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MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
February 10, 1998

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas. Board members present: Dewayne Naumann, Rocky Medrano, Vice Chair, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim, Mary K. Isaacs.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Stuart Strong, Peter Marsh, David Capuchino, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Jim Halbrook, Mary Ybarbo.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The corrections made to the minutes of January 27, 1998 are: Elaine Carter had requested staff provide figures for the additional space at Carver Museum; Erma Linda Cruz Torres had requested the same, as well as figures for the game room for Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center. Elaine Carter had made the motion to accept Land and Facilities recommendation to approve the Barton Creek Trail Improvements. Jeff Francell had made the motion to accept Land and Facilities recommendation to approve Park Improvements and Use Agreement at A. B. Cantu/Pan Am Park. Thus noted, the minutes of January 27, 1998 were approved.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Rodney Garza, Artistic Director, Teatro Humanidad Cansada, approached the board and requested funding in the CIP Bond Election for the Mexican American Cultural Center.

Eileen Walsh, Metropolitan Austin Softball Association, approached the board to thank the Director for his considerations regarding Butler Fields and expressed her concern for the need for additional ball fields in Austin.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Rosemary Castleberry presented a plaque which read "The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department extends its appreciation for the outstanding contributions of Hermelinda Zamarripa for her commitment to the quality of life in Austin through service on the Parks and Recreation Board July 1995 - June 1997." Ms. Zamarripa thanked the board for this recognition.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

Receive Public Input on Naming the Garrison Park Ball Fields for Ric Castaneda

Jorge Luis Rodriguez, South Austin Optimist Club, approached the board to request an amendment to his original application to name the ball fields at Garrison Park for Ric Castaneda. The amendment would name the ball fields the Ric and Carmen Castaneda Athletic Fields. The Castanedas have been actively

involved in little league for many years and have proved to be honorable, caring and devoted volunteers in the South Austin community.

Carmen Castaneda, the daughter of Ric and Carmen Castaneda, approached the board with a request to name the ball fields in honor of both her father and her mother.

Although the board took a vote on the naming of the ball fields, the item had not been posted for action and another vote will be held at the next Parks Board Meeting.

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

#### F. ITEMS FOR ACTION

##### Make a recommendation to City Council Regarding Use Agreements, Red Bud Isle, Town Lake Park (Ullrich Medium Service Water Transmission Main)

Mary K. Isaacs informed the board this utility project will construct a 72" diameter water line from Red Bud Isle to Town Lake Park. The use of parkland has been carefully considered and the project will be done in a month's time. Mary K. Isaacs moved to recommend approval of this project. Elaine Carter seconded. The vote in favor was 6-0 (Cruz-Torres, Kim, Francell, Medrano, Carter, Isaacs).

##### Approve Use Agreement for Walnut Creek Greenbelt

Peter Marsh informed the board the Water and Wastewater utility wants to install a water line and a wastewater sewer on this piece of parkland. Mary K. Isaacs informed the board the parkland is a very small and inaccessible piece of land with no trees. The work will take approximately one week and re-vegetation will be done. Mary K. Isaacs make a motion to accept this project. Elaine Carter seconded. The vote in favor was 6-0 (Cruz-Torres, Kim, Francell, Medrano, Carter, Isaacs)

##### Approve Construction of a Pier at 3201 Westlake Drive, File # SP-97-0464DS

Peter Marsh informed the board the proposal is to demolish an existing dilapidated structure that extends into the water approximately 90' and to replace it with a new pier structure that extends 75' into the water. The pier will include walkways and a covered two story deck structure. The request was considered by the Navigation Committee at their January 8, 1998, meeting and the concerns that were raised have all been addressed by the applicant. The pier will not extend beyond other boat docks and will not cause a navigation hazard. Jeff Francell moved to recommend approving the dock plans as presented. Rocky Medrano seconded. The vote in favor was 6-0 (Cruz-Torres, Kim, Francell, Medrano, Carter, Isaacs).

##### Make a Recommendation on 1998 CIP Bond Election List

Julian Garcia, Jr., Board Member at Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center, approached the board and requested additional funds to complete the game room at the center.

