

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
July 13, 1993**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on July 13, 1993 at 6:30 p.m. at the Metz Recreation Center, 2407 Canterbury Street. Board members present were Ron Cartlidge, ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Albert Black, Sterling Lands, Eleanor McKinney, Marianne S. Dwight, Ricardo Rocky Medrano and Douglas Johnston.

New Parks and Recreation Board members were sworn in by LaVerne Edwards, Human Resources Supervisor, Notary Public. The new members are: Marianne Scott Dwight and Ricardo Rocky Medrano. Dr. Sterling Lands, II was also sworn in since he was reappointed. New members Phil Friday and Doug Johnston were sworn in at a different time.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, LaVerne Edwards, Peter Marsh, Tana Goodwill, Jim Halbrook, Jody Hamilton, Jesus Olivares, Donald Spence, Dolores Posada.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Sterling Lands, Chair.

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

There were no citizens requesting to address the Board separate from agenda items.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Approve construction of a pier at 5403 Tortuga Trail. File # SP-93-0217DS.

Ron Cartlidge, Navigations Committee Chair, recommended approval of the above item.

Approve construction of a two-slip boat dock at 511 River Road. File # Sp-93-0239DS.

Ron Cartlidge, Navigations Committee Chair, recommended approval of the above item with the following conditions:

1. The boat dock structure be located 10' from the adjacent side property line to the south in accordance with Section 13-2-795(2) of the Land Development Code.
2. Cross bracing be provided to the piers below the water line.
3. Navigation lighting be provided in accordance with all requirements of Section 13-2-793 of the Land Development Code.

4. The handrail around the deck be constructed in accordance with the Building Code.
5. The applicant be made aware that high water during flood conditions in this section of the lake can cause damage to boat dock structures and to boats moored in them.

Approve construction of a two-slip boat dock at 4203 Watersedge Cove. File # SP-93-0249DS.

Ron Cartlidge, Navigations Committee Chair, recommended approval of the above item.

The vote was 7-0.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

At this time, the order of the "Items for Initial Consideration" was changed due to the fact the "Public Hearing on the renewal of concessions" was posted to begin at 7:00 p.m. and the official time read 6:50 p.m.

Set date for meeting on Board/Staff relations (proposed is one of currently scheduled August evening meetings--Aug. 10 or Aug. 24).

Reverend Lands recommended a day time retreat from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch served at the same location. The Board members decided to meet on Saturday, August 7, 1993 in place of the August 10, 1993 meeting. The staff will return with site availability.

Make recommendation to Council regarding approval of naming Quail Creek Neighborhood Park (Request by Quail Creek Neighborhood).

Michael J. Heitz, Director, stated that the signs for the park had not yet been made, so there would be no additional cost as far as the new signs were concerned.

Ron Cartlidge moved to approve the recommendation to Council regarding approval of naming Quail Creek Neighborhood Park. Albert Black seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-0.

Review of Goals for 1993 and assignment to committees to include ad hoc Concessions Committee (Request by Rev. Lands).

Ron Cartlidge moved to table the "Review of Goals for 1993" for the meeting on August 7. Albert Black seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-0.

The Board members of the Land and Facilities Committee are:
Eleanor McKinney, Chair

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres
Marianne Dwight
Doug Johnston

The Board members of the Navigations Committee are:
Ron Cartlidge, Chair
Phil Friday

The Board members of the ad hoc Concession Committee:
ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres
Marianne Dwight

The Board members of the Program Committee are:
Albert Black, Chair
ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres

Eleanor McKinney reminded the Land and Facilities members that the committee meets one hour before the Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Make recommendation to Council to include funding for Civitan Park walking trail in proposed operating budget for 1993-94 (Request by Eliza May, no back up).

Eliza May, former Parks and Recreation Board member, addressed the Board in support of the above recommendation to Council and asked that it become one of their priorities and follow it through by each one calling their Council member and Gus Garcia's office supporting the above proposal.

Rocky Medrano moved that the Board make recommendation to Council to direct the City Manager to find the required funds for the Civitan Park walking trail. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-0.

At this time Reverend Lands gave a five minute recess so citizens could have an opportunity to sign up to speak at the Public Hearing.

7:00 PM Public Hearing on renewal of concessions: Zilker Eagle Train, Texas Rowing, Zilker Canoe Rental, and the Lone Star Riverboat (Required by Town Lake Ordinance, no back up).

