

Parks and Recreation Department Board Minutes

Tuesday, June 22, 2004 Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2004 at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office, 200 S. Lamar, Board Room.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Linda Guerrero, Marilyn Bostick, Clint Small, Leonard Lyons, Jody Hughes, Jeff Francell and Jeb Boyt.

Board Members Absent: Hector Ortiz.

City Staff Present: Stuart Strong, Tino Garcia, Stacie Talbert, Rick Ramirez and Randy Scott.

A. The meeting called to order:

Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

B. Approval of the minutes:

Board member Small moved to have the minutes of the April 27, 2004 and the May 25, 2004 meeting approved. Seconded by Board member Francell. Motion carried.

C. Citizen Communication

Mary Ingel, Co Vice-President of the North University Neighborhood Association, addressed the Board regarding the de-energizing of the North Austin Substation which will occur in October 2004. At that time the property will be under the auspices of the Parks Department and will be known as Grooms Park. The neighborhood association is concerned that the Sculptures Association, currently residing at the Ney museum grounds, will move into the vacant space. The neighborhood association has met with PARD and the Sculptures Association to discuss this matter. The neighborhood supports exploring the possibility of it becoming a pocket park and that the lease be continued for the Sculptures group at the Ney lodge. They have asked for site plans and further clarification. Stuart Strong, Division Manager, representing Acting Director Struss reported that Austin Energy will move the substation in October 2004. The lot will become surplus property at that time and PARD is considering several uses for the property. There have been no commitments and no final decisions have been made on the use of the park. Negotiations continue between PARD, the Sculptures Association and the neighborhood. Board Member Boyt suggested that discussion on the matter should continue with the Land and Facilities committee in August.

Rick Iverson, North University Neighborhood Association, also addressed the Board regarding the use of the sub-station and reported their support of moving the substation out of their neighborhood. They consider the station is too small for the job intended and is too noisy for the neighborhood. Secondly, they are concerned that the current building

used by the Sculptures Association may be moved to the park. Staff member Strong responded by saying that the department has not offered the building to the group.

D. PRESENTATIONS

Ted Siff, Executive Director, Austin Parks Foundation, reported on It's May Park Day which was held on April 24, 2004. Several groups met at two dozens locations with approximately 1,050 volunteers assisting in clean-ups throughout the park system. Mr. Siff reported that they are always in need of additional partners and that the idea of It's My Park Day is being supported by the community. The next annual event will be held on Earth Day, 2005. He indicated that the foundation's purpose is expanding the list of partners they currently have. Board member Boyt encouraged all board members to attend the next work day at Shoal Creek.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Approve the Brian and Stephanie Beard Bulkheading and Dock at 10106 River Terrace, Case Number SP-04-0212D

Board member Boyt reported that the property owner is proposing two projects, the first is to tear down an existing dock and rebuild a new one. The new dock complies with all rules in the Code except for the rule that it has to be 10 feet from the property line. The rule can be waived if the property owners have a letter from their neighbors indicating approval. In this case the adjacent property belongs to them. The second project is a bulkheading project. Currently vertical bulkheads are not successful in reducing the wave action (sends the wave back out) and also causes erosion problems and lessens the recreational use of the lake. The owner is proposing a vertical wall tilted at an angle so there will be a potential break of the wave. Board member Boyt moved to approve the Beard Bulkheading and Dock at 10106 River Terrace. Board member Bostick seconded. Board member Lyons asked who will determine if the new technique will work. Board member Boyt responded that committee members along with staff will go out to see if the angled wall will actually minimize the wave action. Board member Small indicated that if the new technique works it will serve as a model for future bulkheading projects. Motion approved with board members Guerrero, Castleberry, Bostick, Boyt, Francell and Hughes approving. Board members Small and Lyons abstained.

2. Approve staff recommendation for concessions: Austin High Tennis Center, Butler Pitch and Putt and Food Concession at Zilker Park.

Stacie Talbert, PARD Financial Consultant, reported that Council had requested that official public input be obtained prior to the approval of the contract proposals. After public information was obtained, a new RFP was initiated and the following were determined to be the winners. Austin High had two bidders at the winner was Love Tennis Center. They will manage and operate the Austin High Tennis Center. The center will be opened daily, except on Christmas day. The tennis center will offer lessons, clinics, tournaments and leagues and open courts to the general public of all age

levels. As an incentive the City will pay up to a 30% bonus from revenue received over \$20,000 at the Austin High Tennis Center.

The golf course management contract at Butler Pitch and Putt was awarded to Kinser Ranch LLC Austin, Texas. The contract is to manage a par-three short irons golf course to participants of all ages. In addition, the Kinser family will do landscape maintenance, merchandise sales and programming to increase participation such as lessons and tournaments.

The food and beverage concession at Barton Springs was awarded to Rodriguez Concession, Inc. (MBE) Austin, Texas. They will furnish and operate a food area including staffing, management, equipment, janitorial services and other functions consistent with this type of operation. Menu items include: breakfast items, sandwiches, burgers, drinks and snacks. As in all other contracts, if there is a need to amend the current contracts for all three winners, the department has the authority to amend as needed. Board member Small moved to approve the staff recommendations for the Austin High Tennis Center, Butler Pitch and Putt and Food Concessions at Zilker Park. Board member Boyt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Resolution Regarding Decker Lake Proposal.

