

Minutes
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
October 23, 1979

The Parks and Recreation Board met for its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 23, 1979, at the Parks and Recreation Department. Present were Mr. Hall, Vice Chairman; and members Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Bray, Mr. Britton, Mr. Coffee, Ms. Doering, Miss Dominguez, Mr. Nalle, Mr. Ramos, Mr. Reed and Mr. Shaw. Members absent were Mr. Garrison, Chairman, and Mrs. Isely. Members Emeritus absent were Mr. Coates and Mrs. Crenshaw. Staff members present were Leonard Ehrler, Roy Guerrero, Don Cramer, David Reed, Cliff Warrick, Sherry Sybesma, Donna Brasher, Danny Hobby, Joe Wilson, Crystal Stewart, Jo Bright and Louise Nivison. Visitors included Linda Cannon, Building Department; John Marshall, Gene Preston, Beverly Stokes and Bill Fitzgerald, South Austin Lions Club; Randy Gurley and Steve Rohde, South Austin Optimist Club; Bill Snow and Mark Smith, Austin Softball Association; Mr. and Mrs. Marion Fowler; Melvin Mathis; Bo Byers; Art Talley; John Robinson, Consultant; Mrs. Virginia Bedinger; Alvin Meyer and Dr. Tobon.

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

Mr. Hall asked for approval of the minutes of September 25, 1979. It was moved by Mrs. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Bray that the minutes be approved as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hall asked for approval of the minutes of October 8, 1979. It was moved by Mr. Shaw and seconded by Mr. Bray that the minutes be approved as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Thorpe Field

Mr. Hall explained the first item was a request from the League of United American Citizens Little League to add stairs to the clubhouse and concession building at Thorpe Field. Mr. Frank Martinez and Mr. Leon Hernandez were not present.

Blunn Creek Park Site

Mr. Hall explained the next item was potential acquisition of a portion of the 39 acre tract owned by Mr. Lynn Storm on Blunn Creek, for a park site. Mr. Doug Fike explained he represented Mr. Lynn Storm owner of the property. He explained Mr. Mathis and Mr. Elledge are in the process of buying the property and redeveloping it and they have met with neighborhood groups and the Planning Commission concerning the property. Mr. Fike stated that he understand the board toured the site recently. Mr. Storm has agreed to make available part of the property for park use the portion located on the west side and contiguous with the housing area on the west. Because of the interest in a park site the developers have through the Planning Department and engineers agreed on this site as being the most suitable for a park and consists of approximately 5.1 acres. Some use of the creek bed could be used as a continuation of the hike and bike trail on Blunn Creek. At present it is a joint proposal between the owner and the developers. Also, the neighborhood groups have been asked to participate in the planning process.

Mrs. Aileen Rivera from the South River City Citizens group explained the neighborhood groups want "A" zoning and the developer wanted "O" and "B" zoning for the area and the property is currently zoned "A." They would like to ask that the board postpone any action on the matter until they can find out what the zoning will eventually be. A meeting will be held with the developers and the neighborhood groups so a review can be made of the overall plan. David Reed, Superintendent of Planning for the Parks and Recreation Department, explained Mr. Doug Fike contacted the president of the South River City Citizens organization and tried to be placed on their agenda for a meeting held recently, but was unable to do so. The Planning Division staff felt there is a need to hear from the neighborhood groups before a decision is made. There is no question but that this tract is prime open space and is a very attractive natural area and very close to downtown. The St. Edward's University campus is also very prime and accessible open space and the tennis courts are open for public use. If 20 acres of the property in question could be purchased it would cost approximately 80¢ per square foot or a total of \$620,000 and this is very high priced public open space. Davis District Park and Garrison Park are also in this area of South Austin. It was difficult for the Planning Division to justify this high expenditure of public funds for the open space that would be gained, particularly in respect to the St. Edward's University campus just across the street from the property. The creek is attractive and they would hope the creek bed could be dedicated to the City for a greenbelt. Mr. Reed explained the developers would be meeting with the neighborhood organization and a recommendation could be brought back to the board at a later date.

