

Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
March 24, 1992

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on March 24, 1992 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Parks and Recreation Department, 200 South Lamar. Board Members present: Albert Black, Ron Cartlidge, Phil Friday, Beverly Griffith, Neil Iscoe, James Crump, Charlie Gandy and Eliza May. Staff present: Manuel A. Mollinedo, Michael J. Heitz, Stuart Strong, Randy Russell, Harry Dawson, Peter Marsh, Col. Swift, Jody Hamilton, Alan Hughes from Public Works, and Donna Bohls.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Beverly Griffith, Chair. The minutes of the March 9, 1992 meeting were approved.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Rosemary Castleberry addressed the Board on behalf of Cinco de Mayo and distributed posters signed by the artist, Ray Gaytan. Everyone was invited to participate in the Festival.

Ray Gaytan addressed the Board and discussed plans for Little Cinco for the children on Saturday, May 2 at Fiesta Gardens. He also indicated that he would be working with children's art groups throughout the community.

Robert Thomas addressed the Board about east Austin programming challenges and possible employment opportunities.

J. T. Serrato, representing Barrio Unidos, addressed the Board about filtration of the pool at Palm Park, hours of operation, continued city/county cooperation for additional police protection, and upgrading of park amenities.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Stuart Strong made a staff presentation on the proposed Town Lake Parallel Hike and Bike Trails Plan. Board Members discussed the proposal and a public hearing on the proposal is planned for April.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mollinedo reported that work began this week on maintenance repairs to Barton Springs pool following the winter flood damage. Hopefully the repairs will be completed sometime in May.

Dinosaur tracks have been uncovered near the Austin Area Garden Center. Protective measures are underway to preserve the find and staff are working with the University of Texas paleontologists on the significance of the tracks and bones.

The Public Works Department has striped the intersection of Lamar and Riverside Drive to provide for a pedestrian cross walk. James Crump asked

that walk/don't walk signals be installed for additional safety.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - ITEMS FOR ACTION

Set Timetable for Revision of Concessions Policy for Submittal to City Council for Approval

James Crump moved and Neil Iscoe seconded a motion to table this item to the April 13, 1992 board meeting. The motion carried.

Approve Submission of the Annual Concession Report to Council with Specific Recommendations on the Proposed Carousel and Rowboat Concessions

The following citizens addressed the Board:

Jim Cousar spoke against having a carousel near Barton Springs pool.

James Rounds, representing the Zilker Neighborhood Association, asked for a delay on the carousel project pending a review of the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan and playscape plans.

Daniel Traverso opposed the carousel and advocated active recreation activities for children.

Ed Ducak, representing the Save Barton Creek Association, spoke against the carousel.

Robert Singleton, representing the Save Barton Creek Association, asked that the Board reconsider the carousel project and presented a resolution from Jackie Goodman.

Diane Weidner spoke against both the carousel and rowboat concession.

Doug Johnston asked the Board to reconsider the carousel concession.

James Crump moved and Charlie Gandy seconded a motion to forward the Concession Report to Council with any action relating to the carousel in Zilker Park to be delayed pending further deliberation of both the Environmental Board and the Parks and Recreation Board. The motion carried 5 to 2.

Discuss 1992 Proposed Bond Election Items, Language, and Strategy

The following citizens addressed the Board:

Barry Lovelace, representing the Garden Council, requested bond funding for the Austin Area Garden Center and Garden area. The funds are needed for water and sewage facilities, restrooms to meet ADA standards, fencing and security.

Doug Blachly, representing the Garden Council, requested 1.5 million dollars in bond funds be added to the 1992 bond package for use at the Garden Center.

Spencer Russell, representing East Austin Optimists, requested funds for the Govalle Ballfields to provide fencing.

Beverly Andreasen, representing the Texas Botanical Garden Society, requested funds for the Zilker Gardens improvements and maintenance.

David Hartman, President of the Texas Botanical Garden Society, requested that 3-4 million in additional bond funding would be needed to maintain the existing facilities and provide for the needed expansion at the Garden Center.

Charlie Gandy moved and James Crump seconded a motion to recommend to Council that 47.28 million dollars be placed on the Bond election to provide for the future recreational needs of the citizens of Austin. Specifically 11.88 million for Youth/Senior Centers, 25 million for land acquisition in the Barton Creek Watershed, and 10.4 million in infrastructure improvements and land acquisition on Town Lake/Zilker Park. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS - ITEMS FOR ACTION

Approve proposal for year round heated pool funded by revenue bonds in new southeast park

James Crump moved and Eliza May seconded a motion to decline the proposal for a year round heated pool funded by revenue bonds. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve request for further study of solutions to traffic problems on Barton Springs Road at Stratford Drive

James Crump moved and Charlie Gandy seconded a motion to table this item for 30 days in order to receive a report on traffic control options from the Public Works Department. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve request for study of solutions to pedestrian traffic problems at the intersection of Riverside Drive and South Lamar

Board Members agreed that walk/don't walk signals need to be installed at the cross walk. Allan Hughes from the Public Works Department agreed to have his staff install this kind of control with an on-demand pedestrian crossing push button.

Approve 10 MPH speed limit for bicyclists on hike and bike trails

This item was tabled.

Approve contract to perform Phase III renovation of the Lundberg Bakery

James Crump moved and Eliza May seconded a motion to begin phase 3 of the Luncberg Bakery Removations. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve modification and repairs to existing 10-slip marina at 2501 Manana Street

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that the committee recommended approval of this request. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Changes to Agenda Format

Eliza May moved and Charlie Gandy seconded a motion to table this to committee. The motion passed. The committee was set up as follows:
Eliza May, Phil Friday, Charlie Gandy and Manuel Mollinedo.

Approve Naming Softball Complex which includes Thorpe Field

Eliza May moved and Albert Black seconded a motion to name the softball complex containing Thorpe Field, Castillo Field and Martinez Field for Roy G. Velasquez, Sr. The motion passed unanimously. Dedication ceremonies are set for April 4.

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.