



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**September 25, 2001
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, September 25, 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, Jeff Francell, Jeb Boyt, Rhonda Pratt, Rocky Medrano, Mary Ruth Holder, Amy Babich and Clint Small

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Kimberley Jamail Mitchell, Stuart Strong, Randy Scott and Dina Haines

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES August 28, 2001 meeting. **Board Member Francell** made the motion to approve the minutes as written. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion. **The Board was in favor 6-0-0.**

C. PRESENTATION

C'Anne Daugherty, City of Austin Auditor spoke to the Parks Board regarding a survey to be given to all boards and commission members. Ms. Daugherty explained that the Parks Board was chosen as a pilot board and the survey was mailed out to the members the previous week. The Board's responses to the survey will be used to determine if further refinements or corrections are needed to the survey questions. The survey questions were developed by the Boards and Commissions Process Review Task Force created by the City Council in order to review the board and commissions system and get the input of board and commission members on issues facing them. The Task Force is made up of members from the city's legal department, city manager's office, auditor's office, city clerk's office and several board and commission members. Parks Board Members asked several questions concerning the questions in the survey and most members gave their completed survey forms to Ms. Daugherty.

Board Member Boyt arrives at 6:44 p.m.

Board Member Pratt arrives at 6:46 p.m.

D. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

J. A. Farrand was present to answer questions and to lend support to the Parkland Improvement Agreement regarding Lamar Guild proposal for an addition of a computer room and ADA restroom facility.

Charleen Searight, Old Enfield Home Owners Association spoke to the board in opposition of the 24th and Lamar Blvd.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation Regarding Construction of Coleman Boat Dock at 2503 Edgewater. File Number SP-01-0116D

Board Member Francell made the motion to approve the Coleman Boat Dock, which met all Land Development Code requirements. **Board Member Boyt** seconded the motion. **The vote passed in favor 7-1-0.** Board Member Babich opposed.

2. Make a Recommendation to City Council to Approve a Parkland Improvement Agreement with the Senior Activity Center, Lamar Guild, Inc.

Stuart Strong, Division Manager, PARD Planning, Construction and Design stated this item had been before the Land and Facilities Committee, September 18, 2001. Mr. Strong stated the item was an improvement to the senior recreation center and would consist of an additional room for computer equipment and use and an ADA compliant restroom.

Board Member Holder made the motion to recommend that City Council approve the Parkland Improvement Agreement. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion. **The vote passed in favor 8-0-0.**

3. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Use Agreement for the Addition of a Northbound Turn Lane on Lamar Blvd at 24th Street through Dedicated Parkland.

Charleen Searight, Old Enfield Home Owners Association member, spoke to the board in opposition of the proposed left turning lane. Ms. Searight strongly opposes the project due to the diversion of traffic through the neighborhood. Ms. Searight also felt there was a lack of information about the project and opportunities to express the opposition to the project provided to surrounding the neighborhood groups.

Richard Kroger, Supervisor Engineer, Transportation Planning and Sustainability Department was present to answer questions from the board. Mr. Kroger stated this item would go to Public Hearing at the City Council meeting, October 25, 2001.

Board Member Holder stated that the Land and Facilities sub-committee recommended that the board recommend that Council disapprove this item. The reasons that the sub-committee recommended disapproval were stated in an e-mail summarizing the sub-committee's meeting and recommendation on the item and included in the Board Members' packets. The reasons stated by the sub-committee included that this project is not for the safety of the pedestrians, but for the convenience to get commuters going north on Lamar over to Mopac and that there will be no meaningful improvements to pedestrian safety at the intersection which is heavily used by park goers. Although City Council asked the Transportation Planning and Sustainability Department to find 10 locations in the city to improve the flow of traffic, City Council did not specifically designate this intersection at 24th and Lamar Blvd. Another concern of the sub-committee was the removal of various cedar elm trees and the possible damage to the large oak tree on the parkland. **Board Member Francell** asked if there had been any resolution to the issue of providing compensation for the taking of 0.6 acres of parkland for the project. Mr. Stuart Strong stated that after meetings it was determined that there would be no cash payment to take parkland for other public purposes, although in other cases there has generally been other mitigation for the loss of parkland.

