

Minutes
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
October 9, 1978

The Parks and Recreation Board met for its regular meeting at 12:00 noon, Monday, October 9, 1978, at the Parks and Recreation Department. Present were Mr. Garrison, Chairman; Mr. Hall, Vice Chairman; Mr. Bray, Secretary; and members Mr. Britton, Mrs. Isely, Mr. Nalle, Mr. Shaw and Ms. Stockard. Members absent were Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Coffee, and Mr. Rose. Member Emeritus present was Mr. Coates and Member Emeritus absent was Mrs. Crenshaw. Staff members present were Leonard Ehrler, Mike Segrest, Roy Guerrero, and Louise Nivison.

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m., by Mr. Garrison, Chairman.

Mr. Garrison introduced Mr. Leonard Ehrler, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Ehrler stated that he wanted to visit informally with the Board and he had been relying very heavily on Mike Segrest and Roy Guerrero. He came to Austin from Boulder, Colorado, a very lovely city, but he could not progress professionally there.

Mr. Ehrler stated that he had asked for and received, an audience with Mr. Dan Davidson, City Manager; Mr. Jack Davidson, Superintendent of the Austin Independent School District and others, concerning the fees to be charged for use of school facilities by the Parks and Recreation Department. He would report on this subject at a later meeting. Hopefully, a realistic fee structure could be realized.

Mr. Ehrler stated that the City Council had cut taxes 28% and he was supportive of the cutting of taxes and it was happening all over the nation. In making tax cuts it had a direct affect on the Parks and Recreation Department programs. One of the changes was moving from an 8 day mowing cycle (business days) to a 13 day mowing cycle. As a result of the change they would end up cutting roots and losing 50% to 60% of the nitrogen and would give the park areas an unkept appearance. Mike Segrest stated that he had personally talked to Mayor McClellan and the City Council members were also aware of the problem.

Mr. Ehrler stated that another problem was part-time salaries. In making reductions in seasonal salaries it was affecting the Parks and Recreation Department more than any other department. He felt the administration would allow the department flexibility in determining where the changes should be made within the budget. The total budget cuts amounted to \$750,000.

Mr. Ehrler stated that there were two vacancies in the department, one in the Administrative Section and one in the Planning Section, but he did not feel they needed to be filled at the present time. He was very dependent on his staff and he had a good team. He has found a great deal of talent in the staff. At present the staff is working on written policies for the department and he felt they were very important. Parks and Recreation Boards were a vital liaison with the public. His door was always open and he would welcome any of the board members at any time they would like to visit with him.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.