

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
March 12, 1996

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 12, 1996, at 6:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department Training Room, 901 W. Riverside Drive. Board members present were Marianne Scott Dwight, Rocky Medrano, Ron Cartlidge, Phil Friday, Rosemary Castleberry, Hermalinda Zamarripa, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Mary K. Isaacs.

Staff members present were Jesus Olivares, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Mary Ybarbo, Stuart Strong, Jim Rooni.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

Dr. Ralph D. Comer addressed the Board and requested they consider building a recreation center in Balcones Park at Duval and Amherst Sts. in North Austin. He is a woman's volleyball coach and they have been using the South Austin Recreation Center for games. He would like to see a center built in the Millwood part of town.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Cancer Survivors Park Proposal

Mr. Friday stated that the proposal for the Cancer Survivors Park has been presented to the board in the past on January 23, 1996. The Land and Facilities Committee reviewed the proposal on February 13, 1996.

Stuart Strong, Division Manager of Planning and Design and Construction, with the Parks Department stated the Cancer Survivors Park would have a financial impact on the department. The park is proposed to be developed on the southwest corner of Congress Avenue and Cesar Chavez by the donor. The cost would be \$900,000.00 with an endowment of \$100,000.00 for maintenance. The department estimates maintenance, repairs and utility cost at \$30,000.00 per year.

Milosav Cekic, Architect for the park, presented a scale model and estimated cost of \$1,800.00 to \$2,000.00 per year for maintenance. The park is representative of the transition of cancer patients from illness to wellness and will contain a computerized listing of those cancer victims who did not survive. He will be in contact with surrounding property owners about securing additional funding for maintenance. Staff asked if other locations were considered. Mr. Cekic indicated that Mr. Bloch had visited and considered Republic Park, Woolridge Park, the area in front of the PARD main office and places in the University of Texas area. Traffic and overall visibility were Mr. Bloch's prime considerations. The Chair suggested the northwest corner of 38th and Guadalupe. Mr. Cekic will present this option to Mr. Bloch.

Jose Martinez, Executive Director of the Downtown Austin Alliance, spoke in favor of the plaza and in favor of the location indicating it would be good for the downtown area.

Diane Weidner, member of the Austin Runners Club, recommended the project be reduced in size and scope and the location moved to a more appropriate place.

Richard Viktorin, a member of the Austin Runners Club, urged the board to keep the trail a green space and left in natural state. He suggested another location be found.

Mary K. Isaacs, Chair of Land and Facilities Committee, stated the Land and Facilities recommendation is that the park be located in Waterloo Park and the design be adjusted to cover the interest from the endowment for ongoing maintenance.

The Land and Facilities recommendation stood as a motion on the table for consideration. Seconded by Zamarripa. The vote was 4 Aye (Isaacs, Castleberry, Cruz-Torres, Zamarripa), 3 Nay (Dwight, Cartlidge, Medrano), 1 Abstained (Friday)

Application for Naming of Parkland

An application was received from the Great Hills Park Committee requesting the naming of parkland to Great Hills Park. Ron Cartlidge made a motion to accept the application for naming Great Hills Park. Rosemary Castleberry and Marianne Scott Dwight seconded the motion. The vote was 6 Aye (Cartlidge, Castleberry, Cruz-Torres, Zamarripa, Dwight, Friday) (Isaacs and Medrano were out of room).

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Jim Rooni, City Arborist with the Forestry Division, gave a presentation on oak wilt and the impact it has in the city on private property and parkland. Oak Wilt is a disease that kills live and red oak trees. Mr. Rooni gave a history of the disease and informed the board the monies would be spent to confirm cases, identify extent, evaluate intent of urgency for suppression and implement suppression. The department will be submitting to Council a mid-year budget amendment to request funds in the amount of \$117,000.00 for oak wilt suppression in parkland. The item will be heard by City Council on March 21, 1996.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Texas Municipal League and Texas Municipal Parks and Recreation Association will have their 1997 convention in Austin. At the 1996 convention in Lubbock the department was awarded for the self reliant project in the SCAN area. Austin was the only city recognized at the convention.

The City Council directed the City Manager's Office to implement a self

reliant program in the Holly Neighborhood. The program will be managed by Jesus M. Olivares and will involve PARD staff as well as all city departments working collaboratively with the community.

The department is revitalizing the Adopt-A-Shore program. The department will partner with community and private and public organizations to schedule several Town Lake clean ups in the coming months. A March 30th clean up is scheduled in conjunction with the Austin Rowing Club. The department will approach Austin High School about a joint project clean up with the student council.

Board members were urged to complete their financial disclosure forms by April 26, 1996.

Copies of the city's organizational chart were distributed, showing the realignment of reporting duties. PARD will be reporting directly to the City Manager's office.

The first Parkland Maintenance Task Force is scheduled to meet Wednesday, March 20, 1996 at 6:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mary K. Isaacs said the Parkland Dedication Ordinance has gone back to staff for more specific recommendations.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ron Cartlidge requested an update on the Norwood House property.

The Colorado River Park Planning Committee will meet Wednesday March 13, 1996, in the Board Room of the Parks and Recreation Department with a third public hearing scheduled March 20, 1996, in Building G of the Austin Community College Riverside Campus.

City Council is asked to accept a \$200,000 grant from the Moody Foundation for the renovation of the playscape at Pease Park. There is concern about the renovation being done in the leash free area of the park. Staff will be making contact with neighborhood people to keep them informed. The Parks Board will be briefed at their next regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of February 27, 1996 was made by Cruz-Torres and seconded by Medrano. The vote was unanimous (Castleberry, Cruz-Torres, Zamarippa, Friday, Cartlidge, Medrano, Scott, Isaacs) to accept

ADJOURN

Ron Cartlidge moved the meeting be adjourned. Medrano seconded motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Audio tapes of the Parks and Recreation Board meetings are available

through the Director of Parks and Recreation Department, 499-6717.