

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
October 26, 1993**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on October 26, 1993 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office board room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Sterling Lands, Phil Friday, Doug Johnston, Rocky Medrano, Ron Cartlidge, ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Eleanor McKinney, Marianne Dwight, Delores Duffie, and Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, Carolyn Nelson, Stuart Strong, Tana Goodwill, Jack Anderson, Sandra Chipley, Donna Bohls, and Dolores Posada.

CALL TO ORDER

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

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

Mark Gentle addressed the Board and stated he was upset because he had requested the item "maintenance of the Barton Springs Pool" to be placed on the agenda and it was not done. Reverend Lands asked Mr. Gentle if he had a recommendation ready to present. Mr. Gentle stated at the moment a group of citizens was forming a committee that would be presenting their recommendation to the Board. Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, pointed out that the Department was meeting with the different groups to try to find a compromise whic would allow the Department can move forward without the use of the pool being challenged.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Make recommendation to Council regarding Annual Concessions Report

Tana Goodwill, Contracts Administrator, Parks and Recreation Department, gave a brief overview regarding the Annual Concessions Report. The Director noted this was a report given to the Board as per the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan Ordinance and it would be presented to the Environmental Board as well. Both Boards have thirty (30) days to respond to Council. Doug Johnston asked for a copy of the ad that was in the American Statesman for all the Board members. Before the meeting was over they were all handed one. The report was referred to the Ad hoc Concessions Committee.

Make recommendation to Council regarding proposed location for Austin Children's Museum.

Bill Forest, President of the Capitol Area Youth Soccer Assn., addressed the Board and stated they are opposed to the relocation of the Austin Children's Museum to the Palmer Auditorium area for the following reason(s):

- * they did not want more buildings constructed on open green space.

Margaret Reed-Lade, President of the Zilker Neighborhood Assn., addressed the Board and stated they are opposed to the relocation of the Austin Children's Museum to the Palmer Auditorium area for the following reason(s):

- * they did not want more buildings constructed on open green space.

Ingrid Weigand, President of the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Organization, addressed the Board and stated they are opposed to the relocation of the Austin Children's Museum to the Palmer Auditorium area for the following reason(s):

- * the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Organization adopted a resolution stating they did not want more buildings constructed on open green space.

Bruce Nunn addressed the Board and stated he is opposed to the relocation of the Austin Children's Museum to the Palmer Auditorium area for the following reason(s):

- * too many organizations already using parkland for their own private use.

Daniel Traverso, Chair of Steering, Old West Austin Neighborhood Assn., addressed the Board and stated they are opposed to the relocation of the Austin Children's Museum to the Palmer Auditorium area for the following reason(s):

- * they did not want more buildings constructed on dedicated parkland.

Diane Weidner, Park Liaison, Austin Runners Club, addressed the Board and stated they are opposed to the relocation of the Austin Children's Museum to the Palmer Auditorium area for the following reason(s):

- * in these times of high real-estate prices, dedicated parkland should be preserved for public recreation and conservation and natural resources.

Dorothy Ritcher addressed the Board and stated she is opposed to the relocation of the Austin Children's Museum to the Palmer Auditorium area for the following reason(s):

- * even though people have good intentions when they want to do something like this, she would hate to see the city get obligated in the future with something that would obligate the citizens to keep it alive.

Jack Anderson, Division Manager Cultural Affairs, gave a brief overview on the role the Cultural Affairs Division plays with the Department. Eleanor McKinney stated the Board has limited knowledge of the Cultural Affairs Division even though it is part of the Department's budget. Ms. McKinney feels it's important the Board receive information concerning the Cultural Affairs Division. Mr. Heitz also feels that is important since Parks and Recreation is such a diverse Department.

Stuart Strong, Principal Planner, gave a brief overview of the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan and presented to the Board the staff recommendation which is to confirm that the Children's Museum would be an attractive activity in the park, and that a site in the proposed location in the vicinity of Barton Springs Road and Dawson Road be made available.

Eleanor McKinney, Land and Facilities Committee Chairperson, stated the committee recommended having a Public Hearing to get citizen input on the above item.

The vote was 8-0. The Public Hearing was set for December 14, 1993.

Make recommendation regarding the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens.

Joe Fisher, President of the Austin Area Garden Council, addressed the Board and recommended the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens for the following reason(s):

- * vandalism.
- * petty theft.

