

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
September 14, 1993

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on September 14, 1993 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Louise Nivison, Marianne Dwight, Ron Cartlidge, Eleanor McKinney, Rocky Medrano, ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Phil Friday, Sterling Lands, and Albert Black.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, Jesus Olivares, Carolyn Nelson, Kim Mitchell, Robert Sopronyi, Stuart Strong, Butch Smith, Peter Marsh, Sarah Campbell, Jody Hamilton, and Dolores Posada.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Ron Cartlidge.

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

Joe Fisher, President of the Austin Area Garden Council, addressed the Board and stated he was concerned with progress on the fence being slowed down. Mr. Fisher had hoped the project would be on agenda for the meeting that night. The Garden Council's acceptance of several offers of money, custom statuary, and memorials, such as the new lanterns for the Japanese Garden, has been temporarily put on hold due to lack of security.

Mr. Heitz stated staff were finalizing the plans at the moment. Staff were under the impression there would be some agreement between the Town Lake Association and the Garden Council, but they have not met yet. Once the plans are ready they will be presented at either the next meeting or the one after that.

Al St. Louis addressed the Board and spoke about the "1993 Barton Creek Algae Bloom Assessment" report written by the Environmental Department.

Paul Smith, East Austin Coalition, addressed the Board and requested an update on Lott park. He asked why no improvements were done to the gazebo, basketball goals, lights, and the neglect of the grounds after the donation of trees was made to help improve Lott park. Mr. Smith requested an itemized list of the improvements that have been done at Doris Miller and Rosewood and a proposed timetable to complete the requested improvements at the Doris Miller Auditorium.

Reverend Lands asked Mr. Smith to make copies of his requests for the Board and staff to review and reply.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Deborah Edwards, Executive Director of the Austin Children's Museum, gave a presentation on the activities of the museum and stated the museum is needing to expand and is in the market for a feasible location. One of the locations they

are interested in is the former Park Police building on Dawson RD.

Eleanor McKinney asked staff to prepare a recommendation for the next Board meeting on the feasibility of this program at that location.

Bill Forest, representing the Capital Area Youth Soccer Association, addressed the Board and would like to encourage them to continue their plans to develop open space and parkland for recreational activities. Mr. Forest stated they would like to see the land Ms. Edwards was speaking of developed as open space for recreational purposes, not to place any more concrete along Town Lake. They would encourage the Board not to invite cultural activities in this area, but encourage them to find a site for all the cultural agencies that would be accessible to the City and to tourists, such as close to the Convention Center.

Jeanie Haggerty, mother and volunteer at the Austin Children's Museum, addressed the Board and asked they not consider the location Ms. Edwards has mentioned but develop it as open space.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Approve construction of a covered two-slip boat dock, at Lot 9 Harborlight Cove, File # SP-93--0391DS.

Approve Taylor's Slough Silt Removal Project, File # SP-93-031DS.

Approve construction of a two-slip boat dock at 4301 Island Avenue, File # SP-93-0380D.

Ron Cartlidge, Navigation Committee Chair, recommended approval of the above three (3) items with the following staff recommendation for Lot 9 Harborlight Cove, File # SP-93--0391DS:

The maximum width of development above grade shall not exceed 30'8." The remaining area of recessed slip can be left as open water or decked over.

The vote was 6-0.

Approve Gracywoods Park, Jefferson at Walnut Creek Multi-Family Project, 0.112 acre (4890 sq. feet) 15' wide permanent Water and Wastewater use agreement.

Approve Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park, Slaughter Lane Wastewater Interceptor, 1.124 acre (48,950 sq. feet) 15' wide permanent Water and Wastewater Use agreement and parallel 20' wide temporary construction use agreement.

Eleanor McKinney, Land and Facilities Chair, recommended approval of the above two (2) items.

The vote was 6-0.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Approve construction of a single-slipboat dock, at 5209 Scout Island Circle, File # SP-93-0326DS.

Ron Cartlidge, Navigation Committee Chair, recommended approval of the above item and approved the variance.

The vote was 6-0.

Make recommendation to Council regarding approval of Travis County (Barton Creek) Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs).

Sarah Campbell, Parks and Recreation Department Senior Planner, gave a presentation on the parkland the Department would acquire if the MUDs are approved.

Roy Bechtol, representing Barton Creek properties, gave a presentation on the request for the approval MUDs.

Phil Friday, Board member, stated there were two significant problems with the proposal and recommended to the Board they address the problems by way of a resolution. First, there were not enough access points to the greenbelt to be valuable to the public and according to the Barton Creek Greenbelt access policy there is to be access to the Greenbelt every two (2) miles. Mr. Friday, suggested the Board recommend to Council that Freeport-McMoran be required to add three (3) more points of access to the Greenbelt. Second, the agreement requires that the greenbelt be dedicated as habitat preserve consistent with the Balcones Canyonland Conservation Plan (BCCP). This would mean public access and use would be limited. Mr. Friday suggested to the Board that the greenbelt needs to be kept out of the BCCP System so it will not be subject to its maintenance rules and regulations.

