

Minutes  
Parks and Recreation Board  
April 13, 1993

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on April 13, 1993 at 6:35 p.m. at the Pan American Recreation Center, 2100 East Third St. Members present were Sterling Lands, Eliza May, ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Ron Cartlidge, Eleanor McKinney, Albert Black, Beverly Griffith, Margaret Reed-Lade and James Crump.

Staff members present: Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Jesus Olivares, Carolyn Nelson, Stuart Stong, Sandra Chipley, Robert Sopronyi, Ann Denkler, Cindy Giedraitis, and Dolores Posada.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Sterling Lands, Chair.

**CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION**

Helga Williams addressed the Board and suggested a moratorium on the Zilker Playscape plans until all details on environmental impact have been properly addressed and to suggest temporary improvement of the existing playscape.

Rick Blackburn addressed the Board and proposed they recommend to the Planning Commission and City Council to issue bonds passed for Dick Nichol's Park to be used to build a pool.

Jonathan Blackburn addressed the Board asking they recommend bonds to build pool at Dick Nichol's Park.

Jennifer Padden addressed the Board requesting a pool in Dick Nichol's Park.

Fred La Beaux addressed the Board also requesting a pool in Dick Nichol's Park.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

Approve construction of a boat dock and retaining wall at 2307 Manana Street, File # SP-93-0086DS.

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that the Navigation Committee had reviewed the above item and recommended approval.

The motion passed 8-0.

Approve revised plans for the construction of single recessed boat slip at 6702 Troll Haven, File # SP-93-006DS. Update #1.

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that the Navigation Committee had reviewed the above item and had not approved it. The item was sent back to committee.

Approve revised plans for construction of a boat dock at 1859 Westlake Drive, File # SP-93-0072DS subject to the following conditions: a variance being granted to allow the development to exceed the 20% of the width to shoreline and that navigation light stations be provided at the end of the structure on the farthest side from the shoreline according to Section 13-2-793 (b)(2)(B)(2).

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that the Navigation Committee had reviewed the above item and recommended approval.

The motion passed 8-0.

Approve construction of a single-slip boat dock at 2003 Big Horn Drive, File # SP-93-0107DS subject to the following condition: that the navigation light station be located on the upstream side of the structure where it can be easily seen by all approaching watercraft in accordance to Site Plan 93-0107DS and request the applicant be made aware of the flood conditions that would affect fixed boat dock on the upper portion of Lake Austin.

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that the Navigation Committee had reviewed the above item and recommended approval.

The motion passed 8-0.

#### ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

Reverend Lands, Chair, introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Parks Board member, Margaret Reed-Lade.

#### ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Make recommendation to Council regarding Cinco de Mayo event sponsorship denial based on legal advice regarding religious activities.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Land and Facilities Committee member, stated this item was not to be a recommendation to Council. Ms. Cruz-Torres wants someone from the Legal department to clarify the memo sent by Mr. Calderon.

Make recommendation to Council regarding drug problem at Montopolis Recreation Center.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Land and Facilities Committee member, moved that the above item be tabled. Eliza May seconded the motion.

The motion passed 8-0.

Review and make recommendation regarding City Manager's proposed Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 1993-94, including possible addition of Civitan Park walking trail and pool at Dick Nichols Park.

Beverly Griffith, Land and Facilities Committee member, stated to the Board that Ted Siff requested if action was not taken the above item he would make a full presentation at the next Board meeting. Reverend Lands, Chair, formed an ad hoc Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Committee to come forth with a recommendation that reflects the common interest of the Board. Committee members are:

Beverly Griffith and Eliza May, Co-chair  
James Crump  
Margaret Reed-Lade  
Eleanor McKinney

Eleanor McKinney requested CIP information be distributed to the Board earlier so may have more time to review and make recommendations.

Margaret Reed-Lade requested CIP information be specific as to what monies are spent on.

James Crump requested equal monies be spent on the Balcones Canyonlands and the Zilker Wilderness Park.

Above item was sent to committee.

Make recommendation to Council regarding navigation issues.

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, proposed the following recommendations to staff: update the navigations plan from 1986 that include the buoy markings on the area lakes; duckweed in the swimming area in Decker Lake (Lake Walter E. Long) be cleaned; buoys be replaced at the swimming area in Lake Walter E. Long; and repair the boat ramp at Lake Walter E. Long.

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, will have staff response to above recommendations.

Make recommendation to Council regarding declaring June 5, 1993 as Barton Springs Day and resolving to provide full admission to Barton Springs Pool on that day; approving an ordinance waiving admission fees to Barton Springs Pool for June 5, 1993.

