

Parks and Recreation Board
April 28, 1992
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on April 28, 1992 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Board Room at 200 South Lamar. Board Members present: Beverly Griffith, Neil Iscoe, Phil Friday, Albert Black, Ron Cartlidge, James Crump, Charlie Gandy, and Eliza May. Staff present: Michael J. Heitz, Randy Russell, Peter Marsh, Harry Dawson, Heather Griffith, Jody Hamilton and Donna Bohls.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Beverly Griffith, Chair. Action on the minutes of the previous meeting was tabled. A report from Mini Freeman, Site Manager of the McBeth Recreation Center, on ADA compliance and an excellence in service award was also postponed.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

STEPHEN RODI, President of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association, addressed the Board regarding the removal of a flower bed at Bartholomew park, inaction on citizen complaints and inquiries and playscape repairs.

DAVID RAY addressed the Board regarding the flower bed at Bartholomew park and inaction on citizen inquiries.

STEPHEN J. KREGER addressed the Board about the need to clarify the procedures citizens should take with complaints and maintenance requests.

ROBERT LEON THOMAS addressed the Board about using black contractors to make repairs at Rosewood Recreation Center. He also addressed staffing issues at Rosewood Recreation Center.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Make Recommendation Regarding Traffic Control Proposals for Barton Springs Rd. and Stratford Drive

This item was postponed.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Revision to Approved Plans for Construction of a Boat Dock at 4301 Michaels Cove, File # SP-92-0006DS

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that this request had been reviewed by the Committee and the Committee recommended in favor of the request. Being a Committee recommendation, the motion required no second and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing and Approve Recommendation to Council Regarding Proposed Separate Hike and Bike Trail for Town Lake

Peter Marsh, Staff Engineer, made a presentation on the options staff had investigated following suggestions from members of the Board. The following citizens addressed the Board during the public hearing:

JOHN RUSSELL addressed the Board and spoke on behalf of the in-line skaters that would like to use the trail for recreational skating.

ESTER MATTHEWS, Administrative Assistant to Council Member Max Nofziger, addressed the Board and encouraged them to make a decision to continue with the trail expansion project.

GRAHAM E. HARRIS, President of the Austin Cycling Association, addressed the Board on behalf of the ACA in support for the proposed Zilker Loop Trail.

GEORGE HASTY addressed the Board in support of the "outer loop" trail for all users and questioned whether a Town Lake bikeway is a good idea.

GEORGE AVERY, Vice-President of the Austin Sierra Club, addressed the Board and spoke against an asphalt bike path. He recommended the use of pervious pavers, no tree removal and to refer the preferred trail alignment to the Environmental Board for review.

LARRY WHITWORTH, Austin Deaf Caucus, spoke on behalf of deaf cyclists. Mr. Whitworth disagreed with plans for the bikeway to intersect with the Zilker Eagle. He indicated that plan was additionally dangerous for deaf runners/cyclists. He advocated for additional trail area and a new footbridge across Barton Creek near Barton Springs Road. (Mr. Whitworth spoke through an interpreter.)

ROBERT ELRIDGE, South Austin Little League, addressed the Board and opposed the trail option that would impact Preston Field.

DOUG BLACHLY, Vice-President of the Texas Botanical Garden Society, addressed the Board and opposed the trail option that would run along Stratford Drive in the Zilker Botanical Garden.

C. O. SMITH addressed the Board and asked that no trail option be considered that would impact the Botanical Garden. He asked that the vision for the Gardens not be changed by bicycle traffic.

SYLVIA AND JERRY SHARP addressed the Board about the need for a separate bicycle trail. Mrs. Sharp recently suffered a broken arm and multiple bruises when she was run over by a careless cyclist on the trail who was going very fast. They also encouraged the adoption of a speed limit for cyclists.

DAVID SULLIVAN, Coordinator of UT Bike to Work Day, asked the Board to act to restrict bicycle access to Barton Creek and redirect spending to assist bicycle commuters.

DIANE WEIDNER addressed the Board and requested they reject the idea of

paired bike and hiking trails. Ms. Weidner asked that the Zilker Loop trail be considered.

CLAUDIA SIEGEL asked that the initial proposal for paired hike and bike trails be defeated.

PAT FRIES, South Austin Little League, spoke in favor of trail expansion but not at the expense of Preston Field.

JAMES STRICKLAND addressed the Board and asked for support to an alternate trail extension offered by bicyclists.

THOMAS DELANEY, President of Austin Ridge Riders Mountain Bicycle Club, addressed the Board in opposition of phase 1 paved bike path.

LOUISE HASTY addressed the Board in opposition to the separate bike trail.

DOUG HUDSON, Zilker Neighborhood Association, addressed the Board in support of a multi-purpose trail not just a bike trail. He supported the Zilker Loop plan.

RANDY HOWELL spoke in support of the Zilker Loop multi-use trail.

L. M. HOLDER spoke in support of the Zilker Loop multi-use trail.

BILL FOREST, President of the Capitol Area Youth Soccer Association, spoke in support of the Zilker Loop multi-use trail.

RICHARD CHARLES spoke in support of the Zilker Loop Option and asked for regulations requiring pet owners to pick-up after their animals.

MARGARET REED-LADE, Member of the Zilker Neighborhood Executive Committee, spoke in favor of the Zilker Loop trail.

DANIEL TRAVERSO, Old West Austin Neighborhood Association, opposed a paved bike trail and reported that the OWANA also opposed a paved trail. Mr. Traverso did support the Zilker Loop trail.

DOUG JOHNSON, Co-Chair of the Zilker Neighborhood Association, supports the Zilker Loop trail and opposes a paved trail.

TITO PEREZ, Board Member of South Austin Little League, addressed the Board and asked that Preston Field be left alone.

JEFF CLEMENTS, South Austin Little League, asked that the little league field be left at its current length. He advised the Board that Preston is one of only three Little League fields open to public play. The field is also currently used by Austin High and a private highschool for baseball practice.

CAROL FOX spoke in favor of the Zilker Loop multi-use trail.

TIMOTHY COOKINGHAM, REI Outreach Coordinator & Austin Bike to Work Coordinator, asked that the Board add trail not pavement to the Town Lake area. He also asked for a bicycle rack to be installed at the Main Office Building.

DANIEL READING spoke in favor of proposal 4 the Zilker Loop trail.

Charlie Gandy moved and James Crump seconded a motion to close the public hearing since everyone who had signed up had spoken. The motion passed unanimously.

After Board discussion, Phil Friday moved and Charlie Gandy seconded a motion to recommend against proposal 1 and 2 and have staff investigate and study further proposals 3 and 4. A report on proposal 4 to be ready for the May evening meeting and a report on proposal 3 as quickly as possible thereafter. To request staff to investigate the possibility of Public Works cooperating in extending the bicycle route along Barton Springs Road to Rollingwood Drive. The motion passed.

Approve Recommendation for Speed Limit on Hike and Bike Trails

Ron Cartlidge moved and Albert Black seconded sending a recommendation to Council to establish an ordinance that will impose a 10 mile per hour speed limit on the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail. The speed limit to take effect as soon as reasonably possible. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.