Howard Barnett, owner of Zilker Canoe Rentals, addressed the Board and stated he was present to answer any questions regarding his concession contract.

Allison Eccles, briefing attorney, addressed the Board and stated her support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Margaret Southard, citizen, addressed the Board and stated her support for the renewal of the Zilker Eagle concession contract.

Nancy Olinsger, citizen, addressed the Board and stated her support for the renewal of the Zilker Eagle concession contract.

Rodney Sheppard, citizen, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Lilian Furrar, 9 year old student, addressed the Board and stated her support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Michael McDonald, instructor, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Paul Hoffman, Director of Operations, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Hal Edwards, student, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Jerry Healey, engineer, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Mike Pearce, owner of the Lone Star Riverboat, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Lone Star Riverboat concession contract.

James J. Garris, engineer, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

David K. Henney, member, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Paul A. Tuthill, computer engineer, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Gary Powell, owner and composer of PSP Records, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Matt Knifton, coach, addressed the Board and stated his support for the renewal of the Texas Rowing concession contract.

Ron Cartlidge asked that the record indicate there were 14 speakers supporting the concessions, no negative comments, and two letters of support regarding the Town Lake concessions.

Reverend Lands thanked the public for coming and voicing their opinion and announced the next Public Hearing would be in two weeks at the Parks and Recreation Department main office at the same time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bike Event at Alamo Recreation Center - Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, announced to the Board that REI was looking into the proposal and would vote on it July 14, 1993 during the day. On a suggestion brought to the Board by Eliza May, Marianne Dwight recommended the Director try to find additional funds if REI did not fully fund for the Bike Event at Alamo Recreation Center. All of the Board members agreed.

Status of boat ramp and swimming area at Lake Walter E. Long - Ron Cartlidge asked if staff could calculate what attendance figures would be if the Lake were open for swimming now by using past figures. Mr. Cartlidge would like to have

the staff report referred back to the Navigation Committee. Rocky Medrano asked for the total cost on the repair of the boat ramp. Reverend Lands asked staff to prepare a feasibility study on the repair of the boat ramp and the swimming area.

Status of schematic drawings of roadways at Colorado River Park - Mr. Heitz stated the Department is in the process of hiring an engineer and that the schematic drawings will be one of things he/she will be looking into. The Department is also looking for additional money to do an overall comprehensive plan of the area.

Status of work at Stacy Park related to Travis Heights Elementary School - The Director reported on the following issues:

1. Trees hit by crew trucks - John Giedraitis, Forester, did an inspection and stated the trees had been nicked but there was not any major damage done to them.
2. The original location of the parking lot is being moved approximately 20 ft. further onto parkland in order to build larger ramps and comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).
3. The Travis Heights Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has applied for a matching \$5,00.00 play area improvement grant.

Eleanor McKinney asked what was being done in regards to the litter left by crews. Mr. Heitz said the Department will look into the matter. Ms. McKinney suggested the Department review the "Construction in Parks" policy to see if it has adequate provisions to control third-party contractors working on Austin Parks and Recreation property.

Reverend Lands asked the Director what was the status on the damage done at the Givens bridge and who was responsible. Mr. Heitz answered that the contractor is responsible for the curb, but the Department will pay for the work to make the old and new sections of the bridge compatible.

Status of permanent locations for Dove Springs Recreation Center and Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center - The Director informed the Board the City is now negotiating and commissioned an appraisal on a 9.9 acre site adjoining the 5.8 acre site that was first pursued at the corner of Pleasant Valley RD. and Lyons RD. for the Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center. The new Dove Springs Recreation Center is to be located in the north section of the park. Schematic drawings are currently being prepared. ErmaLinda requested staff present to the Board an architectural drawing of both recreation centers as soon as they are available. The Director agreed to do so.

Report on STAR (Serving Texans At Risk) proposal - Gwendlyn A. Williams, Givens Advisory Board President, addressed the Board and stated the Givens Advisory Board had met the previous night to discuss the STAR proposal. The Givens Board indicated that STAR may use the park for their events, but as a board they do not wish to cosponsor STAR events. Nell Holmes, Givens Advisory Board member, also signed up to speak, but declined stating she agreed with Ms. Williams' comments. Jesus Olivares, Deputy Director, stated that the Department had referred this program to the recreation center staff and the center's Advisory Board to review since it would impact them directly. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Program Committee member, stated the Program Committee had met and their

recommendation to the Board was to respect the Givens Advisory Board's decision.