Reverend Lands asked Mr. Friday if three (3) access points would be sufficient under the Barton Creek policy. Mr. Friday stated 3 would exceed the requirement.

Mary Arnold, member of the Citizen's Task Force and participant in the July 9th. agreement, addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. There was not enough information regarding the future park needs of the people living in these areas.
2. The Board should review the "1993 Barton Creek Algae Bloom Accessment" study and its recommendations before making any recommendation to Council.

Eleanor McKinney asked Ms. Arnold if in the negotiations for the agreement was there was a reason for including the greenbelt corridor in the BCCP. Ms. Arnold stated the language read that the greenbelt area was to be dedicated as habitat preserve, water quality buffer, and/or parkland.

Mark Gentle addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. There is no access to the greenbelt

2. The Board needs to probe the depths of how serious the commitment to this issue and agreement are and how serious they are in dedicating this parkland because every community is looking towards this as a model for the future.

Hank Erb addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. Barton Creek properties is not giving anything to the City it already doesn't own.
2. There is no access to the parks because they are meant to stay private and are there only to increase property value.

Mr. Erb concluded by asking the Board what was going to be the cost for maintaining these private parks.

Pam Thompson addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. The location of the lift stations are along the greenbelt corridor.
2. The fragmentation of the habitat from the original plan.
3. The 1000 ft. buffer is not consistent throughout the greenbelt.

Eleanor McKinney asked Ms. Thompson to explain the what she meant by the fragmentation of habitat from the original. Ms. Thompson stated the warbler and the vireo need large open spaces and the parkland Barton Creek Properties are proposing is separated from the rest of the BCCP.

Ramona Blodgett addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. The 1000 ft. set back is not consistent.
2. The Austin Tomorrow Plan policy was not to spend any money on the area for infrastructure.
3. The development of the Lantana tract would affect Williamson Creek and hinder any plans for a Hike-N-Bike trail in the Dove Springs area.

Robert Singleton addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. There was nothing in the agreement stating why the creation of MUD # 4 was necessary, which meant it did not meet state law in terms of necessity and feasibility
2. The Austin Tomorrow Plan policy was not to spend any money on the area for infrastructure.

Reverend Lands reminded everyone that this was not a Public Hearing, but it was posted as an "Item for Initial Consideration" by the Board. Reverend Lands asked for a clarification as to what the charge for the Board was regarding this particular item for action. Mr. Heitz stated the charge of the Board was to decide if the proposed parkland was in compliance with the ordinances pertaining to parkland.

Eric Blodgett signed up to have his opposition recorded but did not wish to speak.

Catherine Holloway signed up to have her opposition recorded but did not wish to speak.

Neal Tuttrup addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. An unelected body of people is formed and the product they produced handed out both exemptions to some of the laws and millions of dollars in City services.
2. The unelected body waived the density requirement on Lantana giving them twice Save Our Springs (SOS) density to keep development out of the Barton Creek watershed and instead putting it into the Williamson Creek watershed; otherwise Lantana would have fallen under SOS.
3. Proceeding too much too fast for something with such great significance.
4. Regarding the parkland the Board should not consider what was said about golf courses, Uplands, and Sweetwater because golf courses are not really parks, and Uplands and Sweetwater are being acquired by bond money.
5. The 1000 ft. set back is not consistent throughout the greenbelt.
7. The developer has promised to stop construction so as to not pollute the creek but just before the agreement was finalized, he stated they could not tell where the pollution was coming from.
6. This same company was found to be the nation's number one water polluter a few years back. He also referred to the company's gold mine operations on the other side of the world.

Karen Hadden, biology teacher, addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. The environmental impact would hurt the eco-system.
2. The big picture was not being considered.
3. She considers the agreement a sell out.
4. Urged the Board to have a public hearing to hear everybody's side.

John Corry addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. Freeport-McMoran not only destroyed the mountain while taking the gold from it, but also had the natives destroyed when they retaliated.
2. Freeport-McMoran threatened the City that if the PUD were not approved, he would kill us through lawsuits and ruin our bond rating.
3. This agreement is bigger than the original one.
4. Development would ruin natural beauty and take away from the City's attraction.

Al St. Louis addressed the Board and spoke against approval of the Barton Creek MUDs for the following reason(s):

1. We need to protect what is already there; do not poison the well.
2. The development is 50% bigger than the original plan.
3. The algae bloom report needs to be reviewed carefully.

Phil Friday moved the resolution be adopted. Ron Cartlidge seconded the motion.

The vote was 3-3.

Mr. Friday withdrew the original motion. Ron Cartlidge withdrew his second.

