

Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board
January 26, 1993

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on January 26, 1993 in the Parks and Recreation Department Board Room, 200 South Lamar, at 6:30 p.m. Board Members present: Sterling Lands, James Crump, Albert Black, Ron Cartlidge, Eleanor McKinney, Eliza May, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Beverly Griffith, and Neil Iscoe. Staff present: Michael J. Heitz, Carolyn D. Nelson, Peter Marsh, Robert Sopronyi, Jim Jacksits, Tana Goodwill, Jody Hamilton and Donna Bohls.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. with Reverend Sterling Lands presiding.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

Helga Williams addressed the Board and requested that styrofoam and plastic be added to the ban on glass containers in parks.

Al St. Louis addressed the Board and requested information on the hiring process for the Barton Springs Pool Manager. He wanted to know why the process has taken so long. He also discussed the need to limit development along Southwest Parkway for the preservation of Barton Creek.

Victor Aquino addressed the Board about the need for programs for children in the Dove Springs area. He asked for ideas and assistance in trying to obtain funds for renting temporary recreation center space in an area strip shopping center.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Victor Aquino, Vice Chair of the Dove Springs Recreation Center Advisory Board, made a presentation on the naming of the Dove Springs area park. He brought in the ballots cast by children at Houston and Widen Elementary Schools and Mendez Middle School. The children voted between "Dove Springs", "Williamson Creek" and "Christina Chavez" park and selected "Dove Springs" as their first choice. Mr. Aquino asked that the official naming of this park be placed on an upcoming Parks Board agenda.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Approve Construction of Retaining Wall at 2203 Island Wood Road

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that the Committee recommended approval of the request to construct a reinforced concrete retaining wall, approximately 38 feet long in accordance with Site Plan #SP-93-0020DS. The motion passed 8-0.

Approve Construction of a Single-Slip Boat Dock at 2301 Big Horn Drive

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that the Committee recommended approval of the request to construct a single-slip boat dock in accordance with Site Plan #SP-93-0024DS. The Committee also stated that:

Whereas the upper reaches of Lake Austin rises 10 or more feet above normal during flood stages (i.e., 4 or 5 gates open on Mansfield Dam), and

Whereas boats trapped beneath covered docks can be sunk and docks damaged.

Therefore, the dock owners need to be aware that the design of which include roofing structures may lead to sunk boats and damaged docks.

The motion passed 8-0.

Approve Construction of Recessed Boat Slip at 6702 Troll Haven

This item was pulled from consideration.

Approve Changes to Agreement with South Austin Youth Soccer Association (SAYSA) Regarding Soccer Fields in Slaughter Creek Park (formerly called Circle C Park)

Albert Black, Chair of the Programs Committee, reported that this agreement had been reviewed by the Committee and they recommended approval of the agreement for a time period of 3 years instead of the 10 years originally requested. The recommendation required no second and passed 8-0 with the noted change.

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Recommend to Council a Concession Policy

Neil Iscoe, Chair of the Concessions Committee, presented the following resolution to the Board for consideration:

WHEREAS the Parks Board has been asked to produce a policy concerning concessions in the Town Lake Watershed; and

WHEREAS the Parks Board believes that concessions should only be allowed when they provide a service or public good to the citizens of Austin which the City cannot deliver; and

WHEREAS it is critical that citizen input be considered in this process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks Board adopt the following Policy:

Parks Concession Policy

The definition of a concession in the Town Lake Ordinance is as follows: "Concession means a privately operated business on park land serving park users, authorized by the City in accordance with applicable ordinance requirements. Types of businesses operated as concessions may include without limitation food and beverage stands, boat rentals, excursion boats,

boating lessons, bicycle rentals and pushcarts."

There are two classes of concessions: Permanent and Temporary. A temporary concession is one which does not require a building or other type of permanent structure from which to operate and has a contract term limited to one year or less. All other concessions are permanent concessions.

Permanent Concessions

On an ongoing basis, input for Permanent Concession ideas will be solicited through various methods, e.g., survey of Boards, Commissions, Advisory Groups and park users, advertisements, and by soliciting written suggestions from the general public.

On September 1 of each year, a new concessions cycle will begin. At this point, City staff, a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board, and a subcommittee of the Environmental Board will review concepts and make recommendations.

These recommendations will be submitted for consideration at a special evening meeting in October of the Parks Board and representatives of the Environmental Board. A summary of the proposed concessions will be included in the Annual Concessions Report submitted to the Parks and Environmental Boards in October as required by Ordinance No. 890126. Public input will be encouraged at this meeting.

