

DRAFT

Parks and Recreation Board Minutes
October 27, 1998

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department was held on Tuesday, October 27, 1998, at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present: Mike Librik, Mary Ruth Holder, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Rocky Medrano, Vice Chair, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Stuart Strong, Jay Stone, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Mary Ybarbo.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 13, 1998 were approved.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Annual Concession Report by Jay Stone

Jay Stone, Finance Manager, informed the board that PARD is considering not renewing the Rowing and the Lone Star Riverboat Concessions. Both concessionaires are not currently under contract, but running their concessions on a month to month basis. Both concessions have filed bid protests. There will be a meeting of the protesters, PARD staff and purchasing staff to make a final decision regarding their status. The Environmental Board would like to be included in next year's annual concession report. In the meantime, the Barton Springs Food & Beverage concession has been extended for 5 years as well as the Butler Pitch & Putt concession.

Presentation by Public Works on Current Status of Barton Spings Road Planning

Thomas Kennerly, P.E. with the Transportation Division of Public Works gave a brief up date on the roundabout for Barton Springs Road. The project is located at Stratford Drive and Barton Springs Road and has been on hold since August 11, 1998. Although funds are limited and do not include a sidewalk or pedestrian light, the project will be presented to Council for consideration within the next two weeks.

Presentation on Lift Stations on Parkland by Water and Wastewater Department

Craig Bell and Paul Shropshire with the Water and Wastewater Utility appeared before the board to answer questions that were brought up from the last board meeting where there was concern about the lift station in Springfield Park. While there are 100 lift stations in the Austin system only 6 are in or near parkland. In addition to Springfield Park, these include lift stations at Emma Long Park, Walsh Tract, Dry Creek, Montopolis, Zilker Pool and Taylor Slough. The board was given assurance that these stations are in good shape mechanically and functioning correctly.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding the Rowing Concession and the River Boat Concession

This item was pulled until further notice.

Make a Recommendation on the Design Charette for Barton Springs Road

After general discussion regarding the contra-flow bicycle lane in the Barton Springs Road improvement plans and possibly having concerns about liability, Rocky Medrano made a motion to let the previous motion opposing the roundabout stand. Jeff Francell seconded (The previous motion from the August 11, 1998, meeting reads 'A recommendation that Council consider a master plan for transportation plans on Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park that would address bicycle and pedestrian issues prior to construction and consideration of a roundabout at Stratford Drive') The vote in favor was 6-0-1 (Holder, Carter, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres) (Librik)

Send a Resolution to Council in Favor of the Bond Election

Board members reviewed the resolution prepared by staff. Rosemary Castleberry read the resolution into the minutes:

WHEREAS, the citizens of Austin pride themselves as having one of the top 50 largest park systems in the nation;

WHEREAS, historically the voters of Austin have consistently approved general obligation bonds for parkland acquisitions and improvements;

WHEREAS, the rapid growth of the City necessitates the need to prepare and plan for future park needs;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the current park system be maintained for current and future generations;

WHEREAS, there is ever increasing demand on current parks and facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Austin Parks and Recreation Board urges the voters of Austin to support the Parks and Recreation bond propositions, and all the propositions on the November 3, 1998, City of Austin Bond Ballot.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Austin Parks and Recreation Board recommend the City Council and the City Manager fund \$10,163,000 in cash to implement the projects approved by the Bond Advisory Committee.

After discussion, Rocky Medrano made a motion to accept the resolution as written. Elaine Carter seconded. The vote in favor was 7-1-0 (Holder, Carter, Castleberry, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres) (Librik)

Make a Recommendation to Council on the Republic Square Set Back Variance Request from Bury & Pittman.

Paul Bury approached the board and informed them that he is building two buildings around the Republic Square Park. One on the northwest corner and one directly west. There is a little known ordinance in the city that requires a 60' easement surrounding the property. Small portions on both buildings encroach on that easement. A request has been made that the board support a variance so that the project can be continued. Mary Ruth Holder informed the board there was no recommendation from the Land and Facilities Committee for lack of a consensus. General discussion among members included the need to have rules/ordinances and why the need to break the intent and times have changed and the need for downtown growth. Jeff Francell made a motion that the parks board make a recommendation to the Board of Adjustment to approve the set back for the proposed buildings to encourage development downtown, create open space and provide a good partnership for the Republic Square Park. Rocky Medrano seconded. The vote in favor was 6-1-0 (Holder, Carter, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres) (Librik)

Elaine Carter left at 7:55 p.m.

Make a Recommendation Regarding Mayfield Sculpture Donation

Mary Ruth Holder informed the members that Land and Facilities Committee did not make a recommendation on this item but committee felt the sculpture is not suitable for Mayfield. Mayfield has its own history and the sculpture is not compatible with the park. Perhaps another park would be more appropriate. Mike Librik made a recommendation that the artist work with staff to consider another location and find the proper channels to make a donation. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote in favor was 6-0-0 (Librik, Holder, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Bond Oversight Committee has been created to review the implementation of the City Manager's plans relating to the issuance of bonds for those projects approved by the voters of the City at the bond election to be held on November 3, 1998 and the funding of those projects recommended by the committee which the City Council has chosen to fund with cash under City Council Resolution 90806-20. Rosemary Castleberry has been appointed to represent the Parks Board.

The Adopt-a-Park first annual appreciation luncheon for volunteers will be held tomorrow. Rosemary Castleberry and Jeff Francell will attend.

The board retreat is scheduled for November 21, 1998, at the South Austin Senior Center. Committee reports will be due at that time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee will begin meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Land and Facilities Committee will recommend a resolution regarding the Taylor Slough and an upcoming agenda item will be the naming of a gymnasium in a PARD recreation center.

Navigation Committee distributed a letter received from Pat Murfin requesting no additional boat dock construction on Lake Austin until a safety study can be done.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (not for action)

There is a boxing tournament at Montopolis next weekend.

Bea Lucio will be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame. Rocky Medrano nominated Ms. Lucio.

There is a Halloween bike parade on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in downtown Austin.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

DRAFT