



**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.  
**Board and Commissions Room, City Hall**  
301 W. Second Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

## **MINUTES**

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

#### Board Members in Attendance:

Jane Rivera, Chair; Richard DePalma, Vice Chair; Michael Casias, Rick Cofer, Tom Donovan, Romteen Farasat, Dawn Lewis, Francoise Luca, Randy Mann, and Frank Ward

#### Board Members Absent:

Fred Morgan

### **B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of January 23, 2018.**

**Board Member Casias arrived at 6:12 p.m.**

Board Member Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of January 23, 2018. Board Member Cofer seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 10-0 with Board Member Morgan absent.

### **C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

**Sharon Blythe**, addressed the Board and spoke about her concerns regarding the Cemetery Rules.

**Pinaki Ghosh**, addressed the Board about his concerns regarding the East MLK neighborhood connectivity and his concerns about equity.

**Robert Corbyn**, spoke the Board about his concerns regarding Barton Springs Swimming Pool being closed on Thursdays and the revenue lost on these days.

### **D. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

**Consent**

- 2. Make a recommendation to the City Council for approval of Permanent Use (514 sq. ft.), of parkland not to exceed 450 calendar days on parkland located at 5100 E 51st St. (Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt). Total Mitigation value is \$2,821**
- 3. Make a recommendation to the City Council for approval of Permanent Use (273 sq. ft.), of parkland located at 1500 Alameda Dr. (Little Stacy Neighborhood Park) to be dedicated as right-of-way**
- 4. Make a recommendation to City Council for approval of the amendment to Title 8-1 of the City Code regarding alcohol possession in City parks**

Chair Rivera read consent items 2., 3., and 4. into record and corrected the names of speakers for item 2. and 3. to: Erick Bailey—item 2 and Janna Renfro—item 3.

Board Member Casias moved to approve items 2., 3., and 4. on consent agenda. Board Member Donovan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 10-0 with Board Member Morgan absent.

#### **Non-Consent**

- 5. Appoint Parks and Recreation Board Representative to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board**

Chair Rivera nominated Board Member Cofer to represent the Parks and Recreation Board on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board.

Board Member Casias made a motion to appoint Board Member Cofer. Board Member Mann seconded the motion. The nomination was approved on a vote of 10-0 with Board Member Morgan absent.

- 6. Recommendation regarding removing Roy Guerrero Park from the list of potential sites for the Major League Soccer stadium**

Chair Rivera introduced her recommendation regarding removing Roy Guerrero Park from consideration for Major League Soccer Stadium. Board Member Donovan moved to approve the recommendation. Board Member Lewis seconded the motion.

**Raquel Ortega** spoke about her concerns regarding possible Major League Soccer stadium at Roy Guerrero Park.

**Susana Almanza, Montopolis Neighborhood Association**, spoke against using Roy Guerrero Park for a soccer stadium.

**Linda Guerrero**, advocated for City parks and spoke against using parkland for a soccer stadium.

**Sara Zavaleta**, expressed her concerns about a possibility for increased traffic and air pollution in her neighborhood if a soccer stadium is built close to her home.

**Peter Simonte and Annie Gunn** spoke against using Roy Guerrero Park or any public park for a soccer stadium.

**Anita Villalobos** spoke against using Roy Guerrero Park for a Major League Soccer stadium.

**Malcolm Yeatts** East Riverside Oltorf Combined Neighborhood Planning Area Contact Team, spoke about lack of parks in his neighborhood and spoke in opposition to using Roy Guerrero Park for a soccer stadium.

**Roy Valey** Austin Sierra Club, spoke against use of any parkland for a soccer stadium.

**Drew Scheberle**, Austin Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Board and spoke in favor of bring a Major Soccer League team to Austin.

**Jeff Jack**, Austin Neighborhoods Council, spoke against using parkland to companies for private profit.

**Mark Gentle**, Baton Hills Neighborhood Association, spoke in support of a Major League Soccer coming to Austin but in strong opposition to utilizing parkland for a soccer stadium.

**Daniel Zamarripa** donated his time to Gordon Kelly.

**Gordon Kelley** addressed the Board and spoke in support of the recommendation.

**Susan Spataro** spoke in opposition to building a soccer stadium on parkland and expressed her concern about possible tax cuts and loss of revenue for the City if the stadium is built on public land.

**Susan Rankin** spoke against using public parkland purchased with bond money for a soccer stadium.

**Sharon Blythe** addressed the Board and spoke against the use of parkland or cemetery to be used for private development.

