

Minutes  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
June 27, 1978

The Austin Parks and Recreation Board met for its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 27, 1978, at the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Present were Mr. Turner, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Isely, Secretary; and members Mrs. Bedinger, Mr. Bray, Mr. Coffee, Mr. Hall, Mr. Nalle, Ms. Stockard and Mr. Shaw. Members absent were Mr. Garrison and Mr. Rose. Members emeriti absent were Mrs. Crenshaw and Mr. Coates. Staff members present were Mike Segrest, Roy Guerrero, John Hughes Mickey Carter, Dorothy Nan McLean, Marie Scalzo and Louise Nivison. Visitors included Tremart James, Jr., David Houston, Otis McCullough, Charles Crenshaw, Everett Freeman, Donald Thompson, Tyrone Haywood, Leroy Bookman and Robert Emerson from the Gents Civic and Social Club; Mr. Henry Chowling and Mr. John Oates; Mr. Ed Stevens, Assistant Director of Building Department and Mr. Bill Panick from the Building Department; Mr. Jim Allen, Superintendent for Abrams Construction Company; Mr. Dick Noblet, Contract Supervisor for Abrams Construction Company; Mr. Arlan Conner, Mr. Doug Fike and Mr. Archile Petit. The following summer interns were present: Jim Pressley, Hayden Brooks, Mike Eyhorn, Donna Gordon, Lucie Valle, Arthur Pens, Lynn Timken, Debbie Bishop, Jesus Olivares, Max Moore and Cindy Salter

Mr. Turner introduced Mr. Bill Nalle, a recently appointed Parks and Recreation Board member.

Mr. Segrest introduced the summer interns and Mr. Turner welcomed them to the board meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m., by Mr. Turner, Vice Chairman.

Mr. Turner asked for approval of the minutes for April 25, May 8 and May 23, 1978. It was moved by Mr. Shaw and seconded by Mr. Bray that the minutes be approved as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was consideration of a boat dock request from Mr. Henry Chowling and Mr. John Oates on Lake Austin. Mr. Panick explained that this was a request to add on to dock facilities already there. The Building Inspection Department had inspected the plans and the site and all requirements had been met, and they were replacing old docks. Mrs. Bedinger stated that this would be three units almost side by side and wondered if there was a limitation to the number of docks that could be built on the property. Mr. Stevens, from the Building Inspection Department stated that there was not a limitation as long as the land was owned by the requestor. Perhaps this was a concern that could be addressed by the board at a future date. Mr. Nalle stated that in looking at the plans, a cedar lumber walkway was proposed. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Nalle and seconded by Mrs. Isely that the request be approved with the stipulation that 2' x 6' Wolminized lumber be used for the walkway rather than the cedar lumber. The change was agreed to by Mr. Chowling and Mr. Oates. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Turner stated the next item for action was consideration of construction work along Town Lake in connection with reconstruction of the Congress Avenue Bridge. Mr. Doug Fike stated that he represented the owner of the property adjacent to the bridge and they had given approval for the contractor to use the site located on the west side of the south shore of Town Lake. The contractor would need to alter

the elevation of the bank itself, temporarily. Two crane pads would need to be constructed along the shore and they could be used as observation points later. Sixty ton cranes would be used to lift 118' beams onto a barge, and then to the bridge. The owner of the property has also agreed to giving an easement or property to extend the hike and bike trail along the shoreline. The contractor has offered to build a board walk that would be donated to the City after completion of the construction, for a hike and bike trail. Mr. Bray asked for staff recommendation. Mr. Segrest stated that the department would be agreeable to the proposal providing the design plans for the board walk or other type walk were approved by the Parks and Recreation Department; that at the end of the construction time the walk was turned over to the City, in a structurally sound safe condition; and that the property owner either dedicate an easement or the property be donated to the City for hike and bike purposes. The question was asked as to when construction would start. Mr. Noblet stated that they would start work in August or September and the contract was for 660 working days. There was discussion concerning the board walk. Mr. Noblet stated that the board walk was not the cheapest construction. They would be willing to construct any type walk that the Parks and Recreation Department would approve and the walk would be given to the City when the construction work was over. Mr. Noblet stated that the construction company also planned to restore the bank of Town Lake when they completed their work. After further discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Bedinger and seconded by Mr. Coffee that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the City Council approval of the construction work planned in connection with the renovation of the Congress Avenue Bridge in concept, with the stipulation that an easement or property be dedicated for the hike and bike trail along that portion of Town Lake and that the design of the board walk be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. The motion carried with Mr. Hall abstaining.