Proposed Park Site Along Fort Branch Creek

Mr. Hall asked Mrs. Rita Hill to speak on the request from the Springdale to Webberville Improvement Association for a proposed park. Mrs. Hill explained their association is proposing that the area designated as park and drainage in 1945 at the intersection of Lott and Delores Streets be developed into a park. The area has never been maintained or cleaned by the City. They are in the process of encouraging all landowners in the neighborhood to clean their property and vacant lots and Fort Branch Creek runs through the area and divides the neighborhood. They are proposing that a greenbelt area be developed with a pedestrian footbridge that would provide easy access from one side of the creek to the other. Their main concern is to have a place for the children to play. At present the area is filled with very tall weeds, debris and litter and is unsafe. They realize that Givens District Park, Ortega and Norman Neighborhood Parks are in the area, but the children have to cross busy streets to get to the parks. They are proposing that picnic tables and barbeque pits be placed in the area so that it can be used by the neighborhood residents as a passive area. They felt that if the Parks and Recreation Department would clean this area it would lead the way for other residents of the area to clean their property and maintain it. A footbridge would be an asset to the area as it could provide easy access for residents to be able to catch the bus without having to walk such a long way. They urged the board to study their problem, visit the neighborhood and communicate with the residents there. They were asking that the Parks and Recreation Department staff be asked to draw up a budget and landscape plan and that the development of the greenbelt area be done in their neighborhood.

Mr. David Reed explained that neighborhood requests such as this are large and it is delightful to see neighborhood groups interested in such projects. Again, without a master plan it is difficult to make a recommendation. This area is a park and drainage easement and there is no bridge proposed in the immediate future for the Fort Branch Creek. The neighborhood group is asking for passive neighborhood park space and the request is not unreasonable. It would require maintenance and some improvements and could possibly be used as a pilot program to see if neighborhoods would use small areas such as this, and by cleaning the area perhaps the neighborhood residents might be encouraged to participate in the maintenance program. A pedestrian bridge across the creek would have to be a Capital Improvements Program item. Mr. Ehrler explained the department will work with the neighborhood group to see if a pilot program can be worked out. Mrs. Hill presented petitions for the project.

ITEMS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Arnold asked if the board will be receiving a report on last year and this year's operating budget cuts. Mr. Ehrler explained a report would be submitted to the board as soon as possible.

SITE SELECTION FOR PROPOSED 16-COURT TENNIS CENTER

Mr. Hall explained the board has spent much time in discussing and reviewing sites for the proposed 16-court tennis center. After the consultant narrowed the available sites to four, the board asked that additional sites be studied and a report submitted. The board specifically asked that the P.A.R.D./Butler Site be studied by the consultant. Mr. Ehrler explained there would only be one spokesman from each group desiring to speak.

Mr. Bo Byers stated that he was speaking as president of the Tennis Advisory Board consisting of members of the Capital Area Tennis Association, the Austin Womens' Tennis Association, the Top Spin Racquet Club, and people involved in private tennis clubs, as well as people involved in Austin tennis league play or people who make use primarily of municipal tennis centers. The Tennis Advisory Board urged the Parks and Recreation Board to make a decision at this meeting on which site it will recommend to the Austin City Council for the following reasons.

1. There should be no further delay of the decision because the consultants estimate our funding is eroded approximately $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ each month that the start of construction is delayed. That erosion is the result of inflation.
2. As a person who coached Little League and Pony League baseball teams in Austin for 10 years, I am sympathetic to the need of the leagues now using the City-owned site known as the P.A.R.D./Butler Field Site. The Tennis Advisory Board was not consulted about this site. Last Thursday night, the Tennis Advisory Board went on record in favor of its four original recommendations, namely the Toney Burger Activity Center, Town Lake, South Austin Recreation Center and the Larson Tract. We do NOT favor the P.A.R.D./Butler site in view of the fact that no suitable relocation site appears available to the Little League/Pony League/Football leagues that would have to be relocated.
3. Political reality indicates that the same reasoning would apply to the Town Lake site as to the P.A.R.D./Butler site, so it is my presumption that the Town Lake site is not a politically viable site since it also would force relocation of baseball/football/soccer leagues.
4. The Parks and Recreation Board already has indicated that it is strongly against the Toney Burger site. The Larson Tract is not financially feasible since the owner has greatly increased his asking price since we recommended that site.
5. While the Tennis Advisory Board has not changed its position about the desirability of the four recommended sites, it appears clear that the South Austin Recreation Center site remains the only site that would not involve displacement of some other activity, would be financially feasible from the viewpoint of acquisition cost and would be a very attractive location from an environmental viewpoint.