**Morgan Witthofe** addressed the Board and asked the Board to preserve public parks for the public.

**Alfred Rangel**, Brown Berets, addressed the Board and spoke for taking Rey Guerrero off the list for potential soccer stadium sites.

**David King** spoke about a petition against using parkland for a soccer stadium and urged the Board to approve the recommendation unanimously.

**Robert Corbyn** addressed the Board and urged the Board to approve the recommendation unanimously.

**David Grabbs** expressed his concern about building a soccer stadium on parkland.

Discussion was held on the item and Kimberly McNeeley, Acting Director, Parks and Recreation Department, answered Board Members' questions.

Board Member Casias offered an amendment to consider adding funding sources including Bonds to repair and maintain Roy G. Guerrero Park. Amendment was accepted. The motion passed as amended on a vote of 10-0 with Board Member Morgan absent.

Chair Rivera called a recess at 8:01 p.m. Board convened again at 8:14 p.m.

Chair Rivera moved agenda item 8. before item 7.

## **8. Combined recommendation regarding the Nash Hernandez Joint-Use Facility**

Michael Casias, Board Member, explained the combined recommendation regarding the Nash Hernandez Joint-Use Facility. Board Member Casias moved for approval of the recommendation. Board Member Donovan seconded the motion.

Chair decided to proceed with item 10. Nash Hernandez Building Video Tour before discussion on item 8. And the proposed recommendation.

## **E. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

### **10. Nash Hernandez Building Video Tour**

Tony Arnold, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, introduced a short video regarding current state of the Nash Hernandez Joint-Use facility.

Paul Mendoza, Project Manager, Public Works Department, answered Board Members' questions and provided information about the project and community engagement conducted so far. He also addressed the concerns about the project timelines.

Andrew Westbrook, Police Lieutenant, and Justin Newsom, Assistant Police Chief, Austin Police Department, explained the need for joint facility and the importance of having the Park Police stationed in a central location and near parks. Assistant Police Chief Newson urged that the plans for the facility remain unchanged.

### **Non-Consent**

## **8. Combined recommendation regarding the Nash Hernandez Joint-Use Facility**

A discussion was held on the proposed recommendation. Board Member Casias moved to approve the recommendation and Vice Chair DePalma seconded the motion.

Vice Chair DePalma proposed an amendment to the resolution:

- 3. Recommends in the event that the complete construction of the Nash Hernandez Building is not fully funded in the 2018 City of Austin Bond Referendum that the plans for the Nash Hernandez Building be modified to include community gathering spaces on the upper floor and upper deck with path access and signage to and from the hike and bike trail...*

The proposed amendment was accepted. The amended recommendation was approved on a vote of 7-0 with Board Member Luca and Ward voting against, Board Member Lewis abstaining, and Board Member Morgan absent.

## **7. Discussion and possible action regarding the recommendations from the Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee and Contracts and Concession Committee regarding the Nash Hernandez Joint Use Facility**

Board Member Casias moved to take no action on this item. Board Member Farasat seconded the motion.

The motion passed on a vote of 10-0 with Board Member Morgan absent.

## **F. NEW BUSINESS: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **8. Presentation and discussion regarding the Artist Access Program and its upcoming Community Engagement process developed from the Museums and Cultural Program Division's current residency program**

Item was postponed until March 2018 meeting.

## **E. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

### **9. Briefing on Parks and Recreation Department Partnerships**

Item was postponed until March 2018 meeting.

## **G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Kimberly McNeeley, Acting Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, updated the Board on the master plan and park development progress, bond development progress, partnerships, cemetery rules, homeless camps cleanup, summer camp registration, aquatics Hiring Day, and February programs and events.

Board Member Farasat departed at 9:32.

## **H. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Chair Rivera—requested updates regarding periodic assessment of the condition of the Nash Hernandez Building roof

Vice Chair DePalma—requested update Parkland dedication fund on the website and a report on Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Vice Chair DePalma—requested an update on the registration for summer camps

DePalma—update on John Morris Golf Course and trails/connectivity in MLK area

Board Member Cofer—requested an update (in the Director's Report) on costs associated with the museum and cultural programs (Elisabeth Ney, Dickinson, Old Bakery, O'Henry, Dougherty Arts Center, Carver, ARC, MACC) including FTE, costs, deferred maintenance, utilities, etc.

Board Member Cofer—requested an item on golf operations and on mid- and long-term Department vision regarding golf operations, Bond advisory committee recommended 10 million for golf

Board Member Cofer—requested an item on recycling in City parks

Board Member Lewis—requested memo with background information and history of Walsh Boat Landing

Board Member Ward—requested Precourt Sports Ventures to present to the Board

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.