

## **Parks and Recreation Board Minutes**

March 23, 1999

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

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Mary Ybarbo, Channy Soeur, and Kim Jamail Mitchell.

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With one correction under Navigation Committee Reports. Sentence should read, "A rough draft of a *resolution* regarding Town Lake is being studied". (*not study*)

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

None

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Randy Storm representing the Zilker Park Conservancy (ZPC) addressed the Board. He stated that a first meeting of the Conservancy was held May 5, 1998 at which there were seventy individuals invited. From that first meeting a Steering Committee was formed to help determine what its role would be. It was determined that their role would be to restore, maintain and enhance Zilker Park. With that as their mission they began interacting with the Parks and Recreation Department employees to determine what items they would like to see changed, what needs enhancement and what projects cannot be done due to lack of resources. Copies were distributed of focus projects that have been identified by PARD staff. The list includes, fixing the stairs at Lou Neff Point close to gazebo by replacing railroad ties with concrete or stone for a safer stairway and replacing the retaining walls. Plans are underway to do a survey and engineers drawing. It has been determined that there is no need for additional ADA requirements, as there are already two access points to the gazebo. Other projects mentioned were restoring Elisa Springs, fixing the gold fishponds, adding lighting to provide safer access there, entry to Zilker Park burning flames, repair removal of dead brush, and add vegetation and flowers at Lou Neff Point. Mary Ruth Holder mentioned a group named Capital Area Naturalists that supports restoration of vegetation projects. She will pass on the contact name and phone number to Randy Storm. Randy Storm stated that surveys will be done, estimates for the costs of projects completed and fund raising efforts will be made. Jesus Olivares said that the project will go before Land and Facilities and that the department will be working together with the Conservancy to assist them. Thanks to ZPC for their interest in our Parks system. An engineering firm Bury and Pitman has been recruited to do work pro-bono.

## **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

### Approve a Resolution Recommending a usage and safety study of Lake Austin, Town Lake and Lake Walter E. Long

Mary Ruth Holder presented a draft of a resolution. The resolution addresses certain issues associated with lakes. They include safety issues, construction of new boat docks, types of boats, and approval new boat dock construction. The current tool for accessing boat dock applications the Land and Development code. Resolution calls for a study of the lakes, citizen and lake users surveys, traffic patterns, safety issues, identify types of boats, and information regarding water and noise pollution surveys. Randy, Jeff, Mary Ruth and Rosemary have been working together. Mary Ruth would like to add air quality to forth paragraph. Copies were distributed of the rough draft for discussion with Navigation Committee and staff. Elaine Carter suggested that the public meetings for input be held after data has been collected. The board was in agreement. Carol Kim recommended resolution as amended and send forward to the City Council. with a cover letter to accompany it. Jeff seconded. The vote in favor was 5-0-0 (ELCT, CK, JF, EC,MRH)

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Introduction of new staff member, Channy Souer, who comes to us from the Solid Waste Services Department, he is an Engineer and will be working with Planning and Design, Forestry and the Forestry Board.

Information in packet for Given's 20<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Invitation to Givens reception on March 30 and to the Montopolis Sports Plex dedication on Saturday, March 27. This sports plex is a part of the 1992 bond election. As funds become available for the Colorado River Park we will be completing the entire complex. Jesus mentioned the work being done on our new business plans for the Department that will be shared when completed. A miniature process will be done for the Parks Board to further align our objectives. The impact in various parks from high attendance, event usage was discussed and concerns raised regarding limiting usage to protect the parks.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Programs: Attached to the agenda was information regarding the Roving Leader Program and its awards. Mr. Olivares added that the Roving Leader program did a presentation in Houston for the HUD program. The program is being highlighted in the NRPA National magazine. On April 12, 1999 the Roving Leader Program will be receiving the Travis County Collaboration Award. Parks Board members are invited to attend.

Land and Facilities: March 16 meeting was held, discussions regarding Land Fill remediation with City coordinating projects, having a manifesto on dumps, no time table at this point contingent on projects and need. Talked about 1<sup>st</sup> street extension right of away, Shoal Creek Action Plan discussed nothing brought forth for Shoal Creek Master Plan at this time, toured area, and invited Ted Siff back for more information. Mike had shared good ideas regarding traffic control on Barton Springs Road however need to discuss with someone from Road and Transportation to give more information.

A stakeholders meeting was announced for tomorrow, March 24, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. concerning 3<sup>rd</sup> Street issues at One Texas Center.

Navigation: Reported earlier in session

Airport: No report

Downtown Commission: Two meetings took place to discuss the Down Town Design Guidelines and the Downtown Report copies available, no major changes in them.

#### **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Erma Linda Cruz Torres r is still rehabilitating at home. Request to resume receiving updates on items going before Council. Rosemary and Jesus reported that Waco trip report was good.

March 25 public hearing about 6:30 p.m. concerning the Computer Sciences Corporation downtown proposal, call city clerks office for place.

Mary Ruth attended Town Lake Park Meeting focus on architects and landscape engineers presenting general ideas what types of things they would like to see.

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.