safety along Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park.

Navigation Committee

The Committee considered the boat docks on tonight's Board agenda.

Bond Oversight Committee

Ms. Castleberry and Stuart Strong gave a presentation to the Bond Oversight Committee, April 25, 2001 concerning PARD CIP projects.

G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

H. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:07 p.m.