Bruce Nunn addressed the Board and stated he was opposed to the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens for the following reason(s):

- * it sets a bad precedence to put a fence around public parklands.

Mr. Nunn also spoke on behalf of Daniel Traverso and the Old West Austin Neighborhood Assn. stating they opposed the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens.

John Pomeroy, Founder of the Town Lake Association, addressed the Board and stated he was opposed to the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens for the following reason(s):

- * they do not want the fence to impede the Zilker Loop path.
- * since there is a problem with the drainage ditch at Stratford Dr., the 25'ft. setback is not going to accommodate the Zilker Loop.
- * the Town Lake Association would like to be included in the placement of the fence.

Louise Hasty addressed the Board and stated he was opposed to the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens for the following reason(s):

- * costs too much.
- * amount of vandalism is not sufficient enough to constitute erecting a fence.

Carol Fox addressed the Board and stated she was opposed to the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens for the following reason(s):

- * misallocation of funds.
- * fencing the Gardens would take away from their beauty.

Diane Wiedner, Park Liaison, Austin Runners Club, addressed the Board and stated she was opposed to the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens for the following reason(s):

- * costs too much.
- * fence line does not leave enough room for the Zilker Loop.

Jeff Lindsey addressed the Board and stated he was opposed to the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens for the following reason(s):

- * would rather pay to replace anything or damage done each time vandalism occurs than to have an iron fence around the Gardens.

Barry Lovelace, member of the Austin Area Garden Council, addressed the Board and recommended the placement of the fence around the Zilker Botanical Gardens for the following reason(s):

- * the members of the AAGC do not feel runners and gardeners are incompatible and that the fence itself would preclude the development of the Hike and Bike Trail.
- * the investment policy itself was decided by the voters.
- * the purpose of the fence is not to exclude, but to protect.

At this time Reverend Lands, Chair, turned the gavel over to Mr. Phil Friday, Vice-Chair, and excused himself from the meeting.

Delores Duffie asked if the bond specifically included the fence. Doug Johnston read the wording on the bond and it stated "provide suitable utility services and security fencing at the Zilker Garden Center." Ms. Duffie asked if the bonds could be used elsewhere, and Mr. Heitz noted that if the bonds were not issued then only the voters could deactivate the bonds.

Eleanor McKinney, Land and Facilities Committee, Chair, stated the committee recommended the approval of the conceptual design for the Garden Center security fence and that the fence alignment along Stratford Drive will reserve space for future construction of a hike and bike trail. After discussion, Doug Johnston moved the motion be amended to postpone the action for two weeks. Eleanor McKinney seconded the motion.

The vote was 4-2-1. Rocky Medrano abstained.

Make recommendation regarding the Sand and Water Play Area at the Zilker Playscape.

Stuart Strong gave a presentation on the Sand and Water Play Area at the Zilker Playscape which was designed by James Talbot. Teresa Elliott, Zilker Playscape Committee Chairperson, also helped with the presentation.

Eleanor McKinney, Land and Facilities Committee, Chair, stated the committee recommended the approval of the conceptual design of the Sand and Water Play Area at the Zilker Playscape and recommended looking into maximizing the playable spaces vs. pure design components.

Dorothy Ritcher addressed the Board and stated that any structure that is to be placed in the Playscape at Zilker Park should have a low maintenance cost to the City.

The vote was 6-0-1. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres abstained.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's report was postponed until the next meeting when the Barton Springs Pool item would be an action item.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres would like to have a status report on the following items:

- * Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center
- * Montopolis Sportsplex
- * Montopolis Practice Fields

Ms. Cruz-Torres asked to have the Programs Committee agenda posted.

Eleanor McKinney would like a staff presentation done at the beginning of the next meeting regarding the Recreation Investment Analysis.

Phil Friday announced the appointment of Rocky Medrano as Constable of Precint 4 and everyone congratulated Rocky.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Phil Friday made corrections to the minutes as follows:

page 21 In the resolution, paragraph 1, should read Barton Creek Wilderness Park, not Greenbelt.

page 22 Six lines down from the top, should read "scripture that the" not "plan that".

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres made the following correction:

page 25 "Ponce at Montopolis" should read "Ponce about the Montopolis program".

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres moved the minutes from the meetings held on September 22 and October 12, 1993 be approved. Eleanor McKinney seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.

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