

**MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
July 27, 1993**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on July 27, 1993 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Phil Friday, Marianne S. Dwight, ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, and Doug Johnston.

Staff members present were Jesus Olivares, Peter Marsh, Sarah Campbell, Robert Sopronyi, Heather Griffith-Peterson, Jody Hamilton, and Dolores Posada.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Phil Friday, presiding Chair.

Since there was not a quorum, Mr. Friday recommended the Board members present make a recommendation as a committee to the full Board at the next meeting as a committee on "ITEMS FOR CONSENT" and on "ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION".

At this time, Doug Johnston asked the Board members to consider changing the Board retreat date from August 7 since he and two other members have a conflict with that date. Mr. Friday asked if someone would call the Board members and pick a date that the most members would be available. Mr. Johnston said he would call.

**CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION**

Al St. Louis addressed the Board and recommended the Board reconsider the agreement regarding Freeport/MacMoRan.

Dorothy Richter addressed the Board regarding the parking problem at Zilker Park for swimmers at Barton Springs Pool. Jesus Olivares, Deputy Director, stated that staff was looking into the situation already and would appreciate any and all citizen comments.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

**Approve construction of single slip boat dock at "Cliffs over Lake Austin" (4809 Palisade Drive)**

The committee on consensus will recommend the approval of the above item to the full Board at the next meeting.

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION**

At this time, Mr. Friday changed the order of the "ITEMS FOR INITIAL

CONSIDERATION\*

Approve the negotiation and execution of an "Agreement for the Donation of Artwork" between the City and the Stevie Ray Vaughan Memorial Fund, Inc. for the installation and maintenance of a new statue in Town Lake Park.

The committee on consensus will recommend the approval of the above item to the full Board at the next meeting.

Make recommendation to Council regarding approval of naming approximately 2 acres of land along East Bouldin Creek, adjacent to the existing greenbelt, Dawson Park.

The committee on consensus will recommend the approval of the above item to the full Board at the next meeting.

7:00 P.M. Public Hearing on renewal of concessions: Zilker Eagle Train, Texas Rowing, Zilker Canoe Rental, and Lone Star Riverboat.

ZILKER EAGLE TRAIN

Neil Iscoe, former Board member, addressed the Board and asked them to consider the hours of operation and reliability, the safety hazards, the location, and the environmental impact of each of the concessions before approval of the renewal of each.

Barry Williamson, member of the Texas Railroad Commission, addressed the Board and expressed his wishes for the Zilker Eagle Train concession to remain in its present location. Mr. Williamson submitted to the Board a written document which discusses the conversion of the train's fuel not to be practical and suggests that perhaps the City should convert its vehicles and maintenance equipment instead.

Al St. Louis addressed the Board and suggested the Zilker Eagle Train be solar powered, be used to shuttle people, and become a model for the rest of the country.

Jim Boswell, former Zilker Eagle Train conductor, addressed the Board on the hazardous conditions of the Zilker Eagle Train concession and suggested the railway be relocated.

Bruce Nunn, member of the Old West Austin Neighborhood Association (O.W.A.N.A.), addressed the Board and presented them a letter stating the Steering Committee of the O.W.A.N.A. opposed expansion of the Zilker Eagle Train. The O.W.A.N.A. supports any effort that would make the railroad equipment safer and reduce the pollution from oil or gasoline.

Hope Lochridge addressed the Board and supports making the train safer, but opposed expansion of the Zilker Eagle Train.

Maine Lihe McGhee, Austin Neighborhood Council, addressed the Board and presented to them a resolution stating that the Austin Neighborhood Council opposed the expansion of the Zilker Eagle Train.

Lori Em Doubrava, mother, addressed the Board and stated she enjoyed the Zilker Eagle Train, but due to the down time, requested a commitment that the Request for Proposals (RFP) include parameters of performance.

Robert Corbin addressed the Board and stated he does not want the Zilker Eagle Train concession to be renewed because of all the safety hazards it imposes and environmentally speaking, he feels the owner has no regards for the City of Austin.

Mr. Friday read highlights from a written submission from Helga Williams, of Construction Design and Management (CDM), stating she had received a number of telephone calls after the article in the newspaper on July 13, 1993 indicating the need for conversion from gasoline to a cleaner power source was unanimously accepted, expansion or widening the train track was not as accepted, asserted the American Disabilities Act (ADA) may mandate widening the track, but in her conclusion states the train should remain on present route. Mr. Friday asked the letter be submitted as part of the record.

Mr. Friday took a moment to have Mr. Williamson explain his comments regarding the comparison between the push lawnmower and the train engine.

Steve Gillum addressed the Board and supports renewal of the Zilker Eagle Train concession contract, but expressed his concern regarding removal or expansion of the train.

Bahman Yazdani, of the Texas Energy Engineering Services Inc., addressed the Board and expressed his wishes to keep the Zilker Eagle Train concession.