6. The Tennis Advisory Board majority has made it clear that it could support any of the sites it has recommended.
7. The Parks and Recreation Department staff recognized the need for a 16-court tennis center more than two years ago. The Parks and Recreation Board recommended the center, without recorded dissent in 1978. The City Council approved the project, with no publicly expressed dissent by any Council member. Austin voters approved the bond proposal to provide funding, by a 2-to-1 majority last January.
8. There were 1,162 children 8 to 18 in the National Junior Tennis League program sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department this summer. Some 3,300 children are in tennis classes in Austin junior and senior high schools, but there is extremely limited court availability at City tennis centers for their continued development. An estimated 7,000 University of Texas students and faculty play tennis. During March-April, 19,000 players used the U. T. 40-court center. There were 9,000 player turn aways on reservation requests there -- impacting City centers.

Mr Bray expressed appreciation for the work done by the Tennis Advisory Board.

Mr. John Marshall, President of the South Austin Lion's Little League, explained that Mr. Don Butler was to have been the spokesman for their group, but he had to be in Dallas. Mr. Marshall stated that the South Austin Lion's Little League supported the Tennis Advisory Board in their recommendation that the South Austin Recreation Center/Mueller Tract be selected as the site for the tennis center. The South Austin Lion's Little League program has been located on the P.A.R.D./Butler Field site for 30 years and they felt that by moving the youth activities to another site would hurt the program very much unless they could be located to a comparable site, as close in, and with the same quality facilities that have been constructed by their organization. The Parks and Recreation Board at its September meeting directed Parks and Recreation Department staff to meet with the organizations involved. On October 9th they did meet with Mr. Garrison, Chairman, Mr. Hall, Vice Chairman, Mr. Ehrler and Mr. Warrick from the Parks and Recreation Department, and Mr. Clay Strange from the City Legal Department. Mr. Ehrler gave his proposals and they gave their disagreements and complaints. They were asked to submit a counter proposal the next week. Mr. Don Butler submitted the proposal to Mr. Ehrler and board members should have received a copy. Essentially they were saying, if you are going to move us, pay us, and move us close. Youth athletic programs are also conducted at their Wright Field on Robert E. Lee Road. The children in their programs live within a five mile radius and to move them would cause a hardship on the parents. The South Austin Optimist's Club have a Girls Little League field on Robert E. Lee Road and the Lion's Club feels that if they have to move, that they be moved to the Barton and Jaycee Softball Fields on Robert E. Lee Road that are adjacent to the youth athletic fields presently there. They were also asking that new fencing be included. If the South Austin Youth Association football, baseball and girls programs were moved you were talking about three organizations who have over 60 years of service to the youth. They realize that if their proposal is accepted that it would mean displacing softball league play on the two softball fields. They did not

feel it was a question of whether it was a City funded program or a private program, but who the participants were, their means of mobility and their means of finance. The only way to keep children involved and off the streets is to use volunteers and they have been doing this for 30 years. They prefer not to be moved, but if it becomes necessary then they would prefer the softball complex on Robert E. Lee Road. Mr. Ehrler proposed that the South Austin Lion's Club program presently at Weber Field be moved to the field being used by the South Austin Optimists on Robert E. Lee Road. They are opposed to moving any other organization. They have worked with the South Austin Optimists by combining the 13-15 year girls' softball program. If this should be done they felt there should be certain improvements done there, such as newer light poles and a new fence equal to the \$2,000 fence they recently placed at Weber Field. Whatever the decision that the board makes, they want some guarantee for the 500 children involved in their program. The South Austin Youth Association also has approximately 500 children involved in their program. Mr. Ramos asked if the organization's activities were moved could they have their fields ready for the baseball program beginning in March. Mr. Marshall stated that if they had to do all the work themselves they could not, but if they have lots of help from the Parks and Recreation Department it could be done, depending on where they are located. Mr. Coffee asked about the Parks and Recreation Department staff proposal. Mr. Ehrler explained the staff proposal is as follows:

