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**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
February 24, 1998**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, February 24, 1998, at 200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas. Board members present: Dewayne Naumann, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Erma-Linda Cruz-Torres, Mike Librik, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Carol Kim, Jeff Francell, Rocky Medrano, Vice-Chair, Mary K. Isaacs.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kendall Moss, Deputy Director, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Sarah Campbell, Jay Stone, 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 minutes of February 10, 1998, were approved.

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Jay Stone, Staff Financial Analyst, gave a presentation on the Disc Golf concession. Mr. Stone informed the board this is one of the most rapidly growing sports in the country. There are 582 disc golf courses with an average course use of 200+ on weekends and 50+ on weekdays. The cost of installing a course is \$10,000 compared to \$20,000 for a lighted tennis court. Here in Austin there is one 9 hole course located at Zilker Park and four 18 hole courses located at Bartholomew, Mary Moore Searight, Pease and Slaughter Creek Parks. Some of the problems associated with this sport include land erosion, litter, vandalism and wear and tear from tournaments. At present there is no charge to play disc golf. Under a management contract agreement there would be a concessionaire at these parks to collect a fee, establish no-play days, provide daily trash/glass pickup and provide additional security. The concessionaire would pay the city a percentage of the sales from the fees charged, disc rentals, tournaments, disc sales, disc paraphernalia, drinks and snacks. This is the same agreement PARD has with other concessionaires. Money collected from the concessionaire would go into a general fund to the city and would be used for field maintenance and equipment replacement. The benefits to the City besides those already mentioned, would include \$5-10,000 annual revenue per course, erosion and litter control, course management and provide a better service to the community.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held to receive public input on a Disc Golf Concession.

Lary L. Warner, 5104 Avenue H (51), spoke in favor of a per day fee not a per round fee.

Charles Koonce, 1406 Dominique Drive, asked the board to reconsider the disc golf concession and not charge a fee.

Gary Cain, 1309 Kenwood Avenue, associated with the Austin Association of the Deaf spoke in favor of charging a fee to help with erosion costs.

Sean Fuentes, 600 Barwood Park, spoke in favor of not charging a fee.

Bruce Burkhalter, 4806 Greystone, did not speak, but indicated on the sign-up sheet that pay for play is okay if done correctly.

Paul Normandin, 903 Valley Forge (53), spoke against pay for play but supports separate courses for disc golfers with children playing free.

Buzz Avery, 3503 Lafayette, Chair of the Environmental Board spoke in favor of adopting a fee to help with course maintenance but allowing children to be exempt from fee.

John Houck, 1515K Southport (04), owner of Circular Productions, spoke in favor of the fee if the money would go directly to the department and not to a private company.

Ed Larrabee, 1804 Palo Duro, Golfer with TubeTone, spoke in favor of a percentage of the money going toward course improvements and developing a mechanism to allow work for golf volunteer opportunities.

Gordon Maxim-Kelley, 7505A St. Amant Place, Controller/Disc Golfer, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, spoke in favor of a fee if the money collected went back into existing courses for maintenance and if possible, new courses.

Gerard Jimenez, 601 Josephine, asked if there are alternatives available to not having to charge fees. He is not in favor of charging fees.

John Darden, 8112 Huddleston Lane, Austin Data System, spoke against charging any fee. He does volunteer work at Searight Park.

Douglas Parker, 2407B Burleson (41) left before he could speak and did not indicate how he felt on the sign-up sheet.

David Sosa, 2012 Arpdale St., Executive Board Member with South Austin Democrats left before he could speak but indicated on the sign-up sheet that a disc golf fee is double taxation.

Sheldon Parker, 2407-B Burleson Road (41), spoke in favor of a fee if the money goes back into maintenance.

Mark Nunn, 1711 West 11th Street, thanked the department for having the hearing and indicated the parks get a lot of use and there are many disc golfers in the area.

David A. LeBleu, 734 Minturn Lane is not in favor of a fee but urged the department to be careful about handling the situation. He stated that explosive growth justifies another course being developed and suggested that volunteer efforts be put in place.

David D. Moody, 2606 Harris Blvd., Moody's Disc Pro Shop, runs the concession at Park and is in favor of pay for play.

Samantha Tiffany, 1071 Clayton Lane #1215, did not speak but indicated on the sign-up sheet she is opposed to a fee for playing disc golf.

Nicholas Maulding, 4807 Peach Grove Road, spoke against charging a fee and feels volunteer hours could be targeted.

Neal Buckmaster, 1501 Southport #120, did not speak or indicate on the sign-up sheet how he felt about the issue.

Nelson Flores, 3810 Southway Drive #5, suggested city sponsored tournaments to raise money for the courses.

