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Parks and Recreation Board Minutes
February 23, 1999

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department was held on Tuesday, February 23, 1999 at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present: Mike Librik, Mary Ruth Holder, Elaine Carter, Rosemary Castleberry, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Jay Stone, Mary Ybarbo, Stuart Strong, Don Goerner, Stacey Talbert-Reed, Rick Ramirez.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With one typographical correction, the minutes of February 9, 1999 were approved.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Susanne Bungum, 2115 Barton Hill Drive, presented a brief update on the diving pool project which is now planned to be located in the Colorado River Park. The services of two architects has been offered and fund-raising has begun.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Approve a Resolution Regarding the Cleaning of Barton Springs Pool.

Elaine Carter asked board members if there were any changes or considerations to the pool cleaning resolution, which was presented at the last meeting. Ms. Carter made a motion that the board send the resolution to Council for consideration. Mike Librik seconded. The resolution deals only with the cleaning of the pool and not the underwater sidewalk modification that was previously mentioned. Jesus Olivares informed the board that PARD is recommending that the beach area be lowered to a depth of 7 to 8 feet. Lowering the beach will satisfy US Fish and Wildlife's requirements regarding the safety of salamanders. To handle safety concerns more lifeguards will be scheduled to work and improvements to the pool will be done in-house. The vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0 (Librik, Holder, Carter, Francell, Kim)

Make a Recommendation Regarding a License Agreement for Glenlake Water Supply Improvements in Emma Long Metropolitan Park

Stuart Strong, Division Manager of Planning and Design, informed the board the Glenlake Water Supply Corporation has two intake pipes in the lake and needs a third intake pipe because home sales have created a need for additional water. The current License Agreement does not provide for expansion of the intake structure so a request has been received for a revised license Agreement. The 12" steel pipe would be mounted on 30" high concrete supports and extend into the lake a depth of approximately 18' under

water. The steel pipes contain the submerged pumps. Water would be transported up the cliff in a new 6" pipe to a treatment station on top of the bluff. Parkland is only 50' wide at the intake location. The piping and treatment station is on private land and is not a part of the License Agreement. The addition of a third intake pipe will not materially impact the park. After approval of the License Agreement, the construction must be reviewed and approved separately by the Parks Board as a navigation issue. Elaine Carter informed the board that Land and Facilities made a recommendation to approve this project. With this serving as a motion, Mary Ruth Holder seconded. The vote in favor was 4-0-1 (Holder, Carter, Francell, Kim) (Librik)

Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding the Town Lake Rowing Concession

Jay Stone, Financial Manager, informed the board the Department has been working to get the contract for the rowing concession on a regular contract and not a month to month contract. This concession was out for bid several months ago, a public hearing was held and recently a supplemental to the original bid was executed with the two bidders. These bidders are The Rowing Dock and L'Aviron. L'Aviron is the current concessionaire. Two PARD staff and Rosemary Castleberry served on the evaluating committee with assistance from the purchasing department. Several points that were considered included accessibility for the public, environmental impact on the parkland, types of boats to be used, instructional and recreational activities to be provided, instructor training in CPR and certifications, access for the disabled, revenue to the city, etc. Mr. Stone informed the board that staff recommends The Rowing Dock as the new concessionaire. Staff felt this bidder offered more recreational activities for the public, was more family oriented and that people could use the facility the same day.

At this time people who had signed up to speak approached the board.

Sam Rivers, 1607 Rockmoor, informed the board he had 14 years experience with rowing. L'Aviron has taught 6,000 people this skill and suggested an amendment to the Town Lake Corridor Study be done with the idea of adding another boat concession on the lake.

Kristin Knifton, 4010 Ramsey Avenue, informed the board that she and her husband are partners with the present concessionaire and that L'Aviron had sponsored her husband when he was in training. Her role is to help with management of the business and to increase youth involvement in rowing. Blind students have been taught to row.

Matt Knifton, 4010 Ramsey Avenue, informed the board he is the program director for L'Aviron. He was the mens varsity crew captain while at the University of Texas and has had lots of rowing experience. He is working with the Austin Rowing Club to promote community out-reach programs for kids at risk. Free coaching and free use of equipment is being offered.

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Ryan P. Maynard, 2003 Ford B, informed the board he is an instructor at L'Aviron and was speaking on behalf of the staff and coaches that there is new excitement under the new leadership and that a diverse group of people use this facility.

Bill Gordon informed the board he and his family are six year members at L'Aviron and that much progress has been made in the last 18 months. A junior rowing club has been formed. He is disappointed that no one sought club members advice when this item came up for consideration.

Robert Brenig, 1411 W. 29th Street, informed the board he is a new member of L'Aviron who uses the club after work and enjoys the wonderful spirit of the club members.

Mike Librik made a motion to retain the current concessionaire.
There was no second.

Elaine Carter made a motion to accept staff's recommendation. Jeff Francell seconded.

There was general discussion among board members that the concession should be open to everyone. Concern was expressed that board members had not seen figures. The current management has built up a strong clientele. Growth would be an issue as the proposed concessionaire would be a bigger club. A suggestion to amend the Town Lake Study would be a huge undertaking and take a long time. A typical concession has a five-year renewable contract. All concessions on parkland should be available to all citizens.

The vote in favor was 4-1-0 (Holder, Carter, Francell, Kim) (Librik).

The following is a list of people who attended the meeting to show support for L'Aviron: Cecilia Cervantez, Damon Permezel, Salwa Vzri, Clare Gordon, Ronan O'Connal, Gwen Lewis, Liz Hughes, Libby Farms, Luisa Silva, Fawn Legg, John Hickson, Grace Farns, Dina Uzri, Jason Savage, Peter Eastwood, Todd Boerlez

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A presentation was given at last week's Council work session on the adjusted salaries for aquatic employees. \$417,000 has been allotted for this adjustment. The department will be recognized at the Texas Parks and Recreation Society State Conference banquet in Waco next month for the 1999 Excellence in Aquatics Award. In addition PARD is receiving the Lone Star Programming Award for the Roving Leader Program and the Arts and Humanities Award for the MAP Music-Art-Performance Program. PARD will also accept the Gold Medal Award given to Parks and Recreation Departments who exhibit excellence in the field of Recreation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land and Facilities: There will be a review of all board minutes regarding the Shoal Creek Greenway. Board members will take a field trip to observe the pipeline issue at 3rd

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Street. Parking on grass and an update of Proposition 2 will be on the next Land & Facilities agenda.

Navigation Committee: A rough draft of a Lake Austin study is being developed.

Airport Advisory Group: There has been on going discussion of the management of pocket parks within the area. PARD is willing to help develop these parks when funds are available. The swim facility probably won't be feasible.

Downtown Commission will meet the first Wednesday of March.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (not for action)

Rosemary Castleberry has been appointed Chair of the Citizen Bond Oversight Committee.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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