Mr. Noblet stated that there is a swale in the lake at the bridge (Pier #6) that collects all types of trash. They would propose to fill in the area and make it even across the width of the bridge. This should eliminate the trash problem.

Mr. Turner asked Mr. Petit if he would like to speak at this time. Mr. Petit explained that he was present representing Mrs. Means. Mrs. Means was in the hospital and could not be present. Mr. Petit stated that they had a number of concerns in the Givens Park area.

1. Why are tennis programs not being offered at Givens Park this summer.
2. Why there is not a summer recreation program held at Allen Junior High School.
3. In the construction of the two new tennis courts please see that the surface is not slick.
4. The tennis courts at Rosewood Park have cracked and needs to be repaired.
5. Would like to know the status of the tennis courts at Rosewood Park.
6. What plans for development are proposed for the undeveloped 10 acre site in Givens Park.
7. Security was needed at Givens Pool. The rules need to be enforced. Children throw glass in the pool and they climb over the fence in the area.
8. The creek through the park was littered with beer cans, trash, etc., and it needed to be cleaned.
9. Something needed to be done concerning the drug traffic and prostitution that seemed to be taking place in Givens Park.
10. Creek improvements were needed.



Mr. Turner stated that perhaps Mr. Segrest could respond to the problems. Mr. Coffee asked if the complaints could be submitted in letter form. Mr. John Hughes stated that the reason National Junior Tennis League lessons were not offered at Givens Park was because of the tennis court and recreation center construction now in progress. The tennis lessons had been moved to Rosewood Park. Mr. Segrest stated that a recreation program was not offered at Allen Junior High School because the City had not acquired an interest in any of the property there. There was further discussion and Mr. Segrest agreed to provide the board, Mrs. Means and Mr. Petit a written response to the concerns voiced by Mr. Petit.

Mr. Turner asked Mr. Charles Crenshaw to speak on their request to name the meeting room at Rosewood Recreation Center for Mrs. Catherine Lamkin. Mr. Turner also pointed out that the Parks and Recreation Board did have a policy to not name parks and recreation facilities for a living person. Mr. Crenshaw stated they desired to have the meeting room at Rosewood Recreation Center named for Mrs. Catherine Lamkin. Mrs. Lamkin had recently retired and has provided an outstanding service to the community for many years as supervisor of that center. Mr. Shaw stated that he was in favor of recommending naming the room for Mrs. Lamkin. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Coffee that the board review their policy for naming parks and facilities at the tour meeting to be held July 10, 1978, and place this back on the agenda for final action on July 25, 1978. The motion passed with Mr. Shaw abstaining. Mr. Turner thanked Mr. Crenshaw for interest in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Turner stated the next item for action was consideration to discontinue the Parks and Recreation Department's monthly status reports. Mr. Segrest stated that the department superintendents and supervisors indicated that they had no need for such a status report in recording their activities. The department was proposing to include a copy of the monthly calendar of events which has been expanded department-wide and would continue to provide copies of all pamphlets, brochures and hand-outs, regarding special activities that the department sponsors. Special reports would also be made as desired by the board. Mr. Coffee stated that he felt each board member needed about seven or eight maps showing the different neighborhoods. Mr. Turner asked about the board members manual that had been prepared and distributed several years ago. Mr. Carter stated that the manual was being revised and updated and would be available soon. After further discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Isely and seconded by Mr. Coffee that reports be issued on a seasonal basis. The motion carried unanimously. It was agreed board members would bring their manuals to the meeting on July 25th so they could be updated.

Mr. Turner stated the next item for action was consideration of naming Parks and Recreation Department facilities. It was moved by Ms. Stockard and seconded by Mr. Bray that the board discuss this item on their tour meeting to be held July 10, 1978. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Segrest stated that the Planning Commission had met June 26th and had recommended a 3-year bond program for approximately \$7 million. Most of the reductions had been in facilities and park development, and \$400,000 for 12 tennis courts had been left in with the recommendation that the courts be placed at Pharr Tennis Center. The recommendations from the Planning Commission would

be sent to each board member as soon as they were received.

Mr. Turner stated that he would like to express his appreciation to Mrs. Ben (Virginia) Bedinger for her dedication and interest as a member of the board. She just submitted her resignation effective August 1, 1978. She would be missed and thanks for being "just Virginia."

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.