- The South Austin Optimists move their girls softball program to the new ballfield that is under construction at Mabel Davis Park.
- That the South Austin Youth Association Pony League program be absorbed by the South Austin Optimist Babe Ruth program and the West Austin Youth Organization's program.
- That the South Austin Youth Association football program be merged with the West Austin Youth Organization football program (use the same field).
- Move the South Austin Lion's Club program presently at Weber Field to the field being used by the South Austin Optimists on Robert E. Lee Road.

Mr. Bill Snow, representing the Austin Softball Association, stated they would like to join with the Tennis Advisory Board and the South Austin Lion's Club in opposing the P.A.R.D./Butler Complex site as the location for the proposed 16-court tennis center. Presently there are 21 tennis courts within an extremely small radius of this site. These include eight at Austin High School, four at Austin Recreation Center, and nine at Caswell Tennis Center. These exclude neighborhood courts at Westenfield and Zilker School. Also, in the event the Butler site is selected, the displaced youth sponsors desire to be moved to Barton and Jaycee Softball Fields. This would mean losing two softball fields for City league play. The City's Capital Improvements Program funding recently included an expenditure of approximately \$59,000 to improve these facilities for soccer, flag football and softball league play. With these programs already overcrowded, the loss of this facility would certainly magnify the dilemma. In 1969 he appeared before the City Council attempting to have funds approved in the Capital Improvements Program for additional softball fields. At that time 16 additional fields were needed and they are still needed today. They were successful in having four additional fields

funded to be located at the Kreig Complex on Pleasant Valley Road and an additional four fields were funded and are presently under construction and hopefully can be ready for play in 1981. They cannot justify the loss of two more fields. If the tennis center should be placed at the Butler site now under consideration, it would create a very serious safety hazard for softball players because of the lowness of the tennis center lights. There would be consistent lights in the eyes of the players and it would be very dangerous. The only way to correct this would be to erect a barrier along the tennis center as tall as the tennis lights. He did not know what hazard the softball field lights would cause tennis players, but he would assume there would be some hazards. Mr. Coffee asked what direction the softball fields face. Mr. Snow explained that at Butler 1 field, home base through second base face almost toward the Parks and Recreation Department building and Butler 2 field faced almost the same direction which would be northeast. The lights from the tennis center would be shining directly in the eyes of first baseman, second baseman and right fielder. A hit ball to any of these would be very dangerous. Butler 1 and 2 fields are played primarily for fast pitch where the first baseman plays in about 40' from home plate, and the ball when hit is traveling at about 100 m.p.h. Mr. Snow thanked the board for allowing him to speak.

Mr. Steve Rohde stated that he was a member of the South Austin Optimist Club. They would prefer that their program of pee-wee and girls' athletic programs being conducted on City property at Barton Hills and Robert E. Lee Roads not be disrupted by the City's confiscation of the fields. However, should the City determine that it needs to take this action, their proposal for their voluntary cooperation and agreement to such takeover would include the City providing them with the following:

1. Double the present parking space at their Garrison Park complex.
2. Provide another road entrance-exit to their Garrison Park complex.
3. Compensate them for their \$20,000 to \$25,000 investment in the facilities at the pee-wee and girls' fields, fields which they built and have maintained and improved for approximately 25 years.
4. Lay out and build a playable Little League baseball/softball field on the west side of their football field at their Garrison Park complex, including dugouts, backstops, portable bleachers, etc.

