



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**October 23, 2001
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, October 9, 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, Mary Ruth Holder, Clint Small and Rocky Medrano

Board Members Absent: Amy Babich

City Staff Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Kimberley Jamail-Mitchell, Stuart Strong, Raul Calderon, Robert Armistead, Junie Plummer, Farhad Madani, Rick Ramirez, Jay Stone, Stacy Talbert and Dina Haines

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES October 9, 2001 meeting. **Board Member Francell** made the motion to approve the minutes as written. **Board Member Holder** seconded the motion. **The Board was in favor 7-0-0.**

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None

D. PRESENTATION

Junie Plummer, Property Agent, Real Estate Services Division of Public Works made a brief presentation to the board and distributed a handout regarding the sale of three tracts of land obtained under the May 1998 Proposition 2. The tracts of land that were discussed are the McClure tract with 182 acres, Bending Oaks tract with 361 acres and Paschall tract with 143 acres. The tracts will be sold subject to a conservation easement on each tract to be retained by the City. A conservation easement is a restriction which landowners voluntarily place on specified uses of their property to protect natural, productive or cultural features. The landowner, in this case the City of Austin, has an interest in conserving special features such as fertile soil, mature trees, wildlife habitat or open space for future generations. The final bids on these three tracts will be accepted on November 19 and then taken back

to City Council meeting November 29 for their final approval or rejection of the final bids.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

Local Standards of Care for Parks and Recreation Department Programs for Children

Board Member Holder made the motion to close the Public Hearing. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion.

F. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation to City Council to Approve a New Ordinance Relating to Local Standards of Care for the Parks and Recreation Department Programs for Children.

Raul Calderon, City of Austin Legal Department was present to answer any question from the board and citizens of Austin.

Board Member Pratt made the motion to accept the new standards with changes previously discussed at the October 9, 2001 Parks Board meeting and approve the new ordinance. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The vote was in favor 7-0-0.**

2. Make a Recommendation to City Council to Approve the 2000 – 2001 Concession Report.

Jay Stone, Finance Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation to the board. Mr. Stone stated that there were not many changes to this year's report except that the same management as the concession stand management now manages the Zilker Zephyr train. There are currently seven concessions in Town Lake Park, which have or are eligible for contracts of a year or more and may have permanent facilities. Mr. Stone updated the board on two current concession proposals PARD staff is currently working on the RCAs (Request for Council Action) to go the council for final approval. These two concessions should be issued by the end of December 2001. These proposals are the Gondola concession and the Golf Driving Range proposed for North Austin.

Board Member Small made the motion to approve Concession Report. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The vote passed in favor 7-0-0.**

3. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding a Parkland Use Agreement to Construct Water Quality / Detention Ponds, Stream Bank Restoration and Energy Dissipater Associated with Drainage for E. William

Cannon at proposed South Austin Soccer Complex Through Dedicated Parkland.

The Department of Public Works requested a Parkland Use Agreement for the construction, operation and maintenance for drainage improvements including the construction of two-water quality detention pond, stream bank restoration and an energy dissipater. The energy dissipater will improve the collection of roadway runoff from East William Cannon and provide water quality facilities for the parking lot / pavilion features at the proposed soccer complex at Onion Creek Park.

Tom Arndt, Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation, engineer consultant to Public Works project, gave a brief presentation to the board. Mr. Arndt stated he had been working with PARD Planning Staff, Watershed Protection, and Public Works departments and intends to work with PARD landscape architect as well on design. **Mr. Strong** stated this project would benefit with bidding of the parking lot in that it would bring the cost down.

Board Member Holder made the motion to recommend to City Council to approve the Parkland Use Agreement to construct the water quality detention ponds, stream bank restoration, energy dissipater based upon the understanding that Public Works will assist PARD with the bidding out and the design of the parking lot, restore the areas around both water quality detention ponds and other areas of the project using native plants, and ensure that the location of the south east water quality detention pond will not interfere with any location of any future trail in that area. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The vote was in favor 7-0-0.**

G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares informed the board that the Park Police are currently assisting in security at City Hall offices. Mr. Olivares also informed the board of new additional budget constraints; all Capitol Improvement Projects that are 'cash projects' are to be put on hold. The hiring progress is also put on hold and is on an emergency hire basis only. Currently all city departments have been asked to submit 5%, 10%, 15% and 20% percent cuts at the next scheduled retreat to be held with the City Manager in mid-November. The only department in the PARD division that will not be affected by these cuts is Park Police, because they are playing a major role in the city wide security plan.

Once again the Trail of Lights is in full preparations. Mr. Olivares invited board members to volunteer as this year at the Trail of Lights. In light of budget cuts, many PARD staffers will be assisting with the Trail of Lights. The Trail of Lights kicks off this year with the Tree Lighting Ceremony, Sunday, December 2, 2001. The Grand Opening Parade will be Sunday, December 16, 2001 at the Garden Center. Parks Board Members are encouraged to attend and ride along in the parade procession.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Board Member Medrano informed the board of the programs committee meeting; the Programs Division passed out a flyer with all the programs the department has to offer children for their Halloween festivities. The PARD annual co-sponsored 'Halloween Trail' event will take place at Zilker Park, Sunday, October 28, 2001 from 3:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m. The event this year offered a pumpkin ride, interactive booths, trick or treating, a costume contest and along with live entertainment.

Land and Facilities Committee

Board Member Holder informed the board that at the upcoming meeting the committee intends to discuss the Downtown Mobility Study as it relates to the proposal for a Capitol Metro Transfer Station at Republic Square.

Navigation Committee

Board Member Small stated a boat dock requestor was not in compliance with the Land Development Code and would have to bring his proposal into compliance.

Bond Oversight Committee

None

I. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Francell introduce a new addition to his family, a baby girl.

Board Member Medrano announced his resignation from the Parks Board after 9 years of service to the Parks Board. Mr. Medrano will be moving to Dallas, Texas to start a new job with the Dallas Area Transit Authority.

Board Chair Castleberry informed the board of a Boxing Tournament to be held Saturday, December 8, 2001 at A.B. Cantu / Pan Am Recreation.

Board Member Pratt informed the board she had attended the Old Bakery Annual Awards Luncheon, October 19, 2001.

Board Member Small will be getting married, Saturday, October 27, 2002.

J. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:24 p.m.