

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

**Parks and Recreation Board Minutes  
July 7, 1998**

A special called meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, July 7, 1998, at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present: Mike Librik, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Jay Stone, Stuart Strong, Donna McKennis, Tracey Ulrich, Warren Struss, Leon Barba, Jim Valadez, Mary Ybarbo.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With a request that a copy of the resolution regarding Destination Parks and Greenways and the resolution supporting the Parks and Recreation Bond Package be attached to the minutes, the minutes of June 23, 1998, were approved.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

None

**ITEMS FOR ACTION**

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

Elaine Carter informed the board that Craig Bell, with the Water and Wastewater Department, attended an earlier meeting of the Land and Facilities Committee wherein Stuart Strong, Division Manager for Planning and Design, gave a presentation on the effect this agreement would have on parkland using options 3 and 4. The committee made a recommendation to not approve the interlocal agreement with Rollingwood for wholesale wastewater services. With this serving as a recommendation, Mike Librik seconded. The vote to not approve was 6-0 (Librik, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. and a public hearing on the Special Events Policy was called to order.

Parks and Recreation Board  
Minutes of Public Hearing, Tuesday, July 7, 1998  
200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78704

Leon Barba, Division Manager for Operations, gave a short presentation on the Special Events Policy. He informed the board the Parks and Recreation Department developed the policy to better define the guidelines for departmental approval of Special Events, or, events that expected attendance over 500. It is PARC's intent to develop a policy that addresses specific issues, yet provides a blanket policy that will address all venues. A chronology of the policy began in 1988 with staff, neighborhood representatives, board members, and event promoters meeting to draft a proposed policy. On December 7, 1989 the policy was presented to City Council. Council did not adopt the policy. In July 1994 the department established a

cross functional team to develop a policy for all parkland. A public hearing was held May 23, 1995. It was approved by the Parks Board on June 13, 1995. It was again presented to Council on September 27, 1995 and again was not adopted by Council. Staff was instructed to implement the policy administratively. During October –December 1997, over 200 letters were sent to neighborhood organizations, event promoters and interested citizens seeking input. Five public hearings were held during this time. On June 23, 1998 there was a presentation to the Parks Board. Today will be another public hearing. A request was made to review the venues for each park: Auditorium Shores (Motorola Marathon, Capital 10,000, Reggae Concerts, March of Dimes, Roadstar Productions, Mexican Consulate, Rib Tickling Affair, July 4th Fireworks), Zilker Park (KHFI), Fiesta Gardens (Cinco de Mayo, Dies y Seis, Cristo Rey Church); Waterloo Park (Earth Day, Canterbury Faire, Aids Walk, Eggstravaganza, Clarksville Jazz); Emma Long Park (Water Cup Ski).

George Henderson, 2303 Sunny Scope, Austin (23), with the West Austin Youth Association inquired about the status of the soccer associations with regard to the policy. Would soccer have to go through some process to get an annual event status? Grass permits are a concern because it refers to loading and unloading and there are concessionaires who park vehicles on the grass. Policy doesn't mention if a damage deposit is refundable. Soccer associations do have available services for an emergency situation.

Jack Pope, 2803 Stratford Drive, Austin, a neighbor to Zilker Park, informed the board they were the gatekeepers for the citizens and friends of Austin and its parks and the Parks Department should obey a judgment rendered in the 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court that forbids the leasing of any portion of Zilker Park. Nothing should be done in any park without the prior approval of the Parks Board. Billie Passmore asked that her three minutes be given to Mr. Pope so he could finish his remarks.

Art Brown, 1029 Reinli Street, Administrator for Capitol Area Youth Soccer Association (CAYSA), requested that soccer be exempted from the special events status. This would affect the way the association does business.

Phil Friday, 700 San Antonio Street, a board member of the Greater Austin Soccer Coalition, informed the board that he has been told that some consideration is presently being given to the exempt status for soccer tournaments. These tournaments seldom attract 500 people and there are no issues with sound, alcohol, security, electricity, fireworks or fencing.

Charles Wells, 11224 South Bay, Austin (39) owner of G & M Catering requested that more events be allowed on Auditorium Shores. He could provide for concerts and would comply with all requirements.

