



**Parks and Recreation Department Board Minutes
Tuesday, April 25, 2006
Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 W. 2nd St. Room 1101.

Board Members present: Board Chair Linda Guerrero, Vice-Chair Jeb Boyt, Secretary/Parliamentarian Mark Vane, Marilyn Bostick, Hector Ortiz and Leonard Lyons.

Board Members absent: Clint Small, Jeff Francell and Rosemary Castleberry.

Staff Members present: Warren Struss, Ricardo Solis, Cora Wright, Stuart Strong and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Guerrero at 6:37 p.m.

B. Approval of the minutes from the March 28, 2006 meeting.

Board Member Boyt moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Lyons.

Motion passed.

C. Citizen Communication

Matt Kinfon, owner of the Texas Rowing Center, provided a yearly report which highlighted the Center's programs for kids, the numerous Town Lake cleanups they do and their goals for the future. Joe Kendal, one of the managers of the Texas Rowing Center, and a member of the Chautauqua Foundation, provided a handout and a video CD to all Board Members regarding the Texas River School. He was pleased to announce that the school has provided canoeing trips to over 3,000 students from around the Austin area. He extended an invitation to members of the Board for a future canoeing trip.

Discussion and Action Items

3. Recommendation to the City Council on naming of Mexican American Cultural Center.

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, reported on several proposals to name existing facilities. They include the following:

- **"Perez-Ramos MACC" – by John Michael Cortez and Isidoro Lopes, Board of Directors of Austin Latino Music Association**
- **"Dos Mundos MACC" – by Marcial Ramirez**
- **"John Trevino MACC" – by Erica Ramos**
- **Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) by Hiett, Fabela, Martin, Pardo, Reyes**
- **Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) by MACC Advisory Board and recommends that the Central Plaza of the MACC be named Perez-Ramos.**

Board Member Boyt reported on public comment received the previous week. Since there was no quorum at the Land and Facilities subcommittee, there was no recommendation forwarded to the full board.

Council Member Raul Alvarez addressed the Board and spoke in favor of supporting the "Trail of Tejano Legends" and said we should honor the legacy they have created throughout the years. He indicated that it was important to recognize the contribution of these great artists, many of whom were performing long before Austin was recognized as the Live Music Capital of the World. He outlined the facilities for consideration as follows: the Mexican American Cultural Center, the Fiesta Gardens Pavilion, the Fiesta Gardens East Meeting Hall, the Medina Street Plaza and the Town Lake Scenic Overlook. As many as 500 letters of support have been received regarding the naming of the proposed facilities.

Gavino Fernandez, member of El Consilio, addressed the funding issues of Guerrero Colorado River Park, Palm Park and the upcoming Cinco de Mayo. He reiterated issues with the activities at Fiesta Gardens and the concern for the lack of funding for improvements at Palm Park. Director Struss reported on departmental recommendations to the bond proposal, which included Palm Park. He said that the Bond Oversight Committee's recommendations to the Council did not include Palm Park along with 20 other pools, which were initially considered. Board Member Boyt added that the redevelopment of Waller Creek will include the Palm Park renovation and the pool.

Delia Perez-Meyer spoke in support of the naming of the MACC for the Perez-Ramos family. She provided an overview/history of the legacy of the musicians to be recognized. She indicated that the family prefers that the entire facility (the MACC) be named after the Perez-Ramos family. However, she indicated that they would also be honored if the Grand Plaza was named for the family as well.

Jackie Ramos also spoke in support of the naming of the MACC for the Perez-Ramos family. She added that in addition to their musical contribution, the family also contributes to the community with fundraisers which benefit, among others, the Children's Hospital at Brackenridge.

Paul Hernandez, member of El Consiglio, thanked the Board on the action of the Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park. He indicated concerns with the process for the naming of the facilities and that the neighborhoods were not properly notified. He expressed dissatisfaction with the process, which he said was fast-tracked and that there was no open forum for participation.

Hortensia Palomares, member of El Consiglio and the East Town Lake Citizens Neighborhood Association, expressed concern that other folks worthy of consideration were not considered. She requested postponement of the action by the Board.

Gloria Moreno, President of the Pedernales Neighborhood Association and member of El Consiglio, also requested that the process be stopped and that a new renaming list be developed with new criteria for naming of facilities.

Marie Reyes, member of El Consiglio, is also in support of establishing a new committee to determine a new list and criteria for the naming of the facilities.

Board Member Boyt moved that the Central Plaza of the Mexican American Cultural Center be named after the Perez-Ramos family, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion passed 4-2.

4. Recommendation to the City Council on naming of Fiesta Gardens Pavilion.

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, reported that the two proposed names are:

- "Johnny Degollado Pavilion" by John Michael Cortez and Isidoro Lopez, Board of Directors of Austin Latino Music Association .
- "Ruben Ramos Pavilion" by Erica Ramos.

Board Member Boyt moved to approve the naming of Johnny Degollado Pavilion at Fiesta Gardens seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried 6-0.

5. Recommendation to the City Council on naming of the Fiesta Gardens East Meeting Hall.

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, reported on the one proposed name which is:

- "Manuel "Cowboy" Donley Hall" by John Michael Cortez and Isidoro Lopez, Board of Directors of Austin Latino Music Association.

Board Member Bostick moved to approve the naming of the East Meeting Hall to Manuel "Cowboy" Donley Meeting Hall at Fiesta Gardens, seconded by Board Member Vane. Motion carried 6-0.

