

Parks and Recreation Board Minutes
October 12, 1999
Regular Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, October 12, 1999, in the Board Room of the Parks and Recreation Department located at 200 South Lamar Boulevard.

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

Staff Members Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Butch Smith, Randy Scott, Sarah Campbell, Maria Cicciarelli 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, from the September 28, 1999, meeting

Mary Ruth Holder had a change for item 4., on page two, the second paragraph that begins Jeff Jack. Add to the end of this item, the Parks Board also invited Mr. Suttle to raise additional comments in response to Mr. Jack's comments. Elaine Carter made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mary Ruth Holder seconded. The vote was in favor 6-0-0.

C. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

All citizens' communication was regarding E. item 1., please see below.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Pioneer Development Video – this item was moved to be shown during the Director's Report (item F.)

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make Recommendation to City Council regarding the proposed development in the Town Lake Overlay District.
 - Jean Mather – Spoke regarding the proposed development at 200 S. Congress. Ms. Mather urged the Board to recommend either scaling down or denial of this proposal. Feels that the relationship of this project to the park has been ignored thus far.
 - Will Bozeman, President of the Austin Neighborhood Council – spoke regarding the Town Lake Corridor Study and the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance. The community is concerned that the provisions of the Waterfront Overlay were overlooked and were dropped out of the Land Development Code with the re-write; feels that it should be corrected. Mr. Bozeman urged

Parks Board to recommend to Council that the project be consistent with F.A.R., the Hyatt and other restraints of the Waterfront Overlay ordinance.

- Doris Finkelstein, owns building that adjoins project. Ms. Finkelstein spoke and said that she feels that project is too large for this small space, and that it will block the view of the historical bridge and will also block the waterfront.
- Sean Kelly, Vice President of the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association, spoke regarding the proposed project at 200 S. Congress. Mr. Kelly noted that if precedence were set with this building, others would come with similar plans. Feels that the building is better suited at a different site.
- Girard Kinney, Design Commission Member, available to answer questions about the Design Commission deliberations. The Commission was specifically concerned with the proportion of things as they approach major arteries like Congress Avenue.
- Richard Suttle, attorney, spoke regarding the proposed project at 200 S. Congress. Mr. Suttle noted that the Planning Commission voted to approve and City Council voted to approve it on first reading. He also noted that the Parks and Recreation Department does have administrative review of the site plan.
- Jeff Jack spoke regarding Austin, great parks, great vista to the Hill Country and the waterfront of Austin. Encouraged the Parks Board to think of these things and keep Austin special.
- Roy Mann, one of the consultants to the Town Lake Corridor Task Force in 1986 and was the conceptual author of the Town Lake Waterfront Overlay ordinance and also recommended the creation of the Waterfront Advisory Board. Believes that the proposed project at 200 S. Congress does not have sufficient merit to be approved by this Board.
- David Smith, with the City of Austin Law Department spoke regarding the proposed project. The Land Development Code states that for any site plan in the Waterfront Overlay District the site plan goes to the Director for review. The Land Development Code also states that for a change in shoreline or dredging, the request goes to the Parks Board. There were questions and discussion regarding the wording of the old Land Development Code and the re-write of the Land Development Code.

At this point, Mike Librik made a motion that WHEREAS, Council Members have requested that the Parks and Recreation Board give a recommendation on this issue and, WHEREAS, this property abuts and visually affects Town Lake and WHEREAS, the Parks Board are considered to be the stewards of the parks, including Town Lake, and WHEREAS the Parks Board respects the intent of the 1986 Waterfront Overlay and WHEREAS we must be aware of precedence that will reduce public influence over waterfront development and WHEREAS we recognize that the City Council reserves authority to change zoning or to override zoning restrictions using PDA zoning, be it THEREFORE resolved the Parks Board recommends that the new PDA zoning observe the same height limitations as of the base zoning.

Elaine Carter seconded. The vote was in favor 5-1-1. (Francell) (Holder).

