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**MINUTES**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**May 12, 1998**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, May 12, 1998, at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present: Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Dewayne Naumann, Mike Librik, Rocky Medrano, Vice-Chair, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim, Mary K. Isaacs, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Jay Stone, Randy Scott, Mary Ybarbo, Kendall Moss, Deputy Director, Warren Struss, Juan Valera-Lema, Peggy McLaurin, Randy Russell.

**CALLED TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of April 28, 1998, were approved.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Receive Public Comment on future Rowing Concession Services

Jay Stone, Financial Analyst with PARD, informed the board that three concession contracts are up for renewal and the public is invited to express their viewpoints on each.

Cindy Present, 1018 Merlene Drive, is a Motorola WellQuest Program Manager, who asked the board to continue contract with L'Aviron Rowing as many of Motorola's employees are members.

Michele Seghers, 2004 So. Oak Canyon Road, Austin (46), informed the board she would like more promotion of the rowing concession.

Rachel Yates, 4504 Waterford Place, is a bidder for the rowing concession and feels the present concession isn't available to all citizens and should be more family oriented.

Dianne Holley, 4104 Dauphine Drive, would like improved accessibility and more expansion to a rowing facility.

Kim Roberts, 714 W. 35th Street, Austin, expressed a need for more hours of operation and more access to a rowing facility.

David Faulkner, 8004 High Hollow Cove, wants improved facilities for residents to row with friends and family and would encourage newcomers to the sport.

Norma Hartman would encourage a friendlier sponsored concession.

Ann Marie Heilman, owner and manager of L'Aviron, informed the board there have been 70 new members in 1998, she has programs for disadvantaged students and has

been able to develop 18 teams of rowers.

Doug Hain, 2529 So. Lamar #46, spoke in support of L'Aviron and asked that the concession be renewed.

Robert Rogin, 3050 Tamarron Blvd., spoke about the benefits of L'Aviron Rowing and the great contributions Ann Marie has made to Austin and to Town Lake.

Britton Walters, 4604 Englewood Drive, is a student and member of TANG, spoke in favor of Ann Marie's programs and her desire to continue working with L'Aviron.

Ryan Maynard, 2007 Barton Parkway, a student at U.T., has been a rowing club member since he was 12 years old. The staff at L'Aviron know all safety procedures and there is a diversity of people at the club.

Megan McAtee, 4416 Hank Avenue, is a student who spoke in favor of L'Aviron.

Pam Lynn, 4605 Goliad Lane, joined the rowing club last summer and helps out with the concession on Saturdays mornings.

Bill Gordon, 6103 Cary Drive, is a member of L'Aviron Rowing Club and has 2 daughters who also are club members.

Susan Powell is a 4 year club member who wants to keep the concession as it is.

Patricia Rayburn is in commercial real estate and a novice rower and wants the concession to continue under Ann Marie.

Jeff Slaggle is an instructor at L'Aviron and informed the board that safety is a very important factor.

Ken Hornbaker, 1806 Dexter, is a former Kansas State rower who moved to Austin in 1984 and is in charge of the rowing programs for L'Aviron and asked the board to look at Austin's growth and make a capital investment in rowing equipment.

Kimberley Mathison, is a 3 year rower who would like to see the facility upgraded, an increase in memberships and the number of races. She stated safety is an important factor.

Ann Appel, P>O> Box 8577, is in her first year with L'Aviron and stated there is a very relaxed, unique atmosphere at the club. She is the organizer for the quad programs and would like to expand the boat house.

Robert Breung, 1411 West 29th St., moved to Austin in November and joined the club which is very supportive of its members.

Claire St. Pierre, 3705 Cedar Street, informed the board she is a bidder for the rowing concession who would like to see more accessibility to the club.

Gwen Jewiss, 2503 Indian Trail, spoke in favor of L'Aviron.

Daryl Wade, an Austin fire fighter, is not a rower but the response time to any accident on the lake is 4 minutes and there is no need for a launch.



Paolo Minissi, 4504 Waterford Place, President of Metro Optics, urged the board to invest in more boats to serve a larger population.

This Public Hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

Receive Public Comment on future River Boat Concession Services

Mrs. Ken Moore, 8903 Split Oak Circle, informed the board she is a frequent customer of the River Boat Concession and urged that the contract be renewed.