Don Rivera, Chairperson for Parque Zaragoza Advisory Board, approached the board



and requested funding to complete the original plans which included the addition of a game room.

David Capuchino, 4709 Lambs Lane, approached the board and informed them of how crowded the Parque Zaragoza Center has become and requested additional funding for the game room.

Tomas Salas, Board Secretary for the Mexican American Cultural Center Task Force, approached the board and requested that the MACC be included in the CIP bond election.

A this point Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, read the following letter into the minutes. The letter comes from Sylvia Orozco, Executive Director of Mexic-Arte Museum. It is addressed to Mary K. Isaacs. "On behalf of the Board of Directors of Mexic-Arte Museum, I would like to express our support for placing the Mexican American Cultural Center on the 1998 Bond Election. Mexic-Arte Museum is committed to nurturing an environment and development of facilities that reflect the rich cultural heritage of the Mexican American/Latino community. The Mexican American Cultural Center will provide a facility to produce and present the performing, visual, media and literary arts unique to the Mexican/Latino culture. The Center will provide a venue for cultural and educational programs for all the community. We support the Mexican American Cultural Center. We ask that the PARD Board recommend the Mexican American Cultural Center as part of the 1998 Bond Election. Thank you for your consideration."

Ana Perez, Latino Arts Consortium member, approached the board to request that funding for the Mexican American Cultural Center be included on the bond election list.

Cynthia Perez, Board Member of La Pena publication, spoke in support of CIP funding for the Mexican American Cultural Center and submitted the following letter and requested that it be read into the minutes. Mary K. Isaacs read the following: "We are writing to you to request that the Parks Board submit a recommendation to the Planning Committee that the location of the Mexican American Culture Center (MACC) site be placed on the next bond election. The purpose of MACC is to provide a facility to train, perform and present the performing, visual, media and literary arts unique to the Mexican American Latino culture. The Latino Community of Austin has historically worked and received assistance for developing athletic areas and recreational centers and would now like to extend that development to cultural and artistic arenas. In other words, we would like to be able to provide an alternative for graffiti by replacing walls with canvas and/or mural space. Our goal is to ensure a healthy environment for our youth by uniting the art community with the social organizations and educational institutions. We in the Latino community have been repeatedly overlooked despite the fact that we represent 25.8% of the total population of Austin. We have continuously developed cultural and artistic events using facilities available within our own communities using grass roots organizations. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres who serves on your Board can testify to this because she helped us in the past serving as Committee Chairperson for four(4) Music Festivals that have been held at the Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center. For the past 15 years our dream has been to provide our community with a facility dedicated to promoting the Mexican American culture, not only to affirm Latinos but also to make a positive contribution to the widely diverse

Austin community. Your support in our effort is sorely needed and would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like an more information. Sincerely, Cynthia Perez."

Paul Saldana, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Pro Tem, approached the board and asked that an amendment to the Land and Facilities Committee include a recommendation for funding the MACC.

Jim von Wolske, President of Lakeshore Drive Neighborhood Association, approached the board and informed them of the need to protect the view corridors of Lake Austin. Docks are extending to 230' out into the lake which will eventually cause a ruining of the view of the lake.

The following persons did not wish to speak but wanted the board to know they support funding for the game room at Parque Zaragoza: Dora Rivera, Daniel Lozano Christopher Abeita.

Dewayne Naumann arrived at 8:15 p.m.

There was an extensive discussion among board members regarding the CIP Bond Election projects.

Rocky Medrano made a motion to adopt all items previously listed and to forward to the proper channels and to the citizens bond committee for consideration the additional items as discussed (see attachment). Elaine Carter seconded. The vote in favor was 7-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Carter, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres)

#### G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At the board meeting of February 24, 1998, members will be asked to set the date for a public hearing to accept input for the Land and Facilities Master Plan.

#### H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee meets 2/23/98.

Land & Facilities Committee meets 2/17/98.

Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Advisory Group meets 2/11/98

#### I. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (not for action)

Dove Springs Recreation Center is scheduled to open in March 1998.

Dick Nichols Pool contract is in mitigation with contractor.

Aqua Fest has been granted an extension until the end of March for submission of their final report.

#### J ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.