Board Member Boyt stated his concern for Capital Improvements taking the parkland for purposes of peak-hour traffic projects on five days out of a week and when there is absolutely no proposal to do anything for pedestrians' usage seven days of the week. It is a heavily used intersection with pedestrians crossing to Pease Park.

Board Member Taylor also expressed concern with routing traffic through the neighborhood to get to Mopac.

Board Member Francell made the motion to recommend that City Council not approve the northbound turning lane on Lamar Blvd and 24th Street and the use of parkland for that purpose. **Board Member Boyt** seconded the motion. **The vote passed in favor 7-1-0.** Clint Small opposed.

4. Make a Recommendation Regarding the Bus Stop on Barton Springs Road and bus Service to Zilker Park/Barton Springs Pool.

Board Member Babich spoke to the board regarding the resolution to the Capital Metro Board for more bus service to Zilker Park and Barton Springs Pool. Board Member Francell requested two changes to the resolution. These changes were to paragraph numbers 2 and 3 so that the resolution would not recommend a specific frequency of bus service on weekends but would recommend increased frequency of service.

Board Member Francell made to motion to approve the resolution as amended. **Board Member Holder** seconded the motion. **The vote passed in favor 8-0-0.** A copy of the adopted resolution is attached to these minutes.

5. Resolution Supporting Historic Landmark Designation for Deep Eddy.

Board Member Francell made the motion to support the City Historic Landmark Designation for Deep Eddy. **Board Member Taylor** seconded the motion. **The vote passed in favor 8-0-0.** A copy of the adopted resolution is attached to these minutes.

6. Appointments to Sub-Committees.

Board Chair Castleberry appointed Jeb Boyt to the Land and Facilities sub-committee.

Also discussed was the need for a representative to serve on the Downtown Commission. All Parks Board Members declined the invitation to serve on the Downtown Commission.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares thanked the board members who attended Beverly Sheffield Northwest District Park re-naming ceremony. Mr. Olivares informed the board of the amount money PARD had raised for Red Cross Fund for the City of New York. He also informed the members of another upcoming event to raise more money. The event will be Saturday, October 6, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Plaza Saltillo and will consist of a silent auction of artwork donated by several artists. Mr. Olivares also invited members to attend the Gillis Park Community Outreach Concert and Red Bud Isle ribbon cutting ceremony; both events to be held, September 29, 2001. He also mentioned the Downtown Mobility Study and Republic Square Park. Currently the Parks Department, Austin Park Foundation, Downtown Alliance and the Texas Commission for the Arts are working to re-design Republic Square Park with landscape architects to assist with new landscape. The Parks Board retreat date is for Saturday, December 1, 2001, the location will be decided at a later time.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Board Member Pratt stated that Doug Matthews, Site Manager, Old Bakery and Emporium had given the committee a briefing. The Old Bakery offers a variety of features such as a gift shop, lunch menu and a hospitality desk, which provides information, brochures of attractions in Austin. Ms. Pratt also informed the members of the Chapter 11-4 ordinance, Standards of Care for Parks and Recreation Department Programs for Children. The ordinance, which the city

legal department and the recreation center site managers have been working to put together to have it approved by City Council at a later date.

Land and Facilities Committee

Board Member Holder informed the board of items discussed.

1. 24th and Lamar Blvd additional Left Turn Lane
2. Scott Johnson gave a presentation on Austin Energy billing proposal
3. Capital Tennis Association – Tournament Level Tennis Facility

Navigation Committee

Board Member Holder stated a ski slalom course was briefly discussed and will be discussed in greater detail when a member of the Park Police can attend the meeting.

Bond Oversight Committee

Board Chair Castleberry informed the board the committee didn't meet due to lack of quorum.

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Boyt informed the board that at the Mobility Meeting, a presentation was given regarding the revised Seaholm Master Plan.

I. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:38 p.m.