6. Recommendation to the City Council on naming of the Medina Street Plaza.

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, reported on one proposed recommendation which is as follows:

- “Roy and Matt Velasquez” by John Michael Cortez and Isidoro Lopez, Board of Directors of Austin Latino Music Association.

Catherine Timiack (sp) spoke in favor of the naming of the Medina Street Plaza. She also indicated that the name should be Matias rather than Matt and provided a brief history of both Roy and Matias Velasquez. Board Member Ortiz moved that the Medina Street Plaza be named after Roy and Matias Velasquez, seconded by Board Member Boyt. Motion carried 6-0.

7. Recommendation to the City Council on naming of the Town Lake Scenic Overlook.

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, reported on two proposals which are as follows:

- “Roy Montelongo” by John Michael Cortez and Isidoro Lopez, Board of Directors of Austin Latino Music Association.
- “C.H. Page Sr.” by Sutton and Charles Page.

Micheal Candelas spoke on behalf of naming the Town Lake Scenic Overlook for Roy Montelongo. He mentioned Mr. Montelongo’s contribution to the community and the legacy he left behind. He thanked Council Member Alvarez and the Board for their efforts and support to the “legends”.

Alfred Candelas also spoke in favor of naming the overlook for Roy Montelongo.

Mary Montelongo-Frieshan, daughter of Roy Montelongo, thanked the Board for considering the proposed name change.

Lisa Ramos, daughter of Alfonso Ramos, provided a brief overview of Mr. Montelongo’s contributions to the music world and thanked all for considering the proposal.

Board Member Boyt reminded the Board of Mr. Page’s many community accomplishments, including his tenure on the Parks Board. He said that Mr. Page is deserving of a facility in his name as well and will seek future opportunities for him. He moved to name the Town Lake Scenic Overlook for Mr. Roy Montelongo, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried 5-1.

Romona Klaus Perez voiced her disappointment that the entire MACC building was not named after the Perez-Ramos family.

8. Recommendation to the City Council regarding a Use Agreement for the Lance Armstrong Bikeway on Town Lake Park Land.

Colly Krieder, Bicycle Coordinator, reported on the Lance Armstrong Bikeway. They are requesting the use of 1 acre of parkland to construct a 12 foot wide concrete path to complete a 6 mile long bicycle transportation facility. The only portion of parkland that will be affected is parkland from Shoal Creek Park to the portion just past the Town lake Animal Shelter entrance. Board Member Ortiz expressed concerns about the bikeway because pedestrians would also want to use the bikeway for foot traffic. Board Member Vane expressed concerns about the bikeway intruding on newly acquired parkland gained from the redevelopment of the Lumberman's track. He also asked that traffic data be provided to the Board on how traffic laws are enforced regarding bicycles. Director Struss indicated that it was his hope that the bikeway would alleviate some of the traffic congestion along the hike and bike trail. Board Member Boyt expressed concern about having two separate trails - one for bikers and one for pedestrians. He suggested that we look into the areas of the trail where there are problems, such as underneath the Congress Avenue bridge. Board Member Vane suggested that signs be posted to notify the public of where to bike or to walk. Director Struss reported that the trail needs more targeted patrol and that there are sufficient rules and ordinances in place now, and there is no need for additional ordinances. Board Member Boyt moved to approve the land use agreement for the Lance Armstrong Bikeway. The motion died for lack of a second. Director Struss suggested that Mr. Krieder, along with the Park Police chief, bring additional information to the Land and Facilities Subcommittee at the May meeting.

B. Other Business

1. Presentation – Austin Velodrome Project, Todd Reed

Todd Reed, Chair of the Austin Velodrome Project, provided an overview of the proposed Velodrome Project. He talked about the cycling program that is currently operating throughout the City of Austin. He said that in order for Austin to have a top notch cycling program, the city needs to build a velodrome. He provided names of the people who are on the Board of Directors for the Velodrome Project. They are proposing the following:

- Build a world class permanent indoor cycling facility (to be used by all ages)
- A 250 meter indoor wooden track, in a heated and air condition environment (will cost about 1.5 mil to operate)
- The Velodrome will be funded by for-profit businesses and will include retail and office space as well as dormitories.
- A central location would be preferable.

There have been discussions with the University of Texas and with several Fortune 100 companies, including a private developer. A deal with the developer is nearly finalized and does not include parkland.

He asked the Board to 1) refrain from passing any resolutions and 2) consider a full proposal at a future date if the deal does not go through.

2. Director's Report

Director Struss reported on the following;

- Town Lake Park
- Mexican American Cultural Center
- Block Cancer Survivor Park
- 1st Annual Urban Music Festival

3. Items from Board Members

Land and Facilities – Board Member Boyt reported that all items had been discussed during the meeting. Board Member Ortiz indicated that the meeting at 5:30 p.m. is a bit of an inconvenience and asked if the meeting could be moved to 12 noon. Board Members Lyons, Ortiz and Boyt voiced approval for the change. Board Member Bostick was not polled regarding this issue, but asked if the time for the full board meeting could be changed.

Navigation – Lake Austin Marina Project is moving forward. A report will be provided at the month's meeting.

Board Member Ortiz suggested that the Board adopt an agreement on procedures for conducting business meetings. Board Chair Guerrero concurred and would like to adopt this and other changes at the June Parks Board meeting. She suggested that the June retreat meeting take place in lieu of the regular board meeting. Roberts Rules or Orders booksd have been ordered for the entire Board.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.