

Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board
May 11, 1992

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on May 11, 1992 at the Parks and Recreation Department Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board Members present: Beverly Griffith, James Crump, Charlie Gandy, Neil Iscoe, Eliza May, Ron Cartlidge and Albert Black. Staff present: Mike Heitz, Heather Griffith Peterson, Robert Sopronyi, Stuart Strong, Jack Anderson, Butch Smith, Carolyn Nelson, Jody Hamilton, Alan Hughes (Public Works), Page Graves (Internal Audit), and Donna Bohls.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at Noon with Beverly Griffith, Chair, presiding. The minutes of March 24, 1992; April 13, 1992; and April 28, 1992 were approved. Neil Iscoe asked that the March 24 minutes reflect that his name as a dissenting vote on the Annual Concession Report with specific recommendations on the proposed Carousel and Rowboat Concessions.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

All citizen communications were for a specific agenda item.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A brief presentation was made on the budget. The presentation on the National Park study was deferred.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

This item was postponed to the May 26, 1992 meeting.

Approve Proposed Changes to PARB Agenda and Procedures

This item was postponed to the May 26, 1992 meeting.

Set Timetable for Revision of Concession Policy

This item was postponed.

NEW BUSINESS

Make Recommendation Regarding Proposed 1992-93 PARD Operating Budget

Tom Anderson, signed up to speak but left before the item was called. His written comments asked that the Museum Administrator position be reinstated.

Dianne Smart, signed up to speak but left before the item was called. Her written comments asked that the Museum Administrator position be

reinstated.

Ann Ciccolella, Executive Director of the Austin Circle of Theaters, addressed the Board and asked that Sean Hare and Jim Fisher's positions not be cut from next year's budget.

Maxine Barkan, Vice Chair of the Austin Arts Commission, addressed the Board and asked that bed tax money not be used to pay the salaries of cultural contracts staff. Mrs. Barkan was opposed to the precedent that would be set to fund those staff salaries from bed tax funds.

Randy Mc Call signed up to speak but left before the item was called. His written comments asked that no positions be eliminated from the Cultural Arts budget.

James Crump moved and Charlie Gandy seconded a motion to send the following resolution to Council:

WHEREAS, park facilities have expanded every year including 6 new facilities scheduled to come on-line for 92-93;

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department budget has been cut year after year resulting in the decay of one of Austin's most valuable resources;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Board does not recommend any further cuts in the Parks and Recreation Department budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Acceptance of \$500,000 in grant funds from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a Swimming Pool and other Recreational Facilities at Dove Springs District Park and Amending Ordinance No. 910912-B, the 1991-92 Capital Budget, Amending the Capital Budget Increasing Revenues and Expenditures, by Appropriating \$500,000 to Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvements Program Account Number 823/867/5006.

James Crump moved and Ron Cartlidge seconded a motion to recommend to Council acceptance and appropriation of this grant.

Approve Acceptance of \$2,500 in Grant Funds from the Texas Commission on the Arts for Professional Development and Amending Ordinance No. 910912-B, the Operating Budget, increasing revenues and expenditures by appropriating \$2,500 to the Parks and Recreation Department

James Crump moved and Ron Cartlidge seconded a motion to recommend to Council acceptance and appropriation of this grant.

Approve Amending the 1991-92 General Fund Operating Budget for Additional Fee-Based Programs at the Dougherty Arts Center, the Austin Nature Center and nine Recreation Centers

This item was postponed for additional backup information.

Make Recommendation to Council Concerning Barton Springs and the Watershed Ordinance

Al St. Louis addressed the Board regarding Barton Springs Pool. He requested that the pool repairs be postponed until after the current swim season. Appropriate signage warning swimmers of pool conditions should be installed.

Bill Bunch addressed the Board regarding Barton Springs Pool. He felt that the pool was "being held hostage for political reasons." He encouraged the Board to consider temporary mitigation measures and defer long term pool repair for the winter season.

Mark Gentil addressed the Board about the silt in Barton Springs Pool. He encouraged the Board to retain the historical character of the pool and ensure the most use of the pool for all swimmers.

After considerable discussion, Neil Iscoe moved and James Crump seconded the following resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE FOR BARTON SPRINGS POOL

MAY 11, 1992

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

WHEREAS, Barton Springs Pool is the Crown Jewel of the City of Austin Parks System;

WHEREAS, Last Year over 165,000 people paid to swim in the pool resulting in direct revenues to the City of Austin in excess of \$200,000 and indirect revenues of many times that amount;

WHEREAS, the pool provides a place for people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds to swim, gather, and enjoy a unique Austin experience;

WHEREAS, flooding has caused two problems, ledge erosion and silt accumulation;

WHEREAS, ordinarily, ledge erosion repair and silt removal would have already been completed as a normal repair procedure. The legal interpretation is contained in a memo dated March 25, 1992;

WHEREAS, although bids have been received and the Parks Department is ready to begin work; the repairs have not yet begun; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens of Austin are being deprived the use of the Pool while we wait in frustration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council direct the City Manager to:

1) Immediately open as large a portion of the pool as possible subject to the constraints of the City of Austin Risk Management Office;

2) Begin repairs as soon as is reasonable possible, and to complete

those repairs in as expedient as manner as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the March 25, 1992 legal interpretation (which cited Section 13-1-22 of the City Code) which determined that the pool repairs are not development be affirmed.

The motion passed with Charlie Gandy abstaining.

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.