James Crump moved that the above item be approved. Eleanor McKinney seconded the motion.

The motion passed 8-0.

Make recommendation approving Department to negotiate and execute an agreement with two model aircraft clubs (Aeromodelers of Austin and Hill Country Aeromodelers) to establish a flying field in Mary Moore Searight Metro Park.

Eleanor McKinney, Land and Facilities Committee Chairperson, recommended this item be tabled pending a site visit with the Aeromodeler's Clubs.

The motion passed 8-0.

Make recommendation to Council regarding acceptance of \$19,720 from Work/Family Development Corporation to enhance summer camp programs at the Austin Nature Center.

James Crump moved that the above item be approved. Eliza May seconded the motion.

The motion passed 8-0.

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

### Make recommendation to Council regarding negotiation and execution of an agreement with Friends of the Parks for Zilker Park Playscape improvements.

Teresa Elliott, Chairman of the Zilker Park Playscape Committee, addressed the Board to support an agreement between the Friends of Parks and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Donna Brasher, Zilker Park Playscape Committee member, addressed the Board with a video presentation featuring Dr. Joe Frost of the University of Texas, a recognized international playground safety expert, on the hazards the playscape has and supports an agreement between the Friends of Parks and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Valerie Milburn, Zilker Park Playscape Committee member, addressed the Board to request approval of the cooperative agreement between the Friends of Parks and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Joe Calabris, of the Environmental and Conservation Services Department, addressed the Board at the request of Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, and stated the following: remodeling of the Zilker Park Playscape was not a threat to the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone; that the drainage of water that sheds from this area does not flow into the pool; and that the vegetation that is proposed for this area is an effective measure towards erosion control.

Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, motioned that the above agreement be executed. James Crump seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-1-1.

### Discuss and approve quarterly report to council on goals and objectives.

James Crump, Programs Committee member, made the following correction:

"PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
Goal #2  
Person Responsible  
Black"

Margaret Reed-Lade asked the Navigation Committee to clarify what is meant specifically by "safety hazards" under:

"Navigation Committee  
Goal #2"

James Crump, Navigation Committee member, explained the terms for Ms. Reed-Lade. Michael Heitz, AIA, Director, also stated that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will ask the Corps of Engineers to dredge at McKinney Falls. He would like for the Corps also to dredge Town Lake to create sand bars. Ms. Reed-Lade asked the Board to look into placing buoys wherever possible instead of dredging.

Mr. Crump explained that the purpose of the above goal was for it to become an ongoing activity development policy.

Eleanor McKinney pointed out that the Board intends to implement the project review process through all phases, as stated under:

"Lands and Facilities Committee  
Goal #3

Reverend Lands, Chair, on behalf of the Board members and himself, wish to thank Jody Hamilton and staff on the new format used in presenting the Goals and Objectives.

Albert Black, Programs Committee Chair, moved that the Parks and Recreation Board Goals for 1993 be approved. James Crump seconded the motion.

The motion passed 8-0.

Make recommendation to Council regarding support of Rites of Passage program.

Albert Black, Programs Committee Chair, proposed the above item be tabled in order for the Programs Committee to review the correct document.

James Crump addressed the Chair and asked what was needed besides general support of the above item. Reverend Lands proposed only general support.

Ron Cartlidge moved the above item be tabled until the meeting on May 11th. Eliza May seconded the motion.

The motion passed 8-0.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres proposed staff be consistent in providing information to Board Committees. Ms. Cruz-Torres suggested that she would call staff when a particular committee was to meet and ask if all documentation was available. Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, stated that would be acceptable.

Reverend Lands, Chair, presented to the Board a letter from Mrs. Maxine Barkan, Chair of the Austin Comprehensive Arts Plan Task Force, stating she would be happy to address the Board to bring them up to date on their activity and their plan. He asked that the Director check the calendar as to when Mrs. Barkan could be present.

#### DIRECTORS' REPORT

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, stated to the Board there was no funding for a jet ski dock at Walsh Boat Landing and that he will be recommending to Council that the approximate \$10,000.00 be included in next year's budget. Staff agrees with the Board on the need for the jet ski dock. James Crump stated that no further needs for resolutions would be needed from the Board. Ron Cartlidge, Navigation Committee Chair, wants to clarify that the Navigations Committee did recommend that a jet ski ramp be built to relieve the congestion at the Walsh Boat Landing, but in no way says the Navigation Committee is for the use of jet skis on the Lake Austin.