Board member Small indicated that he wanted the board to get information on the proposal and then to send it back to Land and Facilities Committee for further review. Board member Boyt said that he has met with Stuart Strong, Division Manager, Planning to discuss the matter. He indicated that the concept could be ready to be brought before the board in July.

Mr. William Archer introduced Glen Hodges, lawyer for the project and Hugo Elizondo, engineer. Mr. Hodges indicated that due to his experience representing clients with the City, his firm was selected to represent Mr. Archer. He indicated he will assist in reviewing the agreement and to work closely with staff. Mr. Elizondo will assist with the engineering aspects of the project. Mr. Archer showed a map to the board outlining the current peninsula and their proposal to construct a separate body of water to separate it from the lake. In addition they are proposing to build three amphitheaters, but the details on all of the ideas are not yet finalized. His hope is to inform the board now so the board can be in support of the concept. Board member Small asked what the venue will be used for. Mr. Archer indicated his vision is for water sports, boat races and hydro racing. It will be a controlled viewing venue for water sports. This will be a City of Austin park, just like Zilker. He indicated that his company will pay for construction of the park but reserves the right to use it when they need it. When not in use privately, it becomes a city park and all citizens can use it. Board member Guerrero asked how far away is the nearest neighborhood. Mr. Archer indicated Colony Park and that he had met with the association president and she had no objection to the concept except for the traffic it would create. Board member Guerrero indicated that information needs to be brought to the attention of the entire neighborhood, either with a presentation or newsletters. A meeting will be held with the County Commissioner so that all parties are well informed. Board member Boyt indicated that the joint use agreement will specify how the

department can utilize the park for programming and other needs. Mr. Hodges informed the board that since the location of the proposed park is remote, businesses like the gun club and the air plane club are supporting it. Board member Bostick suggested that in the meeting with the commissioner, jobs for the community be discussed. Board member Hughes asked Mr. Archer what he wanted the board to do. Board member Small indicated that the intent is a board resolution in support of the concept and to direct staff to work out the details. Board member Bostick was thankful that Skeet club members, and all others have been included in discussions. Mr. Archer indicated that the project will not break rules or endanger any environmentally sensitive areas. Board member Lyons asked how many people or seats/cars will be involved in the initial weekend. Mr. Archer indicated that the details for that have not been worked out yet, however, in terms of parked cars, the park could handle between 8,000 and 10,000 cars. Board members Hughes asked approximately how many people could attend any event. Mr. Archer responded approximately 40,000. Board chair Castleberry read Pete Dwyers, comments (citizen communication) concerning the proposed project. Mr Dwyers, from Dwyer Realty and developer for the Wildhorse Ranch PUD, supports the boat racing facility and encourages the opening of the north lake of area to be known as Zilker Park East. He also indicated that the project will increase awareness of the asset value of the north shore of Decker Lake. Also, the City of Austin is co-investing \$25 million in water and wastewater infrastructure. The proposed facility could use these lines. (Due to a conflict Mr. Dwyer was unable to stay for the meeting). Board member Small moved that the Parks Board support this proposal in concept and directs PARD staff to continue to work with Mr. Archer with the details of this proposal. Board member Bostick seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

F. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Parking on the South Side of Zilker Park

Stuart Strong reported that the department has started charging a fee for parking at the south side of Barton Springs Pool. Two reasons were given: (1) it is a revenue stream for the department and (2) enables us to control the parking situation to improve the safety of our patrons. Acting Director Struss is meeting with the neighborhood association to keep them informed of all the proceedings. Mr. Strong also explained the specifics regarding the completion of the Zilker Loop.

G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Strong reported on the 4th of July activities, including the success of the Juneteenth celebration and the reopening of A.B. Cantu/Pan Am Center. Rick Iverson, North Austin Neighborhood Association, is asking for an entrance to Adams park. They want a cross passage from the neighborhood to link to the university. Board member Boyt inquired about fee increases in golf, park fees and Walsh boat landing. Mr. Strong responded that the fee structure is still at the City Manager's level. Board member Boyt suggested that an agenda item be added to the July Parks Board meeting regarding fees and the park budget. Board chair Castleberry requested that it will be included as an Item for Action on the agenda.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee – Board member Guerrero reported on the Summer Playground Program and the need for judges for the Chalk Art festival. Safety Camp will open at Givens and Water Day will be held at Walter Long Lake on July 2, 2004.

Land and Facilities – Board member Boyt reported on the renaming of the St. Johns Center in honor of a community leader. The neighborhood will come before the board in July with a proposal. Secondly, he reported on the Bow hunting issue. Carp Fishery, located in Austin, considers the rainbow carp to have international value because of their uniqueness. The boat fisherman and anglers, Austin citizens, object to the fishery being taken away from them. Research is still need regarding the Fishery including the liability issue.

Navigation – No report

I. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Clint Small on their new baby girl.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