Ed Howard is in the hospitality industry and the River Boat concession is number one on his list of entertainment suggestions to tourists.

Naillie Paulette, P.O. Box 5424, has worked on the river boat concessions for six years. The Pearces have a lot of repeat business and treat their employees very well. Trips are always pleasurable and the owners are very environmentally conscience.

Barbara Grove, 201 East 2nd St., Manager of Visitors Center at the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau receives calls every day about the river boat concession and the owners have a good tract record.

Mike Pearce, 308 Westwood Terrace, owner of Lone Star Riverboat concession for the last 10 years, urged renewal of his contract.

This Public Hearing closed at 8:50 p.m.

Receive Public Comment on future Vending Machine Concession

Derrellene Fox, 9600 Burnet Road, signed up to speak but was not present.

Jay Stone informed the board this contract supplies food items for 18 sites which include the administrative office, recreation centers and pools.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:55 p.m.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Skateboard Park update

Kendall Moss, Deputy Director, presented board members with some background information on the development of a skateboard park. There is a demand for public skateboarding in Austin. A city ordinance was approved in May 1994. Mr. Moss has been meeting with a group of parents who want to develop an abandoned tennis court in west Austin using homemade props. There have been concerns about safety, liability and noise. A noise study was done with the help of acoustic engineers from U.T.'s Center for Transportation Research and it was determined the noise level was within an acceptable range. The program began on Friday, May 8, 1998, and is being administered through the Austin Recreation Center. Program hours during the school year are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays (4-6:30 p.m.), Fridays (4-8:00pm), Saturdays (noon to 7:00 p.m.). The program is closed Sundays and Mondays. There are 16 participants signed up and waivers and safety equipment are required. A supervisor will be on site during program hours.

Loretta Martin, 4213 Todd Lane, President of Intellect Rollers Realm, introduced herself and informed the board she operates a private skate park in Austin.

#### Pease Park Update

Kendall Moss, Deputy Director, informed the board of the long-term problems with illicit sexual activities in the park and the associated traffic flow it caused in the neighborhood. Mr. Moss has been meeting regularly with neighborhood residents and PARD conducted a traffic survey in the summer of 1997. It was determined during park curfew hours (10 p.m. to 5 am) the average number of vehicle trips down Parkway/Kingsbury throughout the week is 29 vehicles per hour. By closing the southern portion (park road) of Parkway/Kingsbury there was no significant negative impact on traffic. Closure of both northern (city street) and southern portion of Parkway/Kingsbury had a dramatic, positive impact on traffic. The current status is to focus on the southern portion with a possible parkland improvement agreement between neighborhood and PARD which would require the neighbors purchasing automatic gates which would close at 10 p.m. and open automatically at 5 am. Gates would remain closed during park curfew hours and maintenance would be responsibility of neighborhood. The agreement would be reviewed by PARB with approval by City Council.

#### Destination Park Update

While not listed on the agenda a slide presentation was given by Butch Smith and Randy Scott from the PARD Planning Division. Mr. Smith's presentation was entitled PARKS, GREENWAYS AND NEIGHBORHOODS. He read the following from a prepared text as each slide was shown. The City of Austin has a goal of being a "sustainable community". A sustainable community strives for a regional open space system of parks, greenways, woodlands, streams and a working rural landscape which would be woven into the fabric of neighborhoods and workplaces. Key to accomplishing this goal is keeping that which makes Austin a special place..the opportunity for daily interaction of people and nature. Austin's strategy for maintaining a healthy balance of its natural assets and economic growth is called the "Smart Growth Initiative". Austin's Smart Growth Initiative proposes a "Desired Development Zone", primarily in the eastern part of the City. The concept is not to push development that way, but to make the Desired Development Zone an attractive, desirable place for homes and business to locate. In order to make the Smart Growth Initiative a reality, the City must invest in new infrastructure in this area, including parks, greenways, and traditional neighborhoods. The Desired Development Zone is depicted on this map (copy attached to minutes) by the large area in gold. As you can see, the Desired Development Zone is largely in the eastern part of the community. The proposed plan is to institute a park system that is linked by greenways and surrounded by traditional neighborhoods. This "green infrastructure" will then attract appropriate business development. The elements of the plan are: Destination Parks, Greenways and Traditional Neighborhoods. Destination Parks are large blocks of open space that would be set aside. And would preserve outstanding scenic qualities of the area as well as provide typical recreational opportunities such as picnic areas, playgrounds, and ballfields. Destination Parks would also offer a retreat...a place to get away from urban settings. Potential target areas for Destination Parks are shown on the map. All of the large parks would be associated with a creek, river or watershed basin. A greenway is linear open space that often follows a creek or stream, and provides



