

**DRAFT**

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**MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
June 11, 1996**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, June 11, 1996, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Rosemary Castleberry, ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Phil Friday, Louise Nivison (Member Emeritus), Elaine Carter, Rocky Medrano, Ron Cartlidge, Hermelinda Zamarripa, Mary K. Isaacs and Marianne Dwight.

Staff members present were Jesus M. Olivares, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Mary Ybarbo, Kendall Moss, Sarah Campbell, Ray Lopez, Peter Marsh.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Summer Program Update

Ray Lopez, Division Manager of Programs, gave an update on summer programs to the board. Noting that 523 children have registered for the neighborhood playground programs which take place at 28 playgrounds, 800 have signed up for the 1 to 4 week sessions at the recreation centers and all of the speciality camps have full registration. The board viewed a tape of the Youth at Arts Program which takes place at the Dougherty Arts Center. The summer food program, federally funded, will serve 5,000 meals daily at 41 sites. He invited board members to the opening of the playground program on June 12, to the Flag Day ceremonies at Dick Nichols Park on June 14 and to the African American Independence Expo on July 6th.

Norwood House Update

Sarah Campbell, Senior Planner with the Planning and Design Division, gave an update on the status of the Norwood House. In 1994 the Parks Department negotiated with the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas for the restoration of the Norwood House. The agreement is divided into three phases over a five (5) year period. The first phase has been completed. The second phase, requiring the house to be relocated to the original site, must be completed by September 30, 1996 at a cost of \$61,000. A copy of the Chamber's financial statement was distributed showing a balance of \$6,652.02.

The entire project is budgeted at \$600,000. Members expressed some concern about the financial status and requested it be kept current. Director Olivares said he is willing to work with the Chamber and keep the board updated on its progress.

## ITEMS FOR ACTION

### Make Recommendation to Council about Parkland Dedication Ordinance.

Mary K. Isaacs announced there would be one more meeting of the Parkland Dedication Ordinance Committee before any recommendations would be brought before the board.

### Recommend Name Change for Pan American Recreation Center.

A request to change the name of the Pan American Recreation Center to the Oswaldo A. B. Cantu Recreation Center was presented to the Board by Rocky Medrano and Moses P. Saldana, Sr. Mr. Cantu was a former employee of the Parks and Recreation Department and a lifetime advocate for youth. He is best remembered for his work as a boxing trainer. He founded the Pan American Boxing Club at the recreation center in 1956.

Those who spoke in favor of the name change were Moses P. Saldana, Sr., Martha P. Cotera, Roy Medrano, Robert Flores, and Mary Alice Andrada. Members of Mr. Cantu's family were introduced by his daughter Barbara Cantu-Garcia.

Moses P. Saldana, Sr. informed the board that August 3 will be Mr. Cantu's 66th birthday and a dedication ceremony is being planned for that day.

It was noted in the Guidelines for Recommending Names for City Parks and Recreational Facilities one of the stipulations is that a proposed name change be publicized two weeks prior to sending a recommendation to the City Council. With this in mind, Rocky Medrano made a motion to postpone a board decision until the June 25th meeting. The vote was four (4) to postpone (Isaacs, Cartlidge, Friday, Medrano), four (4) to abstain (Carter, Castleberry, Zamarripa, Dwight) and one (1) against (Cruz-Torres).

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Olivares reported that Castleberry, Cruz-Torres, Carter, Friday and Cartlidge are all up for re-appointment to the Board. With the exception of Cartlidge all are expected to be re-appointed at Thursday's council meeting. Ron Cartlidge has submitted his resignation after eight (8) years as a board member.

He asked that Kendall Moss, Deputy Director, give an update on the Walsh Boat Landing issue. Moss reported that signs have been posted on the upper part of the land informing users that it is only for vehicles with trailers, and fencing has been repaired. The lower park will become a permitted area and an open parking area. It is the intention of the Department to give priority to those users of the boat landing and therefore, all three areas will be available for vehicles with trailers. Details need to be worked out on the permitting process. If a fee is charged for a permit, it will have to be approved by the City Council. Blake Tollette, President of the West Austin Neighborhood Group (WANG) has been informed and is pleased with the work of the Department.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ron Cartlidge reported the Navigation Committee will continue deliberations with the North Austin Shortline Ski Course. Their request will be on the agenda for June 25, 1996.

### ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Hermelinda Zamarripa asked how the end of school activities went at Batholomew Park and Pool. The Director reported there were no incidents although confrontations did happen at Mable Davis and City Park but the situations were handled safely and properly by both Park Police and the Austin Police Department.

Rosemary Castleberry reported the Montopolis Boxing Club was a winner at a tournament last week in Bryan College Station.

Mary K. Isaacs asked when the trails at Dick Nichols Park will be completed. She was informed that permitting has been delayed but constuction on the sewer lines should commence next week and the trails should be completed in eight (8) weeks.

Ron Cartlidge bid farewell to the Parks Board after eight (8) years of service. The Director and the Board expressed their sincere appreciation for his dedication of service to the City and the Board and stated they would miss his valued opinions and knowledge.

Motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 1996 was made by Rosemary Castleberry and seconded by Ron Cartlidge. The vote to approve was 8-0-1 (Castleberrry, Cruz-Torres, Friday, Carter, Medrano, Cartlidge, Zamarripa, Dwight) and one (1) abstained (Isaacs)

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.