They also adamantly reject the Mabel Davis Park field as an alternative site to conduct their youth programs. Because of the past history of the location, they are not interested in having the children of South Austin play on the field and feel certain that many parents would remove their children from the program rather than play on that field. In short, they are convinced that it would destroy their program to move to Mabel Davis Park. Also, Mabel Davis Park is out of their district except for the 13-15 year girls' program. From the remarks of the citizens who have appeared before the board it appeared that no one was interested in placing the tennis center at the Butler site. They have been at the location on Robert E. Lee Road approximately 25 years and all improvements have been done by volunteers. If the field on Robert E. Lee Road can be taken from them now, the fields in Garrison Park could also be taken and they have just finished a \$46,000 improvements program there. He felt some good faith needs to be shown by the board members to the citizen

groups and the volunteers who are freely giving their time. Childrens programs do not need to be interrupted. Mrs. Arnold asked when the girls' softball program was started. Mr. Rhode stated that it was sanctioned by Little League in 1973.

Dr. Harold Brumley, Chairman of the West Austin Youth Association, stated that he was present at the meeting held on October 9th and wanted to reiterate the fact that they would be having 9 teams playing on their baseball field this fall and are only capable of playing 10 teams. The soccer program starts at 5:00 and is over at approximately 11:00 p.m. This would make it possible to only absorb one team from the South Austin Youth Association.

Mr. Ehrler stated that he would like to say something on behalf of the citizens. During the process of discussions the Parks and Recreation Department staff have become acquainted with some very fine people. They came to the department and talked expressing their concerns, their fears, their wants and their ambitions and they understand the staff problems. The main concern of the representatives of the various organizations is for the children and families of the children, and they are aware of the dilemma the Parks and Recreation Department is in. The concern of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Parks and Recreation Department is that committed bond money is available for a 16-court tennis center and a site is not available. The Tennis Center Planning Advisory Committee, chaired by Mr. Hall, did a tremendous amount of work in trying to recommend a suitable site. Out of 37 sites that were studied only four were recommended as possible sites. The board asked that at least two more sites be studied and the P.A.R.D./Butler was studied and a report made by the consultant. In the addendum the consultant's recommendation is:

1. P.A.R.D./Butler Field Site
2. Toney Burger Activity Center
3. Town Lake at Humane Society Site
4. South Austin Recreation Center
5. Larson Tract

Each of the five sites recommended have a problem. The Larson site which is far south is out of reach as the owner has almost tripled the price of the land since first contacted. The Toney Burger site is located on Austin Independent School District property and is in the town of Sunset Valley. Also, there is a noise problem there from the traffic on Highway 290-West. The Mueller Tract adjacent to the South Austin Recreation Center, although very beautiful and popular with the citizens in that area, has some access problems, and the land has to be purchased. The Town Lake site adjacent to the Humane Society would encroach on other tennis centers in the area and would necessitate using some of the land the Humane Society is leasing from the City of Austin. Also, there would be problems with utilities. The last site is the P.A.R.D./Butler site and everyone present is aware of the problems connected with this site. After a site is chosen and recommended to the City Council it could be as long as 10 months before any ground could be broken for construction of the tennis center. In the meantime, construction costs continue to rise. Mr. Ehrler explained to the board that he would urge them to take action in selecting a site tonight. The Parks and Recreation Department staff respects the fears and anxieties of the representatives of the youth organizations present, but he has met with the representatives a number of times and they are anxious to help solve the problem also. One site with less problems than any of the others would be the South Austin Recreation Center/Mueller Tract, although there are access problems.

Mrs. Arnold asked about the cost estimate for land if the Burger or South Austin Recreation Center site should be chosen. Mr. Ehrler explained that the figures would only be an estimate, but land at the Burger site would cost from \$80,000 to \$90,000, and the land adjacent to the South Austin Recreation Center would cost from \$180,000 to \$190,000. Mrs. Arnold asked where the money would come from for the purchase of the land. Mr. Ehrler explained the money would have to be appropriated from bond money or other Capital Improvement Program projects. Mrs. Arnold asked about the costs that would be involved in moving two Little League fields to another location and providing comparable facilities. Mr. Ehrler explained the cost of a softball field was from \$40,000 to \$60,000. Mrs. Arnold asked if this included bleachers, lights and concession stands. Mr. Ehrler explained this probably did not include all the amenities. He also wanted to emphasize that it would be difficult to spend public funds for a private program and such a request would have to be weighed very carefully. Mrs. Arnold asked what funds were used for the ballfields now located at Butler 1 and 2. Mr. Ehrler explained the improvements for these fields including lights, were paid for with private funds contributed by the Austin Softball Association. Mr. Ramos stated that he felt a decision could have been made by the board some time ago. He felt the reason this site was studied was simply because the board could not make a decision. If the P.A.R.D./Butler site is such a desirable site now why wasn't it just as desirable and included in the original report submitted by the consultant? He felt a decision should be made by the board now. Mr. Ehrler explained the Parks and Recreation Department staff in the beginning did not think there was sufficient land to build the tennis center at the Butler site, but after surveying found there was. Mr. Bray stated that reaching a decision on a site has been difficult as unfortunately none of the sites were real attractive to the board when initially presented. He personally appreciated the information submitted tonight and found it extremely helpful. The speakers were very well versed and brought before the board some important factors. He felt the board should make a decision tonight.

