

## MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Special Meeting  
with the  
Parks and Recreation Board  
October 20, 1952

8:00 P. M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Drake presiding.

## Roll Call:

Present: Councilmen Johnson, Long, White, Mayor Drake  
Absent : Councilman MacCorkle

Present also: W. E. Seaholm, City Manager; C. G. Levander, Director of Public Works; Beverly Sheffield, Director of Recreation.

Present also; Mr. Nash Moreno, Mr. W. T. Caswell, Mr. Frank Quinn, Dr. D. K. Brace, Mrs. Alden Davis, Mrs. C. E. Browning, Mrs. Fagan Dickson, Mr. M. D. Mosteller.

DR. D. K. BRACE submitted an "Analysis of Planning Report" and outlined what this report covered--data from the Planning Board, from the Schools, from Mr. Sheffield and other sources. With regard to the purchase of land for recreational purposes, he stated the Council had passed a resolution whereby the public schools and the City would work together in developing areas around the schools for recreational areas. This is a good working agreement, but many cities have a definite policy which has been accepted by the schools and recreation departments and city administration. He felt that there was a need of better distribution of recreation facilities throughout the City; that although Austin was high in swimming pools, it was low in base-ball diamonds and playgrounds. He recommended that since there was such a tremendous need for land, that the land be acquired along with the purchase of land for the schools, and thereby get the land at a reasonable price. He further recommended that a definite policy be adopted so that when personnel in the schools changed, there would be something in writing that had been agreed upon. (Recommendation on p. 81, "PLANNING AHEAD FOR RECREATION")

MR. FRANK QUINN introduced the members of the Board. He recommended the purchase of land ahead of future needs, and keep as much land as the City now has. If it is necessary to sell any land, the money should be earmarked to purchase more land. He stated that every dollar spent for recreation means that many dollars less spent for police protection.

The Mayor reported the progress at Zaragoza Park; and stated that from

now on, the Schools and the City would be working together on acquiring the property. The School Board previously purchased property without letting the City know. Councilman Long thought the discussion meant a clarification of policy; exchange of services--personnel, etc.

MR. SHEFFIELD outlined what was suggested at the various playgrounds and parks and submitted "Tentative Items for Recreation Department's 1953 Budget". Councilman Long did not want to be stingy in the development of the playgrounds. Mr. Sheffield reported on Perry Park, that the fill had been accomplished.

MR. MOSTELLER recommended putting in a swimming pool at Zilker School, as there were only two in South Austin, and there were not enough pools for the population as compared to the rest of town. MR. SHEFFIELD gave statistics on the use of the various pools in the city, and showed an overcrowded condition in the northwest part of the City. DR. BRACE suggested putting in large pools in the highschools. MR. SHEFFIELD outlined the immediate recommendations of Areas 17, 22, and 27; 20 and 26; 25. (Recommendations on Page 77 of his report "Planning Ahead for Recreation").

The City Manager outlined the procedure followed with planning with the schools through Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Mayhall. He also outlined how the City subsidized the schools in its electricity and installation of transformers, etc. He and the Mayor thought the condition had changed and that there had been better cooperation with the School Board. Mrs. Dickson suggested that the School Board, Planning, Parks Board and the City Council have a big meeting every three months.

The Mayor asked the Board to study the possibility of enlarging Deep Eddy in case the American Legion wanted to trade its property for some other City property. He stated that 1953 would be a difficult year from the standpoint of money, and that not too much could be spend in Recreation. Councilman Long recommended the coordination of the activities of the maintenance crews of the Recreation Department and the Public Works Department. She recommended that all of the maintenance be put in one department. MR. QUINN thought there should be a separate maintenance department, and that the Recreation Department have its own crew. Councilman Long thought the City should maintain the playgrounds much better than it is now. The City Manager explained the maintenance problem and the financial problem involved; the reason the maintenance crews worked out of the Public Works. MR. MOSTELLER felt the Parks and Recreation Department stood up for itself over the United States; that Austin had good parks. The City Manager explained that the \$200,000 bond money was for the building of or obtaining more parks; then it took additional money for leadership and maintenance and watering systems.

Dr. Brace complimented the Recreation Director and Public Works Director in their work.

(Materials studied at this meeting were PLANNING AHEAD FOR RECREATION IN AUSTIN, prepared for the Parks and Recreation Board by Beverly S. Sheffield, Director of Recreation; and "TENTATIVE ITEMS FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S 1953 BUDGET.")

ATTEST

*Elin Hensley*  
City Clerk

APPROVED

*W. S. Driscoll*  
Mayor