

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
November 9, 1993**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on November 9, 1993 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office board room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Rocky Medrano, Marianne Dwight, Eleanor McKinney, Phil Friday, Sterling Lands, Ron Cartlidge, Doug Johnston, and Delores Duffie.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, Jesus Olivares, Stuart Strong, Kim Mitchell, Debbie Dorsey, and Dolores Posada.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Sterling Lands, Chair.

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were no citizen's communications.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The presentation on the Recreation Investment Analysis to be given Stuart Strong was moved to later during the meeting.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Make recommendation to Department regarding operation and maintenance of Barton Springs Pool.

Pete Connelly addressed the Board and stated the condition of Barton Springs Pool was a safety hazard and a health problem.

Mark Gentle addressed the Board and stated he wanted to help the Board and the City make and abide by a plan that will continue the operation of Barton Springs Pool.

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, gave a brief history on the maintenance at Barton Springs Pool. Debbie Dorsey, Recreation Programs Manager-Aquatics, gave a brief presentation on the maintenance procedures being used now. Jesus Olivares, Deputy Director, stated they had made a presentation to the Programs Committee.

Eleanor McKinney asked Ms. Dorsey if she could please give a progress report on the maintenance at Barton Springs Pool after they have received the 6 water pressure hoses and have used them. Ms. Dorsey stated she will try to have the report ready by the December 14th meeting of the Board.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Programs Committee, Chair, gave a brief report, and has scheduled a tour of the Barton Springs Pool on Monday, November 15, 1993, at noon to watch the pool being cleaned. Ms. Cruz-Torres invited the rest of the Board and the public to join them so they may view the salamander habitat and its relationship to the cleaning process. The Programs Committee reserved the right to make a comment and/or recommendation to the Board until after the tour.

Delores Duffie asked who had suggested to stop the use of chlorine at Barton Springs Pool. The Director stated Dr. Hillis, University of Texas, did a study of the Barton Springs Pool and announced it was immoral to use chlorine in it. The Department is trying to keep a balance of having the pool open for both users, the swimmers and the salamander.

Helga Williams addressed the Board and stated she did not want the Department to use chlorine to clean the Barton Springs Pool.

Make recommendation to City Council regarding authorizing the Parks and Recreation Department Director to issue lifetime swim passes to individuals age 85 and over who swim at Barton Springs Pool.

Ron Cartlidge moved the above item should be approved with the friendly amendment to have the age lowered to "80 year olds and over." ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

The vote was 9-0.

Approve concept for renovation of Zilker Hillside Theatre.

Dave Sullivan addressed the Board and stated he would like to have the Board look into the overflow parking situation whenever there are special performances at Zilker Hillside Theatre.

Doug Johnston moved the renovation item be tabled to committee. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-2.

At this time Eleanor McKinney requested a 5 minute recess.

When the meeting convened, the Board asked Stuart Strong to give the staff presentation on the renovation and also wished to hear from the consultants on the project.

Ms. McKinney moved the Board reconsider tabling the above item to committee. Mr. Lands seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-2.

Stuart Strong, Principal Planner, gave a brief presentation on the above item and recommended the approval of it. Girard Kinney, architect on the project, has assessed needs of the users.

Eleanor McKinney moved to approve the renovation of the Zilker Hillside Theatre in concept. Ron Cartlidge seconded the motion.

Doug Johnston was concerned about the parking situation and asked if the problem were addressed in the funds. Bob De Shazo, Public Works Project Manager, stated the money allocated was for the theatre itself.

The vote was 8-1.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

At this time Sterling Lands, Chair, asked Stuart Strong to give the presentation on the Recreation Investment Analysis.

Mr. Strong stated the item was placed on the agenda as an echo from an earlier meeting. He noted he gave the presentation about a month or two ago.

Make recommendation to City Council Economic Development Subcommittee regarding proposal for skateboard park.

Kenneth "Skipper" Flowers, President, Austin Adult In-Line Skate Club Inc., addressed the Board and asked the Board to consider supporting the Skate Park.

Mike McHone, President, University Area Partners, addressed the Board and asked the Board to consider supporting the Skate Park.

The Director recommended not to approve the above item.

