

SAVE HISTORIC MUNY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 24, 2019
Location: Penick Room, Lions Municipal Golf Course
2901 Enfield Road, Austin, TX 78703
Meeting Time: 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Attendees:

Mary Arnold*
Brian Greig*
Andrea McWilliams*
Volma Overton, III*
Ken Tiemann*

Bob Ozer, Save Muny
Scott Sayers, Muny Conservancy
Junie Plummer
Kevin Gomillion, City of Austin

*denotes Save Historic Muny District (SHMD) Board Member

Minutes:

1. Call to Order

Mary Arnold called the meeting to order at approximately 4:35 p.m.

2. Item 1 (Citizen Communications)

- a. Bob Ozer (Save Muny): Mr. Ozer gave a brief description of the impact that returning African-American soldiers from WWII had on the birth of the civil rights movement and noted Mr. Overton's direct family ties to the war, the civil rights movement in Austin and to Muny. Mr. Ozer presented the case for Muny, and its early desegregation in 1950, possessing exceptional value in illustrating the broad national patterns of United States history. He noted that Glenda Gilmore, C. Vann Woodward Professor of History at Yale University and preeminent scholar of African American history, shared this view. He hopes to meet with each member of the SHMD Board individually in the near future.

- b. Scott Sayers (Muny Conservancy): Mr. Sayers discussed the formation of the Muny Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit attempting to raise funds to purchase Muny from the University of Texas. Mr. Sayers is hopeful that the money can be raised from foundations and private donors. Ultimately, the Muny Conservancy would like to see affordable golf remain at the site for the citizens of Austin. He also sees a significant educational value tied to the history, ideally leading to collaborative ventures between the University of Texas, the City of Austin and Huston-Tillotson University.
- c. Junie Plummer: Ms. Plummer is a retired City of Austin employee and is appearing as a member of the public. She discussed her past consulting role as a real estate negotiator, representing the City of Austin in discussions with the University of Texas. She was asked to take that role by Sara Hensley, former Interim Assistant City Manager, who is no longer working for the City of Austin. Assistant City Manager, Rodney Gonzales, now has the position.
- d. Kevin Gomillion (City of Austin): Mr. Gomillion is the Golf Division manager at the City of Austin. He informed the Board of the inherent challenges that he and his staff at Muny face due to the course's uncertain future. The lease with the University of Texas is scheduled to end on May 25, 2020, with nothing in the agreement regarding possible extensions. Currently there is approximately \$2,000,000 in deferred maintenance costs. Current annual expenses, including the lease payment, are roughly equal to Muny's \$1,500,000 annual income.

3. Item 2 (Introduction of Board Members)

Each board member briefly introduced themselves. All members have a strong personal connection to the golf course and hope to see it preserved.

4. Item 3 (Review of Enabling Legislation)

The formation of the District and the Board's purpose – acting to preserve Muny as a golf course, park or combination of the two – was enabled by SB 2553, 86th Session of the Texas Legislature. The legislation was authored and sponsored by Senator Kirk Watson.

5. Item 4 (Nomination & Selection of Board Officers)

Ken Tiemann nominated **Mary Arnold as Chair**. Brian Greig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Arnold nominated **Brian Greig as Vice Chair**. Andrea McWilliams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian Greig nominated **Ken Tiemann as Secretary**. Volma Overton, III, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Item 5 (Discussion of Work Plan and Meeting Schedule)

The Board was appreciative of information presented by those who spoke, as well as the discussion of how the SMHD Board can continue to move forward towards achieving the purpose set forth in the legislation.

The Board unanimously agreed to the following meeting:

Meeting Date:	November 2, 2019
Location:	Penick Room, Lions Municipal Golf Course 2901 Enfield Road, Austin, TX 78703
Meeting Time:	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

7. Item 6 (Meeting Adjourned)

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.