James Crump asked the Director if he had requested staff consider the decibel limit or shore speed limits associated with distance from shore. The Director replied that staff was still looking into those requests.

Ron Cartlidge asked the Director what was the status of the resolution of the fences in Lake Austin. The Director had no response at this time.

#### ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Eleanor McKinney announced to the Board that Austin ReLeaf is working with State Farm Insurance in supporting tree planting at Lott Park and they have also adopted Lott Park. Bill Kerwin of Austin ReLeaf contacted Ms. McKinney and she told him about Lott Park. Jesus Olivares, Deputy Director, stated he met with Mr. Kerwin. There will be a total of fifteen trees planted at Lott Park. On April 23rd., there will be a Tree Planting Ceremony where the employees of State Farm will do the actual planting themselves. The Director also stated that the Associated General Contractors wants to use the gazebo at Lott Park as one of their first projects where they come out and use their time and labor to correct the existing problem to our specifics.

Ms. McKinney would like for the Board members and staff to work together. Since there is a new Board member it may be the time for a Board Orientation. She also requested from staff a map of the overall park system and to talk about the various regions and what the needs are in those regions of the city, what are the primary focus needs for these regions, and try to get a broad overview of what it is they are trying to deal with as a Board. The Director stated that the Board and staff need to look into what the expectations of one another are so that together they can work as a team. Margaret Reed-Lade stated that by the Board and staff communicating exactly what is expected, both will get the results they want.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres wants to know what is the status on the negotiations for the land for Parque Zaragoza. The Director announced that the owner had turned down the offer from the city. They are now in the process of renegotiating a price. The land where Western Auto is located cannot be acquired, since the owner has a long term deal with them and is not willing to sell. Ms. Cruz-Torres stated that she attend the Montopolis Ballfields Opening Ceremony and was disappointed that staff was represented only by Max Moore from the Montopolis Recreation Center. They were expecting other City officials to attend. The Director stated he would look into the situation. Ms. Cruz-Torres asked if there would be more monies for further development on the ballfields.

Eliza May stated she has spoken both with Jesus Olivares and Carolyn Nelson, Deputy Directors, on the cost of lights for the Montopolis Ballfields. She has spoken with two different community groups who are interested in helping. Ms. May requested this be placed on the agenda as an action item so the Board can make a resolution to take before the City Council.

Ron Cartlidge announced that Mabel Davis Park had been hit hard by graffiti tagging and wants the sting operation to be placed again at the park to catch the persons responsible. Couch Cartlidge thanked the Board and staff for the work on his father's tree planting memorial.

James Crump, in reference to the mountain bike issues, wants staff to identify corporate property in the new land acquisitions being picked up in the context of the Balcones Canyonland Conservation Plan (BCCP). The city could have compatible recreation on a lot of the BCCP land. Staff needs identify, as we

acquire land, alternate mountain bike areas to relieve some of the pressure. The Director stated he has plans to create a video encyclopedia of our different parks and amenities, such as the trail system, to identify and promote use of our different facilities. The department would have Channel 6 play the videos to let the public know there are more opportunities throughout the City than just Zilker Park. Mr. Crump went on to say that some of the new land acquisitions, such as the Franklin Tract, had an excellent area of dirt roads that could be used for mountain biking.

Mr. Crump stated he attended a Parks Department sponsored Hearing Meeting on the Spicewoods Spring Park held at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office Board Room on April 7. There was a strong turn out with a broad range of input. Mr. Crump would like a specific reading on the habitat issues of Spicewoods Springs Park from staff. Staff needs to be clear on what their position is on this issue.

Albert Black stated he had gotten a call regarding the status on the bridge at Givens Park. The Director stated we were trying to complete the project by July the 4th. Mr. Black wanted to know where staff had located the drawing of the bridge. The Director would get back to him with the information. Reverend Lands asked if it was the same drawing that had been presented to the Board at a previous meeting. The Director stated it was the same drawing and that Public Works had assured him the bridge would be appropriate. The contract bids were posted in the April 11 newspaper.

Reverend Lands wants staff to list the amenities in each park and compare them to each other.

James Crump stated it would be practical to map them and find where the heart of the population exist.

Albert Black wants a report on the activity at Downs Field. Jesus Olivares, Deputy Director, will give him a report as soon as possible.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron Cartlidge moved the approval of the minutes. James Crump seconded the motion.

The motion passed 8-0.

#### ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Reverend Lands reminded the Board members their financial disclosure forms are due April 23, 1993.

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