Mr. Bray stated that out of the consideration of a proposed 16-court tennis center site a fundamental problem has been raised in the way the Parks and Recreation Department is operating with respect to parkland. One thing that is very hard for the board, for the staff, and for the citizen groups who have had the privilege of using City land free for all these years, is to understand that it is City land, the use is not irrevocable and it can be altered. The alteration would be a matter for the City as a whole and not for a particular group. On the other hand, equally applicable is the fact that the programs that have been carried on are extremely beneficial, are part of the overall recreation and parks fabric against which we are working and which the board as a volunteer group, with many hours of strictly volunteer time like the youth organizations, is trying to do as best it can. Mr. Bray explained that he sees as a result of all the discussions that have taken place, a re-evaluation of the policies of the use of parkland. Parkland is becoming very valuable and is a limited commodity. We no longer have the expansive areas that we once had that could be turned over to interested citizen groups because no other use was being made and the citizen group would mow the grass and keep it looking nice if nothing else. On the other hand it seems short-sighted to refuse the use of lands that are not immediately needed to interested groups who can use them for beneficial programs.

It seems that where we go with this, not that this will be decided tonight by any means, is an attempt to come up with a rational multi-use facility when private groups are going to use City land, so the facilities are available to the community-at-large and for ongoing continuing programs. As an example, the Little League fields could have been designed to be used as softball fields and if this had been done initially it would have greatly alleviated the crunch we now find ourselves in. Of course at that time softball was a next to nothing citizen sport and today is the fastest growing sport.

It was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Ramos that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council approval of the site located adjacent to the South Austin Recreation Center for the proposed 16-court tennis center. Mrs. Arnold stated that she was not a tennis player, has sat through many Little League baseball games and enjoyed it very much, but she is very disturbed with the choice of the South Austin Recreation Center site because of the access. Mr. Joe Ternus, Director of the Urban Transportation Department, has told the board this site would be his last choice because of the traffic problems in the neighborhood. She would also like to point out that the land adjacent to the recreation center would cost from \$180,000 to \$190,000. If the board proposed to ask the City for funds to purchase the land, why not ask the City for the money to relocate the two Little League youth athletic fields and have a more centrally located site for the tennis center? Mr. Coffee stated that he would like to speak as a tennis player and also a parent with children involved in a variety of Little League activities. A central municipal facility, whether softball or tennis that everyone uses, should be on neutral turf and cannot be in anyone's neighborhood. It has to be in a heavily trafficked area and he only sees three sites that are on neutral turf, the Toney Burger site, the P.A.R.D./Butler site and the Town Lake site, and for this reason he cannot support a neighborhood site. Mr. Hall stated that it was imperative that a decision be made tonight. It appears that other sites are not forthcoming and the board has the five recommended sites to choose from. Mr. Ehrler explained that Mrs. Arnold made a good point in asking the City for money to relocate the youth athletic fields, but there would be a problem of finding a suitable site for them. Mr. Hall stated that he would like to speak against the South Austin Recreation Center site because of access, being in a neighborhood, and lack of visibility. The visibility of the center to him means a great deal. He is a tennis player and would prefer all the other sites rather than the South Austin Recreation Center. His favorite choice is the Town Lake site. The motion failed with Mr. Reed, Mr. Nalle, Mr. Coffee, Mr. Shaw, Mrs. Arnold and Mr. Hall voting no, and Miss Dominguez, Mr. Bray, Ms. Doering, Mr. Britton and Mr. Ramos voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. Coffee and seconded by Mr. Reed, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council approval of the site located at the Toney Burger Activity Center for the proposed 16 court tennis center. The motion carried with Ms. Doering, Mr. Bray, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Coffee, Mr. Nalle and Mr. Reed voting yes, and Mr. Ramos, Mr. Britton, Mrs. Arnold and Miss Dominguez voting no.