Chip Wells, 1108 East 31st Street, informed the board he has been coordinating volunteer efforts for the past year to help with trash at Bartholomew Park and has asked for more trash cans but has yet to hear from the City. Jesus Olivares, Director, informed Mr. Wells that the area manager would be in touch with him tomorrow to make arrangements for more trash cans.

W. Ray Murray, 1110 Fairmount Avenue, stated he is not in favor or opposed to a fee, but would like additional courses and suggested moving the course from one spot to another as is done at Zilker. He also indicated dogs are an obstacle on these courses.

Jay Gerard, 4411 Avenue D, is opposed to charging a fee.

Zachary Padilla, 739 William Cannon Drive, urged the board members to play disc golf and doesn't want taxation without representation.

Russell Forsyth, 6717 Shady Cedar Drive, thanked the board for holding a public hearing and urged that parks be developed solely for disc golfers with a fee charged.

Bernie Newman, 127 Saddleblanket Trail, is undecided about fee but would favor city sponsored tournaments and possibly a yearly fee.

Jeny McFarlane, 1108 East 31st Street, is not a disc golfer, but feels everyone is responsible when they use the parks.

The public hearing closed at 8:05 p.m.

The public hearing was interpreted for the deaf.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Make a Recommendation to the Director on Accepting a Disc Golf Concession on Parklands

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres made a motion to send this item back to the Concession Committee for consideration and place it on the agenda for the March 24, 1998, board meeting. Dewayne Naumann seconded. The vote in favor was 7-0 (Cruz-Torres, Kim, Francell, Medrano, Carter, Isaacs, Naumann)

Make a Recommendation to the Director on Naming the Garrison Park Ball Fields for Ric and Carmen Castaneda

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Rocky Medrano made a motion to name the ball fields at Garrison Park for Ric and Carmen Castaneda. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. The vote was 5-0-2 (Cruz-Torres, Kim, Francell, Medrano, Naumann) (Carter, Isaacs)

Mr. Castaneda approached the board and thanked them for this vote. Mr. Olivares thanked Mr. Castaneda and his wife for their many years of dedicated service to the South Austin community.

Set a Date for a Public Hearing on Renewing the Aeromodeler's Contract

Mr. Olivares informed the board the Aeromodeler's contract is coming up for renewal and he would like to receive public input from the people in the neighborhoods in the Mary Moore Searight area.

Dewayne Naumann made a motion to hold a public hearing on April 14, 1998, preferably in a South Austin location. Mary K. Isaacs seconded. The vote in favor was 7-0 (Cruz-Torres, Kim, Francell, Medrano, Carter, Isaacs, Naumann).

Arrangements will be made for board members to visit the site.

Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding Annexation into Moore's Crossing MUD - 18 Acre Galloway Tract

Moore's Crossing MUD, located in far southeast Austin, completely surrounds an 18-acre parcel called the Galloway tract. The owner of the Galloway tract is asking the City's permission for the MUD to annex the tract into the MUD's boundaries. If the proposed annexation were approved, the ultimate addition of residents to the MUD would generate park and recreation facility requirements estimated at less than one acre of parkland and \$640. The MUD Land Plan calls for about 105 acres of parkland to be dedicated for public use as the MUD develops. This amount exceeds the maximum requirements, even with future Galloway residents added, by about 45%; therefore, the proposed annexation would generate no additional park and recreation requirements, and would have no effect on the Parks and Recreation Department. Staff recommended no objection to the proposed annexation.

Mary K. Isaacs informed the board the Land and Facilities Committee recommends approval of the staff recommendation. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote to accept staff recommendation was 4-3-1 (Isaacs, Medrano, Francell, Kim) (Cruz-Torres, Carter, Naumann) (Castleberry).

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The next board meeting of March 10, 1998, will be held at the Zilker Club House. This is an election day.

City Council will hold a public hearing on March 5, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. to review the Land and Facilities Long Range Plan. Board members are encouraged to attend.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Navigation Committee: Lost a valuable staff member when Peter Marsh accepted a

position with the Public Works Department.

Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Advisory Group: focus group meeting held 2/11/98.

Downtown Commission: Elaine Carter has officially been appointed to this Commission. The Heritage Society has agreed to work with the Commission. The Commission was recently given a Seaholm presentation. Land and Facilities Committee will meet 3/3/98.

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (not for action)

Mary K. Isaacs publicly expressed appreciation for Peter Marsh's work with the board.

Mike Librik introduced himself as the newest board member having been appointed by Jackie Goodman.

I. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Attached is a memo from Peter Rieck, Director of Public Works and Transportation, which gives an updated project listing for the 1998 bond election. Board members are encouraged to attend the Planning Commission Public Hearing on March 24 in Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.

March 24th is also the date of the next Parks Board meeting.