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**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
September 9, 1997**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, September 9, 1997, in the Board Room at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present: Dewayne Naumann, Jeff Francell, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Mary K. Isaacs, Elaine Carter, Secretary.

Staff members present: Peter Marsh, Mary Ybarbo, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Stuart Strong, Randy Russell.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 26, 1997 were approved.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Anne Gault, 6401 Brodie Lane, Austin, Texas, approached the board and expressed dissatisfaction with the maintenance and life-guard scheduling at Dick Nichols Pool this summer. Randy Russell, Division Manager of Sports Management was able to inform Ms. Gault the department did experience some construction warranty problems and scheduling of the life-guards was done as well as could be considering the unanticipated large attendance. There were problems at the end of summer when most of the guards returned to school. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres requested an update on the pool.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Make a Recommendation to the Director about the use of Butler Fields

Randy Russell informed the board the issue with Butler Fields goes back to 1994. They originally were programmed for men's fast pitch softball games and for a variety of other softball programs. The relationship with the girls fast pitch program goes back to 1988. Girls fast pitch had use of one field, Williams Field just across the lake by the YMCA. In 1994 they came to the PARD board requesting more room and wanted to use Butler Fields. There was an inequity in the system because there were 50 boy little leagues and the girls deserved some share of the fields. The Parks Board decision at that time was a 4-2-2 vote to allow the girls to use the fields on nights when the fields were not programmed. In spring of this year they requested to use the fields more often. A decision was made by the director, to allow the girls to have full use of the fields as they were providing a service to the city by serving the youth. Their programs are growing and there was a decline in men's fast pitch programs. The girls are presently doing their own maintenance on the fields. Loss in revenue is

difficult to determine as the department would eliminate maintenance expenses and determining if the users of Butler relocated to other city enterprises fields. However, worse case scenario would be a loss of \$10,000. Dewayne Naumann motioned to recommend to the director to utilize Butler Fields in a manner most befitting its use to the City of Austin and the Parks and Recreation Department. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. The vote in favor was 6-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Cruz-Torres).

Set a Public Hearing on the East Austin Youth Activity Center Site

Tuesday, September 23, 1997 a public hearing will be scheduled at Fiesta Gardens to determine the location of an East Austin Youth Activity Center. An alternate date is October 14th.

Mary Moore Searight Land Use Agreement with Austin Independent School District

Mary K. Isaacs informed the board the Austin Independent School District will build a new middle school adjacent to Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park and have asked for approval to access the site on the Searight Park Road. AISD will improve the road by increasing the width and adding curbs and gutters from Slaughter Lane, a distance of approximately 3,000 feet. AISD has also offered to install a water line from Slaughter Lane to the site. The school will accommodate 1,100 students and 60 staff members with 8-15 buses transporting students. Residential streets David Moore Drive and Chisholm Trail do not meet the requirements for public roadways. Stuart Strong, Division Manager of Planning, Design and Construction said there would be options to keeping the land as parkland by granting an easement or issuing a license agreement. A traffic impact analysis will be done for the site by AISD. Mary K. Isaacs moved to approve the concept of the land use agreement with AISD and Mary Moore Metropolitan Park Road, including the proposed improvements with the addition of bike lanes, remain as parkland. Elaine Carter seconded. The vote in favor was 5-1-0 (Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Cruz-Torres) (Naumann)

Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Bicycle Plan, Part II

Rick Waring, Bicycle Coordinator with Public Works, presented the board with a brief version of the Bicycle Plan, Part II mentioning this section covers all the routes throughout the city. Comments and suggestions received during the initial review process offered many ideas for improvement of Part I. One idea was to create a second system of routes and maps providing information about access to and from 25 major bicycle 'attractors'. These 'attractors' are activity centers that have the potential of attracting bicycle trips. An example of an 'attractor' would be major employers, swimming pools, gyms, shopping center, parks, recreation centers, libraries, elementary schools and restaurants. Routes will use and integrate with the metropolitan trails system. It is planned these routes will be in place within six years.

Tommy Eden, 2901 Barton Skyway #2809, Austin, Texas, spoke in favor of the Bicycle Plan.

Mary K. Isaacs moved that the Parks Board support the implementation of the bicycle plan as presented by the bike coordinator. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote in favor was 4-0-2 (Isaacs, Castleberry, Francell, Cruz-Torres) (Carter, Naumann)

Solar Explorer Program

Leslie Libby, Program Manager for Alternative Energy for the Electric Department, presented an explanation of the Solar Explorer Program and to offer an opportunity for the Parks and Recreation Department to become involved. Some of the benefits of using the solar energy are: a renewable energy source, cleanliness, quietness, does not require water and the fuel(sun) is free. The only drawback is the cells are expensive to manufacture. At this time the following are PV sites: 3M/Austin, Austin Youth Hostel, ECHO Village, Convention Center, Town Lake Center, Barton Creek Greenbelt parking lot and Mary Moore Searight Park. The program further encourages installing solar power plants on the rooftops of commercial buildings, top floor of parking garages and/or in parking lots. The cost is \$7 a month. Individuals or groups are welcomed to participate by making a two year commitment. Funding for this program comes from the U.S. Department of Energy and from Solar explorer volunteers. People become involved with this program because they want a clean environment and they want solar PV to become more affordable. In return for their commitment they receive an electric credit, a plaque with their name, a decal and membership card and a quarterly newsletter. 350-400 people have applied to participate in this program. The Electric Dept. is developing plans for the first solar installation because they have a need to install a 30-40 kilowatt solar installation by the end of October. The Parks Department is invited to partner with the Electric Department to install the first Solar explorer PV system in a parking lot. There would be no costs to PARD to install the system. It would be installed in a parking lot with solar panels mounted on stilts and it would provide some shade for approximately 36 cars. Installation would be done by the end of October. Benefits to the Parks Department and the community would be shaded parking for park visitors. Ms. Libby contacted Cindy Giedraitis with the Austin Nature and Science Center who expressed her opinion that it could be used as a tie in for energy and nature education. When contacted, the people with Art in Public Places suggested a sun dial installation.

At this point Jane Pulaski, Director of Programs for the State Energy Conservation Office, was introduced and announced that if this project of using photovoltaics as a shading feature for parking at Zilker Park was approved, the City would be nominated for an award as part of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) initiative. This is a national award given at the state level.

Mary K. Isaacs motioned to approve the project. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote to approve was 6-0 (Isaacs, Francell, Cruz-Torres, Castleberry, Carter, Naumann)

St. Tropez (Peninsula on Lake Austin) Shoreline Modifications

The Navigation Committee reviewed a request for a further amendment to Site Plan 94-0155B to alter the location of the proposed bulkhead. The board

previously approved an amendment on July 8, 1997.

The change to the previously approved amendment is necessary because of sub-surface construction built in accordance with the original plans that was not discovered until the lagoon was drained of water, and the requirement to comply with Building Code and subdivision regulations.

The subsurface construction, a large concrete beam approximately 36" wide, on the alignment of the previously approved bulkhead required that the bulkhead be moved forward approximately 4' into the lagoon.

Dewayne Nauman recommended to approve second amendment to site plan 94-0155B, previously approved, and based on tonight's discussion. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote in favor was 6-0 (Cruz-Torres, Francell, Castleberry, Carter, Isaacs, Naumann)

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

none

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee will meet on Monday, September 15, 1997.

The board will be given on update by Eeyore's Task Force.

Dewayne Naumann has been confirmed for Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Advisory Group

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A list of Diez y Seis celebrations will be sent to board members.

I. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.