BOAT DOCK AND BULKHEAD ON LAKE AUSTIN - ALVIN H. MEYER

Mr. Meyer explained the property is located at 3965 Westlake Drive and in the area approximately across from Mount Bonnell on Lake Austin. The area in front of his property for a distance of 75' into the lake is shallow and only about 3' deep. His request is for permission to build a bulkhead 30' into the lake

for the 100' width of his property. The fill for the bulkhead would come from the bottom of the lake in front of the proposed bulkhead so that additional fill would not be added and the lake would be deepened in front of the property allowing for the construction of a boat dock in front of the bulkhead. Mr. Ehrler asked if the bank of the lake would be changed. Mr. Meyer explained that it would not. Mrs. Arnold asked if other property owners close to his property have done the same thing. Mr. Meyer explained that the property two lots from him and belonging to the Gibson family did the same thing. Linda Cannon from the Building Department explained the request, if approved by the Parks and Recreation Board would require City Council action as Mr. Meyer was proposing to fill the lake 55' from the shoreline. Mr. Nalle asked Mr. Meyer to explain the correspondence in the agenda packet from the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Meyer explained Lake Austin has navigable waters and a permit has to be secured from the Corps of Engineers in order to do the work he is proposing. Mr. Nalle asked if this was in accordance with City policy. Mr. Meyer explained he spoke with Mr. Charles Graves, Director of Engineering, and was told by Mr. Graves that a permit would be needed from the Corps of Engineers because the work he planned to do extended beyond 30' from the lake.

Mr. Nalle explained this particular type of activity is one the Parks and Recreation Board committee is addressing as they work on the navigation policies. Any type of landfill is something that he personally objects to because of the idea that someone could purchase a piece of property and then change the geography of the property at the expense of the lake. The type of fill that Mr. Meyer is proposing is contrary to anything that has been done on the lake before and it certainly is contrary to anything we want to see done, and is an extremely dangerous precedent. There would be nothing to keep other property owners from requesting to do the same thing and increase their yard space at the expense of the lake. He felt that going 55' out into the lake would be a navigation hazard. Mr. Nalle stated that he wanted to commend Mr. Meyer for his honesty and personally appearing before the Parks and Recreation Board.

It was moved by Mr. Nalle and seconded by Mr. Reed that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council that the request of Mr. Alvin H. Meyer to construct a bulkhead in shallow water area of Lake Austin and backfill with approximately 440 cubic yards of sandy material obtained by deepening the lake and extending at least 55' into the lake and the construction of a boat dock be denied. Mr. Meyer explained that boats cannot navigate in the area as it is now. The boat dock proposed would be the same length as the boat and in order to construct the boat dock he would have to go out 30' and he would need to deepen the lake in front of the bulkhead. Mr. Nalle explained that Mr. Meyer might consider an alternate proposal of a narrow boat dock parallel to the shore and then dredging out the boat slip and the dock area along with the slip. This would provide access to the lake. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED NAME FOR THE NORTHWEST RECREATION CENTER

Mr. Hall explained he received a note that the family of Tim Roche, Jr., are requesting that the public hearing for the proposed naming of the Northwest Recreation Center be postponed to another meeting. It was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Ms. Doering that the Parks and Recreation Board hear from anyone present at the meeting desiring to speak and continue the public hearing to the meeting to be held on November 27, 1979. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hall asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak. Mr. Gary Close explained he sent a letter to Mr. Ehrler recommending the name of B. J. "Buster" Robinson for the new recreation center constructed on Northland Drive (Northwest Recreation Center). Mr. Robinson worked for the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department for approximately 34 years, from the 1930's to 1961 when he retired. Mr. Robinson believed that Austin residents deserved the very best and devoted his life, through his work at Zilker Park and Barton Springs, to providing Austinites a rich recreational experience. Mr. Robinson is deceased and by naming the center for him, Austin can repay a man for his lifelong dedication in our behalf. Mr. John Joseph stated that he was representing the Roche family and would like to give his presentation at the November meeting. Mr. Coffee explained a letter was received from the Allandale Neighborhood Association recommending that the center be named the Northwest Recreation Center.