Eleanor McKinney, Land and Facilities Chair, stated the committee did not recommend endorsement of the skate board park proposal as a part of the skate board and roller blade ordinance.

The vote was 8-0.

Make recommendation to City Council regarding dedication a 12-acre site in Dick Nichols Park for construction of a public library branch.

Mr. Strong gave a presentation to the Board on the above item and recommended that it be approved.

Eleanor McKinney, the Land and Facilities Chair, stated the committee recommended the approval of the above item provided that, if the land is no longer used by the library at some future date, it would revert to parkland, and a trail access be allowed to the site.

The vote was 8-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director reported to the Board that the Austin Children's Museum Board had withdrawn their request to build adjacent to the Dougherty Arts Center.

Mr. Strong gave a brief update on the Parque Zaragosa Recreation Center location and noted since they had not spent the money allocated for a site, perhaps the old building could be converted into a bathhouse.

Mr. Strong gave a status report on the Montopolis Sportsplex stating the Department is in the acquisition mode and as soon as the land has all been acquired, staff will come back to the Board with the entire location map.

Mr. Olivares gave a status report on the Montopolis Practice Fields and stated they would be ready to play on in time for the upcoming spring season.

Mr. Strong gave a status report on the Dove Springs Recreation Center and stated that completion of the building is projected to be in July of 1995.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Johnston noted that on the agenda under items postponed the word "placement" should read "concept". Mr. Johnston also stated that public input should come prior to committee review.

Rocky Medrano felt the Board had acted unprofessionally and apologized to Mr. Strong for the interruptions. Mr. Medrano hopes this will never happen again. Mr. Johnston stated he felt the same way and was confused, with all the commotion going on, about what had happened to the motion. Ms. Duffie stated the Chair should have been consulted on correct procedure instead of the way it was done.

ErmaLinda stated it was tacky and she was appalled by the attitude of the Public Works Department. She feels embarrassed by it, but on the other hand, this item had not been on the Land and Facilities Committee agenda and that is why she wanted to table the item and take it back to committee. Ms. Cruz-Torres gave a short Programs Committee report on the "after school programs" and the "non-traditional programs" at Rosewood which she was very impressed by. She also stated they were trying to find ways of incorporating the committees and advisory boards into the budget process. Mr. Olivares stated they are trying to re focus the recreation center and advisory boards so that the Department has to be the central point for communication in the neighborhoods to get input from some of the citizens as to what some of the needs and concerns are that they may have as far as leisure opportunity or park development are concerned.

At this point, the Director announced the resignation of Carolyn Nelson, Deputy Director.

Ms. Dwight was also concerned with how the Zilker Theatre item had been handled and apologized to Stuart for all the interruptions.

Ms. McKinney feels it is important the Board members review the agenda and become more involved in setting the agenda. She feels they are doing better with the committees that they have now, in particular the Land and Facilities committee agenda now being mailed to everyone. It was unfortunate there had

been a glitch in tonights meeting, but she feels that whenever there is a consultant on a hand to give a presentation to the Board it is important that they do so because that is billing time.

Mr. Johnston needed the motion regarding the Zilker Theatre clarified to him. Ms. McKinney noted that as the Land and Facilities Committee Chair, she had moved to table the item. After the presentation, as a Board member she then moved to approve the item.

Mr. Friday felt everyone now understood what had happened, and all the Board could do now is move on. He stated whenever there is someone in the audience to speak on a particular agenda item, they should always be allowed to speak. Mr. Friday requested the agenda be mailed by the Wednesday preceding the meeting to give everyone a chance to make changes. He suggested the Department make signs notifying citizens if they wish to address the board they must sign in. The Director it would get done. Mr. Friday then requested the conceptual plan for the Spicewood Springs Park be placed on the agenda for the December 14, 1993 regular meeting.

Chair Lands feels in the interest of efficiency, it is in very good practice to use Robert's Rules to address items and obtain the floor from the chair when dealing with business. This gives everybody equal access to the floor, but at the same time it gives more control over where we are. In future meetings no matter what the situation may be, such as the one tonight regarding the Zilker Theatre, it can be best dealt with if it is clearly articulated to the chair so that the chair can act to let the Board know what is going on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Delores Duffie moved to have the minutes approved. Phil Friday seconded the motion.

The vote was 9-0.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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