



Parks and Recreation Board Minutes

**January 27, 2004
Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2004 at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office, 200 South Lamar, Board Room.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Jeff Francell, Jeb Boyt, Marilyn Bostick, and Linda Guerrero

Board Members Absent: Clint Small

City Staff Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Warren W. Struss, Jay Stone, Rick Ramirez, Stacie Talbert, Randy Scott, Darryl Lewis, Robert Armistead, Lonnie Lyman, Kevin Gomillion and Dina Haines

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, December 9, 2003

Board Member Francell made the motion to approve the minutes as amended.
Board Member Guerrero seconded the motion. **The vote was in favor 5-0-0.**

C. PUBLIC HEARING

Jay Stone, Acting Assistant Director, PARD stated at the request of the City Manager, PARD is to receive public comments on (2) concessions up for re-bid. The two concessions consist of Austin High Town Lake Tennis Center and Butler Pitch and Putt Golf Course Concession.

Austin High Tennis Center at Town Lake

Ellery McLanahan (did not speak) would like Austin High Tennis Center to remain for public access.

Bill Friesenhahn stated he heard there was a push to make Austin High Tennis Center private. Mr. Stone addressed his concerns and stated the City of Austin does not have plans to privatize Austin High Tennis Center.

Foster Feng spoke in favor of preserving the use for the junior tennis program and for the center to remain for public access.

Brian Smithart spoke in support to keep Austin High Tennis Center a public center and continued success with the current program standards.

Marty Romero Brickley spoke in support of the current Junior Programs and encouraged continued use of the facility. Ms. Brickley also introduced the seven players from the Junior League to the board. Ms. Brickley is in support of Mr. Smithart's program.

Jane Fleming expressed her wishes for the current youth programs taught by Mr. Smithart and continue support for public access.

Mike Clark spoke in support of current instructor and ongoing program.

Mike Brickley spoke in support for the current tennis program.

Lynn Edgerton spoke in support for the current tennis program and for it to remain as public access.

Brandy Rogers spoke in support of her son's (Zander) junior program.

Butler Pitch and Putt Golf Course Concession

Al and Lee Kinser spoke to board regarding the Butler Concession. They have held the concession 10 years. They displayed various pictures of the concession throughout its history. They requested renewal of the PARD concession contract.

Board Chair Castleberry made a motion to close the Public Hearing. **Board Member Bostick** seconded the motion.

D. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Richard Viktorin spoke to board regarding his concern of BCP encroachment on St. Edwards parkland.

Matt Knifton Owner, Texas Rowing Center. Mr. Knifton updated the board on his rowing concession.

David Yi donated his time to Matt Knifton.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation Regarding the Landa Site Plan Correction. Case Number SP-02-0412DS

Board Member Francell stated this item had been denied at the December 9, 2003 meeting based on the site plan correction. The petitioner/owner (Pedro Landa) had requested to meet with the Navigation Committee to address possible changes to assist with the site plan correction. The petitioner has agreed to remove (3) three 2.5 feet platforms from the boat dock and submit a letter to the Parks' Director acknowledging fault in dock design.

Board Member Francell make a motion to rescind the recommendation of denial at the December 9, 2003 meeting. **Board Member Boyt** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.**

Board Member Francell made the recommendation regarding the variance approval for the Landa site plan correction with the understanding that the owner remove the three two and a half foot platforms, a swimming platform and submit the letter to the PARD Director addressing fault. **Board Member Boyt** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.**

2. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Utility Check off Box on Austin Energy Statement.

Scott Johnson stated the resolution was supported by Council Member Alvarez and Mayor Pro-Tem Goodman to modify the existing fund.

Leonard Lyons stated this item has to have a plan that includes oversight, accountability and responsibility. He also felt citizens would not like to contribute to a check-off item not stipulating which item their contribution would support (parks/trees/libraries).

Joyce Basciano, Vice Chair, Urban Forestry Board stated the utility check-off concept has no accountability plan or guidelines. Ms. Basciano asked for the Parks Board to table the item until all three boards saw a concrete plan.

Brandi Clark, Board Member, Urban Forestry Board stated there are other ways to raise money for the libraries other than changing the utility check-off. Changing the item will create more administrative cost to develop. She also stated there is no stipulation as to which of the (3) entities would receive the donation. (trees/parks/libraries)

Board Member Francell made a motion to table the item. **Board Member Boyt** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 4-0-1.** Bostick abstained.

3. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Child Care Ordinance.

Robert Armistead, Division Manager, Program was present to answer questions from the board.

Board Member Francell make the motion to approve the childcare ordinance as submitted. **Board Member Bostick** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.**

4. Approve Changes to the Town Lake Concessions Policy.

Jay Stone answered questions from the board. The board discussed the new changes to amend the Concession Policy.

Board Member Francell made the motion to adopt the changes to the Concession Policy with the change to remove all references to 'Town Lake' from the name and to add text 'if necessary' to inform the Environmental Board of new concessions. **Board Member Bostick** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.**

5. Approve the Concept of a New Batting Cage Concession at Kreig Softball Complex.

Jay Stone informed the board of the proposed concept for this concession. He is requesting the board's permission to direct staff to move forward with a public hearing, RFP (Request For Proposal) and purchasing process.

A concession concept was submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department to construct batting cages on Town Lake. The concession sub-committee and PARD staff agreed the propose site could not handle the additional infrastructure and traffic that the batting cages would require. The sub-committee and staff recommend the concession be placed at Kreig Softball Field Complex on Pleasant Valley Road.

Board Member Francell made the motion approving the batting cage concession at Kreig Softball Field Complex and allowing the concept to move forward in the RFP process. **Board Member Boyt** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.**

E. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Struss, Acting Director, informed the board PARD had won the TRAPS Gold Medal Award and will be attending the TRAPS Conference in Witcha Falls, Texas to accept the award. He also invited the Parks Board Members to attend the ceremony, March 10th via city bus.

Mr. Struss updated the board on a hazardous tree at Deep Eddy cited and permitted for removal. The large tree is a diseased cottonwood. Mr. Struss also updated the board on the Brushy Creek Regional Trail in Cedar Park, Texas, in Williamson County. He stated the department has requested this item be placed on the City Council Meeting on March 24, 2004 to re-affirm support of Austin's participation in the creation of the Regional Brushy Creek Trail and Greenway.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

The Child Care Ordinance was discussed.

Land & Facilities Committee

No meeting was held.

Navigation Committee

The Landa boat dock site correction was addressed. They also heard a report on the study of buoy markers.

G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

H. ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.