The Environmental and Parks Boards will within 30 days of the special meeting determine which of the concession concepts (if any) will go forward to a public hearing. All potential locations of the concession(s) must be determined prior to the setting of the public hearing. A minimum of 90 days prior to the public hearing, the following events will take place:

- Signs will be posted at the prospective locations of the concession(s)
- News media of all types will reach as wide and as diverse a population as possible will be contacted.

- Appropriate notices will be sent to all interested parties.

A public hearing will be held before a joint meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Environmental Board. The purpose of the hearing will be to determine whether concession RFP's should be issued and what additional site or concession-specific constraints should be added to the standard city RFP. The boards will issue their recommendations to the City Council within 30 days of the public hearing. It is not necessary that the Boards concur in their recommendations.

A Request for Council Action will then be posted concerning concession RFP's. RFP's will be issued by city staff only after explicit approval by Council. This approval will specify exact site information and shall include directives to staff regarding revenue policies as well as additional site or concession-specific directives.

Temporary Concessions

Temporary concessions shall be administered by city staff without the intervention of this Board except in cases where concessionaires have been

unable to reach a satisfactory agreement with City staff.

Any staff policies which exist concerning temporary concessions shall be presented to the Parks Board along with the Annual Report. The Parks Board reserves the right to suggest to Council periodic changes to these policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the current fee structure for temporary concessions should be changed to a simple percentage of sales rather than the current punitive structure which discourages minority and other small business entrepreneurial participation.

Implementation Note: Ordinance No. 890126 needs to be updated to a) reflect the termination of the Waterfront Advisory Board, and b) the existence of any ordinance created by this resolution.

The motion passed 7-0.

Make Recommendation to Council Regarding Annual Concession Report

Neil Iscoe, Chair of the Concessions Committee, reported that the Committee had reviewed the Annual Concessions Report and recommended approval. The motion passed 7-0.

Recommend to Council Approval of Award of Food and Drink Concession in Zilker Park

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres moved and Albert Black seconded a motion to recommend to Council entering into a contract with Rodriguez Concession, Inc. to provide the food and drink concession at Barton Springs Pool for a period of five years. The motion passed 4-1-2.

James Crump moved and Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded a motion to reconsider the contract recommendation. The motion passed 7-1.

The Board then changed their recommendation to recommend to Council entering into a contract with Rodriguez Concession, Inc. to provide the food and drink concession at Barton Springs Pool for a period of two years with no extension options. The motion passed 4-1-2.

Recommend to Council Approval of Award of Butler Pitch and Putt Concession

James Crump moved and Neil Iscoe seconded a motion to recommend to Council entering into a contract with Mr. Albert Kinser for the operation of Butler Pitch and Putt concession for a period of 2 years with no extension options. The motion passed 4-1-2. James Crump voiced concerns about errant golf balls and the safety of neighboring businesses and passers-by.

Make Recommendation to Council Regarding the Proposed Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

Neil Iscoe, Chair of the Land and Facilities Committee, reported that the Committee has reviewed the BCCP and presented the following resolution for Board consideration:

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Board has been asked to make a recommendation concerning the BCCP; and

WHEREAS, the continuing changes in the BCCP implementation details make it difficult to make anything other than a general recommendation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the recommendations which the Parks and Recreation Board wishes to make at this time are:

The Parks and Recreation Board has major concerns with the BCCP's potential pre-emptive use of park land. It would be a hollow victory to set aside land which eventually becomes forbidden to hikers and non-motorized bicycle riders. Special attention needs to be given to BCCP planning so that land acquisition for habitat does not conflict with citizen access to park and wilderness areas.

We would welcome the opportunity to continue the dialogue with the City Council regarding the parks related questions still unresolved. These questions include:

- Exposure of the Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance budget for the expense of the BCCP preserve lands. Will there be less money to maintain parks and playgrounds?
- Due to the \$25,000,000 cap on bond sales per year will the Recreation Facilities and the Barton Creek Wilderness Park passed on August 8, 1992 by better than 60% of the voters be crowded out by the BCCP land purchases?

Being a Committee recommendation the motion needed no second and passed 8-0.

Modify Parks and Recreation Board Procedures Regarding Agenda Format to Add Category for Action

Eliza May reported that the Parks Board committee on agenda format has reviewed the suggestion to add a Category for Action that reflects items that have been approved by committee and are not an initial consideration. The motion passed 8-0.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 12, 1993 were approved 7-0-1.

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned at 9:00 p.m.