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**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
December 9, 1997**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board and a Public Hearing for the Special Events Policy was held on Tuesday, December 9, 1997, at 200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas. Board members present: Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Mary K. Isaacs, Jeff Francell, Dewayne Naumann and Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Mary Ybarbo, Cindy Wade, Tito Ramirez, Peter Marsh, Donna McKennis, Randy Russell, Stuart Strong, Jim Valadez, Leon Barba.

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 November 25, 1997, were approved.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ted Siff, 1809 Palma Plaza, Austin, spoke in favor of funding for the Colorado River Park in the upcoming 1998 bond election projects.

Phil Friday, Chair of the Austin Parks Foundation, asked the board to recommend an increase in funding for the Colorado River Park in the upcoming bond election.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

Mary K. Isaacs announced this would be the last of a series of public hearings that have been held to finalize the Special Events Policy to be presented to the City Council for approval.

Dr. Charlotte Smith spoke in favor of developing a Promise Park for disabled people at Waterloo Park. Dr. Smith was referred to the Planning Department with a possible presentation to the board in January 1998.

The public hearing closed at 6:55 p.m.

E. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

CIP Bond Election Presentation

Stuart Strong, Division Manager for Planning, Development and Design, informed the board the City Manager has compiled a preliminary Candidate Project List to be included in the upcoming Bond Election. This list includes expansion for the Carver Museum, development of the Colorado River Park, a multi-purpose center for Rundberg Park, Shoal Creek trail

development and a South Austin Soccer complex.

Walnut Creek Greenway Presentation by Austin Metropolitan Trails Council

Anjali Kaul with the Trust for Public Land, gave a video presentation on the Walnut Creek Greenway and urged the board to consider more funding for the greenways and trails in the Walnut Creek Corridor.

F. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Consider a Proposal from Mr. Scott Sayers Regarding Lake Austin Scenic Cove, 2454 Scenic Drive

Mary K. Isaacs informed the board that Mr. Scott Sayers has previously approached the board about fencing on his Lake Austin residence. At that time the board adopted a resolution regarding fencing around the tract. A proposal has now been submitted that would adjust the common boundary line between Mr. Sayers property and City property. The proposed adjustment would transfer approximately 100 sq. ft. to the City and would require the City of transfer approximately 1,250 sq. ft. to Mr. Sayers, including about 60' of the shoreline of the city property. Mary K. Isaacs made a motion that the board not accept Mr. Scott Sayers proposal regarding Lake Austin. Dewayne Naumann seconded. The vote not to accept proposal was 5-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Francell, Cruz-Torres, Castleberry).

(Ms. Carter had left the meeting).

Make a Recommendation to the PARKS Director Regarding Design and Construction of a Berm and Pump at Barton Springs Pool

Mr. Robert Hansen with the Drainage Utility Department (DUD), gave a slide presentation of Barton Springs Pool which showed the need for installing a pump and berm at the pool. The pump and berm are designed to assist in maintenance of the pool and protect habitat for the salamander, which the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed as an endangered species. When the pool is drained for cleaning, pressure at Eliza Springs decreases and water recedes from the springs. In 1996 when the aquifer was exceptionally low, Eliza Springs ran dry when the pool was drained. It was determined later that several salamanders in the springs were stranded and died when the water receded. The Sunken Gardens holds the potential for a similar situation. Espey-Huston, under contract to the DUD, has designed a device that will pump water from the pool to the springs and the Sunken Gardens when the pool is lowered. The City plans to construct a berm in the shallow end of the pool to protect the springs when the pool is cleaned. Presently staff makes a temporary berm or dam by stacking sandbags across the shallow end to trap silt that might flow into the springs and harm the salamander habitat. A permanent concrete berm would eliminate costs associated with the temporary berm. Mary K. Isaacs informed the board that Land and Facilities committee recommends that the board recommend this project. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote in favor was 5-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Cruz-Torres, Francell, Castleberry)

Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding Williamson Creek Greenbelt License Agreement for Rancho Las Palmas Apartments

Correction: this is Williamson Creek and not Walnut Creek as originally listed.

Peter Marsh informed the board a request has been received from Bury and Pittman for a license agreement through part of Williamson Creek Greenbelt for the construction of a storm water drainage channel. The actual drainage channel was constructed prior to the approval of this license agreement. PARD staff inspected the area after construction and found that restoration of the drainage channel and a previously installed wastewater line was not satisfactory. Bury and Pittman and Ewing Properties (the developers) have agreed to the requirements of PARD to restore and revegetate the greenbelt with the conditions as listed in the backup. Mary K. Isaacs informed the board that Land and Facilities recommended to accept the agreement with the conditions as listed. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote to accept was 5-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Castleberry, Francell, Cruz-Torres).

Set Time and Date for Public Hearing in January on the Use of Butler Fields

Eileen Welsh, Vice-President of Austin Softball Association made a request for discussion on the use of Butler Fields. Mary K. Isaacs made a motion to set January 27, 1998, as the date for a Public Hearing on the use of Butler Fields. Dewayne Naumann seconded. The vote was 5-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Castleberry, Francell, Cruz-Torres).

G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jesus M. Olivares, Director, informed members they were given a copy of Long Range Plan for Land and Facilities which has been approved by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Board was reminded of joint meeting on December 16, 1997, with the Environmental Board to begin Balcones Canyonlands Preserves discussions, particularly development of public access issues.

The board meeting scheduled for December 23, 1997, has been postponed.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Programs Committee meets 12/15/97
2. Land & facilities will meet January 6, 1998
3. Navigation Committee will meet next week
4. Concession Committee should be taken off agenda
5. Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Advisory Group will meet 12/10/97
6. Downtown Commission will meet 12/10/97

I. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Francell asked for clarification on bond elections.
Dewayne Naumann asked to be kept informed on Pease Park traffic issues.

J. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.