

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
March 26, 1996

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 26, 1996, at 6:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department, Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Hermelinda Zamarripa, Rosemary Castleberry, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Phil Friday, Ron Cartlidge, Marianne Scott Dwight, Rocky Medrano, Mary K. Isaacs and Louise Nivison, ex-officio member.

Staff members present were Jesus Olivares, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Mary Ybarbo, Stuart Strong, Randy Russell, Carol Foy, Peter Marsh and Warren Struss.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair

B. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

Larry Malone with the Golden Eagle Youth Athletic Association spoke to the Board about the future of his organization in the Northeast Austin area. He wants assurance there will be football fields and basketball courts available for his youth programs. Jesus Olivares, Rocky Medrano and Rosemary Castleberry each commented favorably on the work Mr. Malone has done and assured him a facility would always be available.

Thomas C. Parenteau, associate with the Fifth Street Boat Works, presented a scale model of the Austin Rowing Center Boathouse. A formal presentation will be given on April 23, 1996.

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations.

D. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Approve construction of two-slip boat dock, at 4101 Shimmering Cove, File # SP-96-0067DS

Ron Cartlidge recommended that this application not be approved by the board based on the following:

1. The proposed boat dock width exceeded the maximum 20% development of the shoreline.
2. Part of the dock was to be constructed within the 10' utility easement.
3. Part of the dock has to be constructed within the 10' building line set back.

Treaty Oak Plaza Recommendation to Council

This item was postponed indefinitely.

Pease Park Renovation Plans

Stuart Strong, Division Manager for Planning and Design, reported the Moody Foundation's grant of \$200,000 would be used to renovate the entire playscape area in Pease Park. There is a proposal by the Foundation to place a swingset at the far end of the park, close to the dog leash-free area. Concern has been generated by dog owners fearing the loss of the leash-free area. A petition signed by over 100 individuals opposing the swingset has been received. Mr. Strong stated the Parks Department will recommend to the Foundation placing the swingset with the playscape away from the leash free area. The Moody Foundation has been contacted for their approval in this change.

Spicewood Springs Park Review and Recommendations

Stuart Strong passed out a copy of the time line in the development of Spicewood Springs Park from 1981 to the present time. There have been several changes in the park because of the different acquisitions of land and the ADA requirements. Currently, there are no state guidelines for ADA compliance of this type of trail. The state has suggested preliminary plans be submitted outlining a proposed design for an accessible nature trail. Using proposed guidelines, Planning and Design developed a trail utilizing asphalt. Asphalt was recommended by staff as being the most cost effective and accessible material due to steep grades involved in the plan which could regularly wash out other approved accessible trail materials.

Melanie Wilkes, Homeowner, spoke of her concern about the date for the opening of the park and questioned the idea of an asphalt trail. Construction of the park is scheduled for September-November 1996.

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Women's Chamber of Commerce Norwood Estate project is just in the middle of the five year agreement between the City and the Chamber. Phase One, which involved an historical report, was completed by the September 1995 deadline. Phase Two involves the relocation of the house by September 1996. The fund-raising efforts include an application for a \$25,000 grant from the Brick and Motar Foundation. The Board requested a financial statement on their fund raising efforts prior to their October deadline.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Colorado River Park Committee Update

There have been three (3) public meetings held to get input from citizens for the future development of the Colorado River Park located along the south shore of the river, between Pleasant Valley Road and Highway 183. All the meetings have been well attended. Soccer fields, kayak facilities, neighborhood parks and canoe launches are some of the amenities citizens have voted to develop.

Parkland Maintenance Task Force Update

Rosemary Castleberry reported that Phil Friday has been appointed Chair of the Parkland Maintenance Task Force. The initial meeting has been held with a briefing from the Parks and Recreation Department. There is much enthusiasm for the work the task force hopes to accomplish.

Parkland Dedication Ordinance

There was no committee update per Mary K. Isaacs

G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ron Cartlidge worked the Capitol 10,000 the previous weekend and noted the need for more park police at the finish line to ensure greater crowd control.

Rocky Medrano informed the board that they will be approached by a citizens group who will recommend the renaming of the Pan American Recreation Center to the A. B. Cantu Recreation Center in honor of Mr. Cantu's many years of work with the youth in East Austin.

Jesus Olivares informed the board a letter has been drafted to Mr. Bloch notifying him of the board's decision regarding the Cancer Survivors Park. The department is awaiting his reply.

Phil Friday noted the usefulness of the Agenda Update which is provided by Kit von Wupperfeld from the director's office.

H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of March 12, 1996, was made by Ron Cartlidge and seconded by Mary K. Isaacs. The vote was unanimous (Castleberry, Cruz-Torres, Zamarripa, Friday, Cartlidge, Medrano, Scott, isaacs) to accept.

I. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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