multiple functions. Greenways preserve scenic vistas, and preserve wildlife habitat and corridors. The linear nature of a greenway lends itself to trail development. Trails provide recreation for both bicyclists and pedestrians. They also provide a linkage between Destination Parks and neighborhoods, allow off-road travel from place to place. Since a greenway is left mostly in a natural state, water quality is protected. A greenway also provides an opportunity to prevent flooding through structural controls, preserving natural undeveloped floodplains, or a combination of both. This map shows high priority greenway corridors that are important for multiple conservation uses, and provide linkages between existing and future public open spaces. A "Traditional Neighborhood" is a mixed use, compact development that is sensitive to the environmental characteristics of the existing landscape. A variety of housing types accommodates the needs of varied age and income groups. The scope of the neighborhood encourages pedestrian activity. A Traditional Neighborhood promotes a long-term community that provides economic opportunity and social equity for residents. The following scenes are typical of areas targeted for acquisition: East Austin, Bull Creek, Onion Creek, Walnut Creek, Slaughter Creek and the East Austin floodplain.

#### Norwood House Update

A memo which read: The Norwood House has been ready to move since the end of last year. WCCT signed a contract with Central House Movers of Rockdale, Texas, on February 11, 1998. The movers are donating part of the total cost of the project. WCCT has submitted necessary Relocation Permit Application materials and obtained clearance from the City to move the house. WCCT held a meeting at the house on March 31st for all parties involved with the upcoming house move, to clarify all roles, responsibilities and lingering details. WCCT would like to have a media event and 'gathering' or celebration of some sort at the time of the move. The Board to be invited. The anticipated move has been delayed several times, reportedly due to the movers getting behind schedule during the winter and a sudden illness in the family of the owner of the moving company. The latest tentative move date is mid-May, which is almost upon us. The movers are supposed to give about a week's advance notice before the actual move. The next steps, according to the WCCT, after completion of the move will include protecting the house from the elements, replacement of brick on the exterior, and completion of a master restoration plan for the house and grounds. WCCT will be investigating grant funding sources for the master plan - was presented to each board member.

#### Summer Food Program Update

Jesus M. Olivares informed the board that May 22nd will be the last day that changes in food site locations can be made by AISD. A memo indicating the hot and cold food site locations will be prepared.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### Barton Springs Pool Cleaning Update by Randy Russell

Randy Russell, Division Manager of Athletics, informed the board the pool was not cleaned January through April 2nd because PARD has not yet received a 10A permit. On April 2nd a minor cleaning was done. The pool opened on April 16. There are 3 silt fences placed upstream to keep debris out of pool. The beach

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area is no longer cleaned. August will be the earliest time to get a 10A permit. People are not on the beach area because of fear of stepping on salamanders. There might be possible structural changes to the pool in order to get a 10A permit. Salamanders have been found upstream.

Balcones Canyonlands Preserve update by Juan Valera-Lema

Juan Valera-Lema, Division Manager of Natural Resources, informed the board the BCP Advisory Committee was to provide a vehicle for public input into questions surrounding public access to the BCP. Members serving on the committee are Sam Shephard, David Ambrust, Glen Allen, Johnny Vaugt, Joe Lucas, Jim McKinney, Hill Able, Melinda Taylor and Bryan Hale. Staff has been working on the management plans for the preserve areas, along with the County and United States Fish & Wildlife Service for several months. All three Tiers of the Site Management Plans have been given to USFWS for their review. After review the plans will be brought back to the parks board and the environmental board for consideration. There is still a need to purchase 7,000 acres.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Programs Committee: Proposed summer food sites are listed in the minutes from the meeting.

Land & Facilities Committee: Rosemary Castleberry appointed Mike Librik to this committee.

Navigation Committee: Will be discussing Lake Austin Marina issue.

Airport Advisory Group: meeting May 20th at 6:30 p.m. at annex.

**ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Aqua Fest will be scaled down this year.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.