CONSTRUCTION OF SUN DECK OVER EXISTING BOAT DOCK - DR. H. TOBON

Dr. Tobon explained his request was for permission to construct a sun deck over an existing boat dock located on his property at 3204 Rivercrest on Lake Austin. Mr. Bray asked Linda Cannon if all requirements were met for the Building Department. Mrs. Cannon explained that Dr. Tobon only wanted to construct a sun deck over the existing boat dock and everything was in order. Mr. Nalle asked if Dr. Tobon was aware of Ordinance 29 prohibiting the construction of living quarters above the water. Dr. Tobon stated that he is aware of this restriction. Mr. Nalle stated that he wanted the record to reflect that Dr. Tobon was aware of the ordinance prohibiting the construction of living quarters above the waters of Lake Austin. It was moved by Mr. Nalle and seconded by Mr. Reed that the request of Dr. Tobon to construct a sun deck over an existing boat dock located on his property at 3204 Rivercrest on Lake Austin be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ehrler introduced Mrs. Sherry Sybesma, newly appointed Superintendent of Special Activities. Mrs. Sybesma is replacing Mrs. Dorothy Nan McLean who recently retired. Mr. Hall welcomed Mrs. Sybesma and wished her much success in her new position.

PROPOSED LOWERING OF LAKE AUSTIN

Mr. Nalle explained he had secured the following cost figures for the lowering of Lake Austin from the Electric Utility Department:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1960	\$ 3,027
1961	394
1966	1,210
1967	1,457
1968	25,490
1969	423
1970	1,985
1972	1,027
1973	619
1977	2,250

The cost figures for 1960 and 1968 included other expenses beyond the actual costs of the lowering, thus making them non-representative. Mr. Nalle explained that he would like to recommend that the board request the City Council to establish a policy of lowering Lake Austin on a biennial basis of even numbered years, starting in January 1980. Also, he felt that efforts to secure alternate methods of funding would cost more than the actual lowering and therefore, that the City of Austin be willing, as they have historically done in the past, to pay the costs incurred for the lowering of the lake based on reduced hydro-generation by the Lower Colorado River Authority, and that these costs be paid back in kilowatt hours. The most ideal time to lower the lake is January or February as the best chances for a freeze would probably occur during these months, and exposing the aquatic weeds to the cold will kill them back.

After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mrs. Arnold that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council that the City establish a policy of lowering Lake Austin on a biennial basis of even numbered years, starting in January 1980, and that the City pay the costs involved. Mrs. Arnold asked that the support material to City Council reflect that the aquatic weed harvesting program of the Parks and Recreation Department has now been discontinued and operating costs for the program were more than costs for lowering the lake, and much less effective. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nalle explained the persons who will benefit from the lowering of the lake are specifically the lake users and residents. Mr. Ehrler explained the Parks and Recreation Department staff supported the request. Mr. Nalle introduced Mr. and Mrs. Marion Fowler, owners of Greenshores on Lake Austin.

CANCELLATION OF MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 12, 1979

Mr. Hall explained November 12, 1979, is a City holiday and as this is the next scheduled board meeting asked for a recommendation of cancelling or rescheduling the meeting. It was moved by Mr. Reed and seconded by Mr. Shaw that the meeting scheduled for November 12, 1979, be cancelled. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bray inquired about the Capital Improvements Program and asked if there would be a work session for this. Mr. Ehrler explained a special work session would be scheduled for this very soon.

Mr. Guerrero explained Cliff Warrick, Superintendent of Athletics, Aquatics and Tennis was leaving the Parks and Recreation Department after 11½ years of service. He will be affiliated with the American Softball Association based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.