Stacy Suits, Chair of the University of Texas YMCA, noted that Rosewood Park is not included in the policy and asked what criteria was used to chose certain parks. Mr. Suits stated that Pease Park is appropriate for Eeyore's Birthday Party and will continue to work with staff and the neighborhood to continue a long-going association. Mr. Suits stated other concerns about traffic plans being submitted by event sponsors, street closures within neighborhoods, the wording on fencing and grass permits.

Tom Larkin, Manager of Texas Special, Inc. (the Zilker train concession) expressed concern that major events requires fencing along the railroad tracks within arms reach of train passengers. The fence was blacked out which prevented passengers from having a view of the park. For 10 days at last year's summer event he lost money. Mr. Larkin proposed relocating the fence to the opposite side of the road that goes around the soccer fields. This would allow emergency vehicles full access to the event. Cars parking on the railroad tracks have been a problem in the past but thanks to the help from Park Police this has not been a problem this year.

Norman Kieke, Executive Director of United Cerebral Palsy Association, informed the board that Spamorama is a major fund raiser for UCPA and requested that some of the days reserved for Aqua Fest be given to Spamorama. There are 74 spam cook-offs across the country but Austin is the most well known and popular. Two years ago Spamorama joined with the American Statesman's Capitol 10,000 race on



Auditorium Shores and had a successful fund raiser. The sponsors would like to stay on Auditorium Shores.

Gail Armstrong, Vice-President of Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association, read the following resolution which has been approved by the neighborhood association: Whereas the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, with input from neighborhoods, promoters, the music industry, produced a policy for the regulation of special events in our public parks, Whereas the Austin Parks Board unanimously recommended that policy to the Austin City Council in June of 1995, Whereas the Austin City Council choose not to officially adopt the policy at that time, Be It Resolved that the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association strongly urges the Austin City Council to make this policy official, maintaining the event limits and reduction goals stated in the original policy as they relate to Auditorium Shores. Be it further resolved that the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association recommends adjustment to the method of event selection weighted in favor of local events and allowing for events to alternate or be selected by lottery thereby allowing an opportunity for new events. This resolution passed by a unanimous vote at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association.

David Arnsberger, Potentate of Potted Park, informed the board that Spamorama just celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year and while they enjoyed being associated with the American Statesmen Capital 10,000 for the last two years, they have been told for the coming year, they will not be using the same days as the 10,000. Staff informed him that there were no longer any days available on Auditorium Shores. With the loss of Aqua Fest Mr. Arnsberger requested that consideration be given to keep Spamorama on Auditorium Shores. They are seeking an endorsement from the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association.

Jeff Jack, President of Austin Neighborhoods Council, made several points which included the selection of events (venues) that should be made with community input; there should not be any major events that are not supported by the community; in the Special Events Policy lay out process for selecting events; there are eight different time frames listed in the policy for notification and this causes confusion; citizens should be able to use any park after any event; the noise ordinance is not enforceable; where noise levels are monitored should be listed in the policy, recycling should be mandatory and each event should have a report card for evaluating the event.

Bill Forest, President of South Texas Youth Soccer Association, requested that the soccer associations not be included in the Special Events Policy but supports efforts to standardize policy.

Robert Donley, President of East Town Lake Neighborhood Association and El Concilio, informed the board that Fiesta Gardens is in his neighborhood and events held there are noisy; some events last 5-6 days causing traffic problems. Size of events are too big and don't have good neighborhood quality. 15,000-plus people trampling through neighborhood at times. Carnivals should not be allowed. Traffic plans should be given 60 days in advance.

Cathy Norman, President of University Area Partners, had general comments regarding the wording of the Special Events Policy especially when indicating limited and unlimited events.

Mike McHone, Vice President of University Area Partners, understands the need for the Special Events Policy and wanted to point out some needs for commercial events and community development events. There was no permit issued for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration for the Rosedale Neighborhood held in Ramsey Park which might have had 100 people or 500 or 1,000. Hyde Park Neighborhood Association uses Shipe Park for the tour of homes and many people attend. There is a need to define commercial events and community development events.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:05 p.m.

No further business was discussed.