

DRAFT

**Parks Board Meeting
May 11, 1999
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department was held on Tuesday, May 11, 1999, at 200 South Lamar Blvd.

Board Members Present: Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Carol Kim, Jeff Francell, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Mary Ruth Holder and Mike Librik.

Staff Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kim Mitchell, Stuart Strong, James Fisher, Warren Struss and Donna McKennis.

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair

The minutes were approved with the following corrections: Board Member Ricardo (Rocky) Medrano was in attendance at the last meeting; he arrived late. The boat dock issue under items for action - the vote was 4-2-1, with Mike Librik and Elaine Carter voting no and Rosemary Castleberry abstaining. Mary Ruth Holder moved the motion on both items, not Rosemary. On the first page, Elaine Carter made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, not Rosemary Castleberry. Elaine Carter made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27th meeting with corrections. Mary Ruth Holder seconded. The vote in favor was 6-0 (Librik, Holder, Carter, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres)

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Gerard Kinney and Mary Boyd, whose contract is with HDR Engineering, the prime consultant for the Lamar Bridge Pedestrian Improvement Project, and Kalpana Sutaria with the Public Works and Transportation Department, gave an update on the Town Lake pedestrian bridge design. An architectural model was presented, showing the overall concept. This bridge will connect the north and south shores of Town Lake, connecting the downtown area with South Austin. The drawings presented showed how this bridge will connect Fifth Street, with Lee Barton Drive and Lamar for bicyclists and for commuting pedestrians. And connect the hike and bike trail, south shore and north shore, for recreational users. Mr. Kinney spoke about the design, which is also planned, for a helix or circles to be built which allows bicyclists the shortest and slightest slope from the bridge down to the trail. Ms. Sutaria, the Project Manager reported that the money for this project is coming from C.I.P. funds and a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). The hike and bike trail is to be re-routed closer to the water; it will converge with the wheelchair and bicycle access, which will lead to an observation deck. The center of the bridge is a total of eighteen feet wide, with two, four ½ foot lanes for fast traffic and two four ½ foot lanes on each side for pedestrians. There are plans for park like plazas to be placed on the bridge, consisting of benches, water, signs kiosk, and public art. An irrigation system is to be installed to bring water up on the bridge for vegetation and trees to be planted. There will be a parking area on the south shore. – coordination of the Town Lake Plan. Jesus M. Olivares, Director with the Parks and Recreation Department asked what was proposed to put the vegetation in. Mr. Kinney stated that the trees will be planted in about three ½ feet of vertical soil and lining the planters with water proof membrane to drain straight through the bridge.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Recommendation to the Director regarding the Steam Train Ticket Building at Brush Square

This item went before the Land and Facilities Committee. Elaine Carter reported that there was discussion of this request and basically no objection to the building, but, to be sure that it stayed in that nature of its

proposal, as authentic. Elaine Carter made a motion that the Parks Board approves the request for the temporary building at Brush Square and Mary Ruth Holder seconded that the request be approved with the stipulation that they stay true to the architect's design. The motion carried, the vote was in favor 6-0 (Librik, Holder, Carter, Francell, Kim and Cruz-Torres)

Recommendation to the Director regarding alcohol ban on Boggy Creek Greenbelt.

Warren Struss, Park Police Administrator gave a brief overview regarding this item. Mr. Struss reported that he has given presentations to the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex, Rosewood Advisory Board and Land and Facilities Committee, all were in support of banning alcohol. A thirty-day public hearing was held, one phone call to the director's office was reported in support of banning alcohol on the Boggy Creek Greenbelt. Mr. Struss displayed a drawing that showed the portions of the Greenbelt that are above and below the part of the Boggy Creek Greenbelt, and are currently alcohol prohibited. Only this portion close to the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex is where people are currently allowed to drink alcohol. Mr. Struss noted that the public would be educated for a week or two, before Officers begin issuing citations. Jeff Francell made a motion to make recommendation to the Director that no alcohol be allowed on the total of Boggy Creek Green Belt. Elaine Carter seconded. The vote was in favor 6-0 (Librik, Holder, Carter, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres)

DIRECTORS REPORT

Jesus M. Olivares reported of a letter received from Ms. Stephanie Pena for an investigation of the Boggy Creek Greenbelt behind the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex and the Holmes Court area could be lighted. The Department responded and has made contact with the Austin Energy Department to see what the feasibility would be to light this pathway.

Norwood House – a letter was passed out to Board Members that was received from Bea Fincher.

Barton Springs construction - the ADA ramp has been poured, the new beach area has been laid in the deep end. It was discovered that the by pass close to the diving well is not low enough, and will have to do some engineering to connect the two by passes straight across to lower the area. Two rain days were received. Additional work will be done later.

The Neighborhood Teen Program end of the year banquet will be held at Montopolis Recreation Center at 6:00 p.m. this Friday, May 14, 1999. This program was known as the Non Traditional Program.

At this time a thirty-second public service announcement was watched, this tape was donated to the Parks and Recreation Department. And, the tape, which was the last requirement to be filled to be a finalist for Gold Medal Award, was reviewed. There are three other cities competing for this award, the final award will be in given in Nashville, Tennessee in early October.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee: Reported that the committee meets next Tuesday at Noon.

Land and Facilities Committee: Nothing at this time.

Navigation Committee: Elaine Carter attended the review of the paddleboat concession. The committee did not meet on the tenth but will have a presentation by the two proposers, will keep updated.

Municipal Airport Advisory Board Committee: Reported that the consultant has not delivered final report.

Downtown Commission: Have not met since last report.

There was brief discussion on the rowing concession; the Board will be kept updated.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

A copy of the draft resolution regarding Park Police was handed out. It was decided to wait until the study (of consolidating Park Police and APD) is complete before finalizing this resolution. Rosemary noted that currently there is a vacancy on the Parks Board.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.