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**Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes
June 23, 1998**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, June 23, 1998, at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present: Mike Librik, Mary Ruth Holder, Mary K. Isaacs, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres.

Staff members present: Jay Stone, Leon Barba, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Mary Ybarbo, Stuart Strong, Donna McKennis, Randy Scott, Annabeth Stims, Farhad Madani.

Prior to the meeting, Donna Bohls, PARD Administrative Specialist in the Planning Design and Construction Division, swore in Mike Librik, Rosemary Castleberry and Erma Linda Cruz-Torres on their reappointment to the board.

MEETING CALLED ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 9, 1998 were approved with a correction on page 4 to read an advisory board planning meeting (instead of conference) is scheduled.

Mary Ruth Holder was introduced as the newest Parks Board Member having been appointed by Council Member Spelman. Ms. Holder and Jeff Francell will serve on the Navigation Committee.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Frank C. Cooksey, 2208 Matthews Drive, attorney, approached the board and requested that a special sub committee be appointed to examine ways to restore amenities at Zilker Park and Barton Springs Pool.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Update on Barton Springs Road Near Zilker Park

This item was pulled from the agenda and will be reviewed at the next Land and Facilities Committee at noon on July 7, 1998 and will be considered at the meeting of July 14, 1998.

Presentation on the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail

Stuart Strong, Division Manager in the Planning, Design and Construction Division, informed the board the missing link on the Town Lake Trail is east of South Lakeshore Drive to just before the Austin American Statesman Building west of IH-35. A section of the land was left undeveloped because it is mostly cliffs and there wasn't bond money available to make improvements. Other sections were privately owned and not available for purchase. At one time the idea of a floating walk-way was discussed. The Department continues to wait for redevelopment in the area with the idea of completing the trail.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Consider a Resolution Regarding Life Guards, Summer Camp, Counselors and Playground Leaders.

Pam O'Conner, Chair of the Austin Aquatics Advisory Board, informed the board the City of Austin has not kept up with private industry when comparing life guard salaries. There is a need for more mature life

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guards and suggested the need for an indoor facility. The City too often will train life guards only to loose them to a higher paying employee. This year the aquatics program began with 200 unfilled positions.

The board requested the resolution be included in the minutes:

Resolution

Whereas, the Citizens of Austin enjoy safe, well maintained swimming pool facilities and quality recreational programs and facilities for Austin and surrounding communities.

Whereas, the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department hires over 1,000 seasonal employees each year to provide quality services and recreational programs,

Whereas, these employees are required to be certified in life guarding, first-aid, and CPR techniques, as well as going through intense training to work with individuals of all ages and abilities,

Whereas, the unemployment rate in Austin is 2.3%

Whereas, recruiting qualified applicants and being able to retain well trained employees is becoming more and more difficult year after year,

Whereas, the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department competes in the area of salaries with other industries such as private camps, pools and clubs; childcare programs; fast food chains; retail stores, etc,

Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Department's seasonal pay scales have not been updated in relation to the market in over two years.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Austin Parks and Recreation Board hereby recommends that the Austin City Council increase the salaries for Lifeguards, Playground Leaders and Camp and After School Program leaders to attract and maintain qualified individuals to provide a high level of quality, safe services to the citizens of Austin.

Mary K. Isaacs made a motion to recommend the resolution as it is written in the minutes. Carol Kim seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0 (Librik, Holder, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres)

Make a Recommendation on the Interlocal Agreement with Rollingwood for Wholesale Wastewater Services

Craig Bell, with the Water and Wastewater Utility, informed the board the Water and Wastewater Commission did not take action on this item at their last meeting. A memo was distributed showing how the Environmental Board (7-0-1) and Resource Management Commission (6-0) voted on this issue. A revised comparison of Options 3 and 4 were presented.

Elaine Carter made a motion to defer this decision until a later time. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote to defer was 8-0 (Librik, Holder, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

By consensus the board recommended this item go to the Land and Facilities Committee for consideration on July 7th at noon and be put on the agenda for the special called meeting that same day at 6:30 p.m.