Board Member Holder offered another motion, to change very last statement to state that the Parks Board recommends to Council that a decision to change the zoning as proposed by the applicant, to LIPDA would violate the intent Waterfront Overlay.

Carol Kim made a motion for reconsideration of the first motion. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. The vote was in favor 5-2-0. (Francell, Medrano).

Board Member Mike Librik offered the following motion WHEREAS, Council Members have requested that the Parks and Recreation Board give a recommendation on this issue and, WHEREAS, this property abuts and visually affects Town Lake and WHEREAS, the Parks Board are considered to be the stewards of the parks, including Town Lake, and WHEREAS the Parks Board respects the intent of the 1986 Waterfront Overlay and WHEREAS we must be aware of precedence that will reduce public influence over waterfront development and WHEREAS we recognize that the City Council reserves authority to change zoning or to override zoning restrictions using PDA zoning, be it THEREFORE resolved the Parks Board recommends that the new zoning would violate the intent of the Waterfront Overlay and that the City Council should reconsider it's decision on the zoning.

Elaine Carter seconded. The vote was in favor 6-1-0. (Francell).

2. Make Recommendation to the Director regarding the Norwood House Agreement Renewal. After discussion, Elaine Carter made a motion that the Parks Board recommends to the Director to extend the agreement with the Norwood House. And, that the Women's Chamber of Commerce provides an update annually. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. The vote was in favor 7-0-0.
3. Make Recommendation regarding the lowering of Town Lake, pending approval of the Watershed Protection Department, for the silt abatement at the mouth of Johnson Creek. Jeff Francell made a motion that the Parks Board recommends to the Director the lowering of Town Lake for silt abatement improvements at the mouth of Johnson Creek. Board Member Rocky Medrano seconded. The vote was in favor 7-0-0.
4. Recommendation regarding Approval of Construction of Spence Boat dock at 1905 Manana Street, File No. SP-99-2052DS. This item was pulled from the agenda.
5. Recommendation regarding Approval of Construction of Simmons Boat dock at 4406 Island Cove, File No. SP-99-2081DS. Construction of a two slip boat dock.
6. Recommendation regarding Approval of Nowlin Boat dock at 3327 Far View Drive, File No. SP-99-2080DS. This item was pulled from the agenda.
7. Recommendation regarding Approval of Kopec Boat dock at 6703 Troll Haven, File No. SP-99-2083DS. Construction of a one slip boat dock.

8. Recommendation regarding Approval of Stafford Boat dock at 3115 Brass Buttons Trail, File No. SP-99-0234DS. This item was pulled from the agenda.
9. Recommendation regarding Approval of Wendlandt Boat dock at 1716 Channel Road File No. SP-99-2068DS. This item was pulled from the agenda.

Board Member Jeff Francell made a motion that the Parks Board approve construction of the Simmons (item number 5) and the Kopec (item number 7) boat docks. Rocky Medrano seconded. The vote was in favor 5-2-0. (Carter, Librik).

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director, Jesus M. Olivares reported that there would be a boxing tournament at the Montopolis Recreation Center this coming weekend. Several of the Parks and Recreation Department staff will be attending the National Recreation and Parks Association conference in Nashville, Tennessee; will be gone October 19th – 24th. The Halloween Trick or Treat Trail will be held Sunday, October 31, 1999, on Auditorium Shores. A videotape titled the Pioneer Farm Development Video was shown.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Programs Committee – The Committee will meet on October 26, 1999.
- Land and Facilities Committee – Nothing to report at this time.
- Navigation Committee – Nothing to report at this time.
- Downtown Commission – Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, appointed Mike Librik to attend the Downtown Commission meetings.
- Republic Square Advisory Committee – Should be able to provide a package of information or a presentation soon. Have been meeting regularly.

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Various issues were mentioned regarding individual suggestions and concerns.

I. ADJOURN

J. ITEMS FOR FUTURE ACTION

1. Recommendation regarding River Boat Concession.
2. Andrew Zilker Road Traffic.