



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 - 6:00 p.m.

Boards and Commissions Room

City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street

Austin, Texas 78701

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Linda Guerrero, Chair; Sara Hatfield Marler, Vice Chair; Hill Abell; Jeff Francell; Carol Lee; Jerry Perales and Jane Rivera

Staff Members in Attendance:

Sara Hensley, Kelly Snook, Kimberly McNeeley, April Thedford, Chris Yanez, Gregory Montes, Charles Vaclavik, Marty Stump, Tom Nelson, Jodi Jay, Pat Fuller, Robert Brennes and Walter Passmore

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of February 22, 2011 were approved on a motion by Board Member Rivera and seconded by Board Member Perales. The motion carried 5-0-2, with Chair Guerrero and Board Member Lee abstaining.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Blake Tollett spoke to the Board regarding the Walsh Boat Landing and the need for the Parks and Recreation Department to enforce the no parking zones. He also spoke to the Board regarding closure of Mayfield Park to visitors, when the park is rented out for special events. He feels the public should have the right to enter the park, even during special events.

Charlie McCabe from the Austin Parks Foundation spoke to the Board about on-going improvements made to the Barton Creek Trail by Austin Park Foundation volunteers.

D. BRIEFINGS

2. Environmental Criteria Manual - Status Update: Andrew Clamann, Watershed Protection Department. The briefing included an overview of the Environmental Criteria Manual, as well as changes to the manual.
3. Barton Springs Pool Bypass Repairs Update – Johnnie Price, Watershed Protection Department. The briefing included a proposed timeline for design and construction of the project. The Board asked for Mr. Price to come back to the Board to provide an update once the timelines are firmly in place.

Robin Cravey with Friends of Barton Springs spoke to the Board about his support of the project moving forward. He's concerned about the schedule and wants the project to start right away. He would also like to be able to swim throughout entire process, but understands the need to close the pool. Finally, he mentioned the effort made by the Friends of Barton Springs Pool to contribute funds to the project.

4. Navigation Committee Annual Report – Sara Marler, Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. The briefing included highlights from January 2010 through December 2010.
5. Land, Facilities & Programs Committee Annual Report – Hill Abell, Member of the Parks and Recreation Board. The briefing included highlights from January 2010 through December 2010.

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6. Norwood House Master Plan Update – Marty Stump updated the Board on the Feasibility Study for the House. Funds are currently available for the Feasibility Study, but not for completions of any of the recommendations that might come from the study. Future funding will come from future bond elections. Also, the off-leash dog park on site will not be closed or moved until a future site for an off-leash park is identified.
7. Pease Park Master Planning Update – Marty Stump updated the Board on the efforts being made by the Watershed Protection Department. A consultant has been hired to lead the renovation of the park.

Director Hensley informed the Board that the Waller Creek Conservancy effort was moving forward. They are now an official 501(c)(3). She also mentioned the Board Members will be able to use City-provided iPads to look at the agenda and corresponding back-up materials at the monthly board meetings. Thirdly, the Northwest Recreation Center, which is a partnership between the City and the YMCA, will be opening by the end of April. Fourthly, the ALMA agreement is currently under review with the City's legal department. It will go to the Land and Facilities subcommittee next. Fifthly, Yett Creek Park has been identified by staff as a site for an off-leash dog park to replace the site at Bull Creek Park which will remain as an on-leash park. Sixthly, she discussed the current status of the Waller Creek Boathouse RFP. The Department will be entering into contract negotiations with the Austin Rowing Club to manage and operate the boathouse. If negotiations fail, the Department will issue another RFP and start the process all over again. Finally, Director Hensley discussed the encroachment of Driveway Austin onto parkland. City legal has been contacted to help work with property owner to restore the parkland. This will be an on-going issue and the Board will be briefed as negotiations continue.

F. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

8. Action Item: Make a recommendation to the Director to approve 3127 Ski Shores.

Board Member Francell made a motion to approve the recommendation. Board Member Rivera seconded. The motion was approved on a vote of 6-0; Board Member Abell was off the dais.

9. Action Item: Make a recommendation to Council to approve the Permanent and Temporary Use of Parkland in Gillis Park. Board Member Francell made a motion to approve the recommendation. Board Member Abell seconded. The motion was approved on a vote of 7-0.
10. Action Item: Make a recommendation to Council to approve the Temporary Use of Parkland in the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. Vice Chair Marler made a motion to approve the recommendation. Board Member Abell seconded. The motion was approved on a vote of 7-0.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair Marler would like to see SXSW have a mitigation amount included in future contracts with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Board Member Rivera would like a report/update on removing the fees collected at the parks from the General Fund and have them go directly into the Austin Parks and Recreation Department budget.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.