Charles Beall, Zilker Eagle Train concession owner, addressed the Board and stated that his first concern is the safety of the train and that he has an appointment to discuss the conversion to cleaner burning fuel and the removal of the underground gasoline storage tank. He also mentioned that he would give free tickets to organization, schools, Sunshine Camp participants, and almost anyone who approached him for a donation. Mr. Beall concluded by stating he would welcome all comments in regards to changes the public feels are needed.

#### **ZILKER CANOE RENTAL**

Agnes Edwards addressed the Board and expressed her concern in regards to the erosion caused by the Zilker Canoe Rental concession to the shoreline in Barton Creek and suggested the concession should be moved. Ms Edwards passed pictures around to show the lack of vegetation along the shoreline.

Dorothy Richter addressed the Board thanking the members who were present and expressed her concern on the erosion damage that has been done because of the lack of vegetation caused by the dragging of the canoes. Ms Richter reported a tree had died due to its root being exposed. She requested the RFP for this concession should state that the person in charge of the concession should be responsible for the cleaning of the area surrounding it, signs should be posted stating no glass allowed in canoes, recycling cans should be placed in strategic locations, and the hours of operation should be posted in a more strategic place. Ms Richter suggested the concession be moved.

Kathleen Stockwell, Zilker Canoe Rental employee, addressed the Board and stated

she found the concession a tranquil and pleasant place to work. Ms Stockwell finds canoeing a very ecologically sound and safe way to enjoy Austin in a very unique way. She stated that there are recycling cans available, that garbage is picked up at the end of the day, and that there is a sign with the hours posted on the door when it is shut.

Howard Barnett, Zilker Canoe Rental owner, addressed the Board and stated that valid points had been made, but the difference of opinion is the cause and effect of the erosion. Mr. Barnett welcomes suggestions for improvement, but stated the location is ideal and moving the concession would decrease business. He stated he always donated canoes for any lake clean-up purpose and gave free rides to different organizations throughout the vicinity. Ms. Cruz-Torres asked if standard hours of operation were posted. Mr. Barnett stated the hours are posted, but due to vandalism which is a major problem along the area, their signs get stolen or graffiti is written on them.

#### LONE STAR RIVERBOAT

Robert Boesch addressed the Board and expressed his wishes on keeping the Lone Star Riverboat concession.

Anna Ruth Eanes, member of the Assistance League of Austin, addressed the Board and stated her total satisfaction in regards to the Lone Star Riverboat concession and approval of the renewal of the concession's contract. Ms. Eanes has chartered the Riverboat many times to take Senior Citizens on tours and has found the staff at the Lone Star Riverboat to be accommodating to all of their special needs.

Mike Pearce, Lone Star Riverboat owner, addressed the Board and asked for their support in the renewal of the concession's contract. Mr. Pearce stated he is now operating the Lone Star Riverboat more months and days than the previous owner. He asked the Board members to analyze each concession on its own merits.

Heather Griffith-Peterson, Division Manager, Management Services, stated the City encourages all concessionaires to donate tickets, sponsor events, and give to the community as often as they can.

#### TEXAS ROWING CLUB

Robert Dopson had signed up to speak, but was unable to wait.

It was brought to the Board's attention that at the previous Public Hearing there had been a number of speakers on behalf of the Texas Rowing Club stating their approval for the renewal of the concession's contract by a gentleman who had testified at the prior meeting.

Heather Griffith-Peterson stated to the Board that the Department will be developing RFP's to ask from each concessionaire whatever staff feels is needed based on information gathered from the Public Hearings and the Board's recommendations.

Mr. Friday requested staff to prepare a comparison sheet with each concession's total revenues and their percentage and the net revenue under the current agreement to be attached to the next agenda.

Jesus Olivares read a list of issues staff will be looking into as follows:

- \* Parking problems and south gate usage on weekends as issues for the Barton Springs Pool
- \* The feasibility of the expansion of the bridge underneath Barton Springs Road to be used by the train and by pedestrians
- \* Figures on and reasons for down time of the Zilker Eagle Train
- \* Make sure the hours of the Zilker Canoe Rental are properly posted
- \* Performance standards for concessionaires
- \* Insurance requirements
- \* Recycling

Ms. Griffith-Peterson reminded the Board they would need to make recommendations to staff on the RFP's by the end of September in order for them to be finished in a timely matter.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres suggested that at the next meeting the Board appoint someone to sit on the evaluation team that will be making recommendations on the RFPs.

The Board members present as a committee will recommend at the next full Board meeting or at the Board retreat that the members take action on the above item.

Make recommendation to the Department regarding terms for Request for Proposals (RFP) of above listed concessions (Required by the Town Lake ordinance).

Since the Board did not have a quorum, they did not act on the above item.

#### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jesus Olivares, Deputy Director, stated there were no items for discussion on the "DIRECTOR'S REPORT."

#### ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no items from Board Members.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Since the Board did not have a quorum, the "APPROVAL OF MINUTES" will be done at the next Board meeting.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

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