

**Parks and Recreation Department
Parks Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 1999**

DRAFT

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on September 14, 1999, at the Dove Springs Recreation Center at 5801 Ainez Drive.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Ricardo (Rocky) Medrano, Vice Chair, Carol Kim, Mary Ruth Holder, Mike Librik, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres and Jeff Francell

Staff Members Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Randy Scott, Juan Valera-Lema, Lee Stone, Sarah Campbell and Donna McKennis.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Ruth Holder made a motion to approve the minutes from August 24, 1999, meeting, with a request from Board Member Librik on clarification needed regarding discussion of agenda item number D.2, the Byrd Boat dock. Note: The Byrd boat dock is a forty year old four slip, to be re-modeled to a two slip. The Navigation Board approved the variance (slightly exceeds the 20% rule). Mike Librik seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2. Downtown Austin Alliance – Sarah Campbell with the Planning and Design Division of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) introduced Bobbie Barker, head of the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) task force. DAA is working for improvements to three of the downtown parks, Old Bakery, Wooldridge Square and Brush Square. Ms. Barker gave thanks to the PARC staff for their tremendous support and gave a brief history of this project. About two years ago an assessment was done on the four historic parks, with property owners and stakeholders being involved. Since that time improvements have been made and now, it is time for planning the next stage. Some draft plans were presented; the first draft shown was of Wooldridge Square. It was decided by the DAA Committee that Wooldridge needs to be more accommodating to people and more attractive for the people downtown. It was recommended to possibly re-create/construct a water fountain and install more lighting through the walkway. The next draft plan was Brush Square. Primarily one of the recommended changes to Brush Square would be fencing, more planting, eliminating one parking lot and adding more green space and a gazebo. The last draft plan was of the Old Bakery. They are interested in placing some period type billboard size advertising on the south wall, add more lighting, benches and planters. Also, it was recommended to build some type of gazebo for shade with tables and chairs.

The Parks Board asked to be kept informed as plans become more solidified.

1. Presentation on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) by Dr. Juan Valera Lema, Division Manager of the Natural Resources Division of the Parks and Recreation Department. This presentation was made to the BCP Committee one month ago to apprise the Committee of the budget. The Natural Resources Division received about \$72,000 additional funding for the BCP. Also received increased funding for the SPLASH! exhibit. Attached you will find the BCP presentation by Dr. Valera and Lee Stone.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Recommend Approval of Construction of Stone Boat dock at 1802 Lakeshore Drive, File No. SP-99-0247DS. Carol Kim stated that this boat dock was originally two slips and exceeded the 20% rule. The owner came back to the Navigation Committee with a one slip boat dock that still slightly exceeded the 20% rule. Carol Kim made a motion that the Parks Board grant the variance and approve the boat dock. Mary Ruth Holder seconded. The motion passed 5-1-0. (Librik)

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares announced that the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) budget was approved today. PARD was able to obtain additional funding for the Roving Leader program for conversion of eight temporary positions to permanent and an expansion of the program. Also, received monies to run a full program at the Barbara Jordan Elementary. The Department received additional funding for SPLASH! and BCP. There was discussion regarding the annual retreat that is tentatively scheduled for a Saturday in November. A Diez y Seis festival will be held at the Plaza Saltillo from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. on September 15, 1999. And, a Town Hall meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 22, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. at the PARC Main Office, Board Room.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee – no report at this time.

Land and Facilities Committee – met to discuss the Town Lake Park, there was a presentation.

Navigation Committee – in the process of developing some type of policy regarding the 20% variance, to develop guidelines for granting.

Downtown Commission – Downtown report was handed out.

Republic Square Advisory Committee – meeting every Wednesday afternoon at 12:00 Noon. Jeff Francell would like to be kept advised of meeting dates.

H. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.