Report on Park Apprenticeship Program - Jesus Olivares announced to the Board that a meeting with Juan Valera-Lema, Preserves Manager Lee Stone, Mr. Halpin from the American Institute for Learning (AIL), and himself would be held on July 14, 1993 to initiate the program.

Draft Policy Budget Overview - Dave Steakley, Zachary Scott Theatre Center (ZSTC) Managing Director, addressed the Board and asked them to recommend to the Department that the ZSTC operation and maintenance budget be put back into its budget process in order to comply with the 1985 bond agreement. John Wisenhunt, ZSTC President, addressed the Board also with the same concerns in regards to the budget process and asked the to Board recommend to staff they find a solution ZSTC can rely on each year. Mr. Heitz reviewed the draft policy budget with the Board members. The Director informed the Board that it was a "draft" and was still changing. Reverend Lands suggested the Board ask the Mayor and Council members to direct the City Manager to fund the Parks and Recreation Department at a 100% of its 1992-93 funding level and to include the operating cost of any new facilities to to be added to the system. The Reverend will also make the recommendation to the City Manager as he had been requested by her at a meeting on July 2. Eleanor McKinney was very concerned about how far along the Department was into the budget process and that there had not been a work session with the Board. Ms. McKinney stated to the Board that the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget and the operating budget were the most important things they as Board members acted on. Marianne Dwight recommended the Board should list early in the year what they would like to have included in the budget for the following year. Staff may then consider the Board's wishes when the budget process begins.

At this time the Director announced to the Board that Barry Williamson, Texas Railroad Commissioner, who had signed-up to speak at the Public Hearing, had spoken to him regarding his concerns about pollution from operation of the Zilker Eagle Train and had some suggestions on alternate fuel. Since the audience had left, he would like to speak at the next Public Hearing meeting on July 27, 1993.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Reverend Lands welcomed the new Parks Board members and asked them to say a little bit about themselves. The Reverend also explained to them that at this particular time during the meeting members go around the table and speak about items that are not necessarily for action, but items that are on their minds.

Ron Cartlidge reported on the Arts Sub-committee meeting that ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Phil Friday and himself had attended the night before. Mr. Cartlidge also reported on the lack of supplies he noticed at the Dove Springs Multi-purpose Center when he had visited. He also stated he had attended the Metz Recreation Center 20th. year anniversary and how much he admired the mural on the inside south wall of the building. Mr. Cartlidge recommended staff find a way to preserve the mural.

Doug Johnston commented he would continue to work with staff in regards to the Zilker Loop.

Reverend Lands asked staff on the status of the plagues to be presented to the previous Board members. Jody Hamilton responded they were ready and we were waiting for a date to make the presentation. The Board will get back to Ms. Hamilton with a date. The Reverend asked for individual pictures of the new board members to be taken at the next meeting and it was decided members would arrive no later than 6 p.m. since several shots would be taken of each.

Eleanor McKinney thanked staff for creating the schedule on the Town Lake Development Items. Ms. McKinney added that this was the project approval process for the development of projects on Town Lake. She asked staff to add RBJ park to the schedule and date it. Her intent is to for the report to become a quarterly report to the Board and to have it forwarded to Council so they may become aware of the status on projects.

Mr. Heitz announced that the West Austin Lions Club had raised \$10,000.00 for a gazebo at the entrance to Zilker Park. They have decided to donate the money to the Zilker Playscape instead.

Marianne Dwight is interested in providing parks for all youth and looks forward for working with everyone.

Rocky Medrano thanked everyone for the opportunity to work with everyone and plans to become involved in recreation throughout the City. Living in the Montopolis area, he hopes the Board will help improve recreation options in the Montopolis area, like the Montopolis Practice Fields, and looks forward to work on the Montopolis Sports Sportsplex to help change the image of the community overall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Albert Black moved approval of the minutes. Eleanor McKinney made the correction that on page 42, her title be changed to "chair" instead of "member" of the Lands and Facilities Committee when she presented the endorsement. Albert Black accepted the amendment. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Audio tapes of the Parks and Recreation Board meetings are available through the Director of Parks and Recreation, 499-6717.