Make a Recommendation on the Construction of Kirkpatrick Boat Dock at 1501 Manana Street, File No. SP-98-0241DS

And

Make a Recommendation on the Construction of Barnes Boat Dock at 1409 Weston Lane, File No. SP-97-0212D

Jeff Francell informed the board both of the above items have been seen before and sent back to the Navigation Committee and now both comply with all regulations and that staff and the committee recommends they be approved. This served as a recommendation. Mary Ruth Holder seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0 (Librik, Holder, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres)

Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding Water Quality and Detention Facility on the Hanks and Gardens of Bull Creek Area.

George Oswald from the Watershed Protection Department gave a brief presentation noting that this facility is proposed to be built on Balcones Canyonland Preserve (BCP) property. A small encroachment onto the BCP is necessary for flood protection for areas of Bull Creek. Staff recommends alternative #3 which would have the least impact to the preserve. PARD staff has requested that construction take place around the nesting period and not during it. Construction is expected to start in a year at a cost of \$700,000 for flood control and \$600,000 for water quality enhancement. There will be no impact on the Jollyville salamander.

Mary K. Isaacs made a motion that the board support alternative #3 with the provision that the maximum amount of care be taken, that construction be done at the time of year it would not be detrimental to the species being protected, and that special care be taken to minimize the physical impact on the land. Elaine Carter seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0 (Librik, Holder, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

Review and Discussion of the PARD Special Events Policy

Leon Barba, Operations Division Manager, informed the board he and his staff have been working for several months to finalize a draft copy of the Special Events Policy. In 1988 PARD staff met with neighborhood representatives, Parks Board Members and event promoters to draft a proposed policy. On December 7, 1989, a Town Lake Policy was presented to the City Council. Council did not adopt that policy. In July 1994, PARD established a cross functional team to develop a policy for all parkland. This included numerous meetings with sponsor organizations, neighborhood organizations, event promoters, event attendees and PARD staff. A public hearing was held May 23, 1995. Approval was given by the Parks Board on June 13, 1995. Presentation was given to Council on September 27, 1995. During November and December of 1997 five public hearings were held throughout the community to receive public comments on events held at Auditorium Shores, Pease Park, Zilker Park, Fiesta Gardens, Waterloo Park and Emma/Walter Long Parks. The issues that were considered included noise levels, traffic, parking/Auditorium use, duration of events, number of event days per year, availability, size of park, capacity of attendees and security. Safety issues included appropriate fencing, security, alcohol consumption. At a recently held Special Events Policy meeting the following city departments were asked for input: Emergency Medical Services, Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, Park Police, Building Inspections and PARD staff. It is now time to set a public hearing, post notices about the hearing and mail notices to all concerned. A finalized draft copy of the policy will be available within a week.

Set a Final Public Hearing Date on the Special Events Policy

Jeff Francell made a motion to set a public hearing for the Special Events Policy on Tuesday, July 7, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. Mary K. Isaacs seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0 (Librik, Holder, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

**Consider a Resolution to Council Regarding Destination Parks and Greenways
Consider a Resolution Supporting the Parks and Recreation Bond Package**

On the projects list from the Citizens Bonds Advisory Committee Mr. Francell requested that the monies allocated for the South Austin Tennis Center/Caswell Tennis be listed as originating from public input and not the Parks Board.

Jeff Francell made a motion the Board approve both resolutions to Council about the Citizens Bond Committee and parks bonds with the clarification on the Caswell Tennis Center and South Austin Tennis Center figure and originator. Elaine Carter seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0 (Librik, Holder, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres)

Appoint Three Board Members to the Arts Commission Appeals Panel

Elaine Carter, Mary Ruth Holder, and Mary K. Isaacs were appointed with Rosemary Castleberry serving as an alternate.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee meets 3rd Monday of each month
Municipal Airport Advisory Group needs to have another board member appointed.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (not for action)

Members are invited to review draft copy of new budget this coming Friday.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.