Mr. Friday moved to adopt a revised version of the initial resolution. Ron Cartlidge seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Barton Creek Greenbelt offers unique recreational opportunities to the City of Austin, and

WHEREAS the Greenbelt will have little value to the citizens of Austin if they do not have convenient access to it, and

WHEREAS it is the official policy of the Parks and Recreation Department and Board that public access should be provided at an average of every two (2) miles along the Barton Creek Greenway;

THEREFORE, the Parks and Recreation Board strongly recommends to the City Council that Freeport-McMoran be required to provide three (3) access points to the Barton Creek Greenbelt as shown on the enclosed map.

The vote was 8-0.

After further discussion on additional points to include in another resolution, the Board recessed for five minutes so that a substitute resolution could be drafted. Mr. Friday moved and Ron Cartlidge seconded the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Barton Creek Greenbelt offers unique recreational opportunities to the City of Austin, and

WHEREAS the Greenbelt will have little value to the citizens of Austin if they do not have convenient access to it, and

WHEREAS it is the official policy of the Parks and Recreation Department and Board that public access should be provided at an average of every two (2) miles along the Barton Creek Greenway;

THEREFORE, be it resolved the Parks and Recreation Board strongly recommends to the City Council as follows:

1. That Freeport-McMoran be required to provide three (3) additional access points to the Barton Creek Greenbelt as shown on the enclosed map, and
2. That the Barton Creek Greenbelt be deeded and dedicated to the City of Austin as parkland and managed by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department for appropriate public use with respect to the surrounding environment, and
3. That it not be included within the BCCP preserve area or be subject to the BCCP management guidelines.

The vote was 8-0.

Eleanor McKinney moved the Board put forward their concerns to the Mayor, City Council Members, and other Boards and Commissions about the Barton Creek MUDs 3-9 agreement. The concerns are as follows:

1. There are ten (10) lift stations as noted on the plan, some of which are along Barton Creek. The Board is concerned about their placement along Barton Creek.

2. The Board did not receive enough information about the habitat areas as they relate to the specific parkland that would be dedicated as part of the MUD agreement.

3. The Board did not have receive enough information regarding neighborhood park needs on the Lantana Tract across Southwest Parkway or within the Barton Creek development.

4. The Board is concerned with the transfer of the environmental problems from one creek area to another, Barton Creek to Williamson Creek, as a result of the development.

5. The Board is concerned the relationship between the proposed private and public parks in the development and public access to both.

6. The Board is concerned with the lack of information it received regarding the MUD agreement, particularly the water and wastewater line placement.

7. The Board is also concerned that there is no clear designation made in the July 9, 1993 agreement that was accepted by the City Council regarding the use of the parkland which would be dedicated. The agreement states the land could be used as "habitat preserve, water quality buffer, and/or parkland for the enjoyment, enhancement and protection of Barton Creek."

The motion was seconded by Ron Cartlidge.

The vote was 8-0.

Louise Nivison recommended everyone should get their money back and forget the whole thing.

Make recommendation to Council regarding acceptance of donation of \$2,064.50 from Friends of the O. Henry Museum for Opportunities for Youth O. Henry Writing Club.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Programs Committee member, recommended approval of the item above.

The vote 8-0.

Make recommendation to Council regarding proposed ordinance change for driving motor vehicles on parkland.

Rocky Medrano moved the above item be approved. Albert Black seconded the motion.

The vote was 8-0.

Election of Officers.

The floor opened for nominations for the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Parliamentarian of the Parks Board.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres nominated Phil Friday for the office of Chair of the Parks Board.

Marianne Dwight nominated Reverend Lands for the office of Chair of the Parks Board.

Albert Black moved the nominations be closed.

The vote was as follow:

Phil Friday - 4, Reverend Land - 4.

Eleanor McKinney moved the "Election of Officers," the "Director's Report," and the "Items from Board Members" be tabled until the next meeting. Rocky Medrano seconded the motion.

The was vote 8-0.

Approval of citations for former board members.

Eleanor McKinney stated she supported the citations as written. Ron Cartlidge agreed.

Ron Cartlidge moved approval of the above item. Eleanor McKinney seconded the motion

The vote was 8-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Master Plan with inventories by sector

Tabled to the meeting on September 28.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Tabled to the meeting on September 28.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres made a correction on page 121. Her statement under "Items from Board Members" should read "We need to focus on other parks, not just Zilker park."

Phil Friday made a correction on page 120, at the bottom. The sentence should read, "Ms. Griffith-Peterson read the recommendations made by various members".

Jody Hamilton and Louis Nivison both noted that under "Citizen's Communication"

Mr. C.O. Smith was a "former parks superintendent".

Eleanor McKinney moved the minutes as corrected be approved. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

The vote was 8-0.

ADJOURN

Before the meeting was adjourned, Mr. Heitz requested the Board read the information handed out to them regarding parkland and its dollar investment by sector as they had requested at the retreat, which will be discussed at the next meeting. Jody Hamilton suggested the Board read the Programs information handed out to them so they may discuss it at the next meeting. Jesus Olivares mentioned the Opportunities for Youth budget they had requested was also included.

Albert Black announced he was resigning from the Board effective the same evening.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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