



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, May 24, 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 6:08 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, Cora Wright, Kimberly McNeeley, Kelly Snook, April Thedford, Chris Yanez, Marty Stump, Ricardo Soliz, Gilbert Hernandez, Beverly Mendez, Angela Means, Victor Ovalle, Tom Nelson, Laura Esparza, Tony Sanchez and Charles Vaclavik

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of April 26, 2011 were approved on a motion by Board Member Abell and seconded by Board Member Perales. The motion carried 6-0, with Board Member Francell off the dais.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Charlie McCabe – announced National Trails Day on June 4 and Napoleon Dynamite will be playing in Republic Square on 5/25/2011.

Sharon Blythe – concerned about the conditions at Austin Memorial Park. She would like to see the Parks and Recreation Department hold the cemetery contractor more responsible for maintenance and care of the city-owned cemeteries.

Bart Farar – concerned about the Parks and Recreation Department closing neighborhood pools in order to meet budget reduction demands. He would like to see the Department close pools that are within close access to other available pools, i.e. back yard pools, HOA pool, country club pools, etc.

Regina Rogoff – concerned about the availability of parking at the MACC for users of the boat dock and trail located behind the MACC. She also expressed a desire to have lights or other safety features added to the parking lot/trail for users that access the area in the early morning.

D. BRIEFINGS

2. Invasive Species Management Plan Update – Charlie McCabe, Austin Parks Foundation, presented the process of developing an invasive species management plan to eradicate non-native plant species from city-owned land.
3. Butler Park Briefing – Leela Fireside, City Attorney’s Office – Item was pulled due to pending legal action.
4. Elisabet Ney Museum Landscape Update – Laura Esparza, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, presented the findings of new research regarding the master plan for the museum.
5. FY 2012 Budget Process – Leigh Byford, Budget Office & Angela Means, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, presented the financial forecast for the Austin Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

E. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Hensley announced the hiring of Jake Stewart, Conservation Program Coordinator; Jake will be heading up the urban farms/community gardens program.

She also gave an update on the parking lot at Walsh Boat Landing. The Parks and Recreation Department will be working with the Public Works Department to renovate the current lots. Upon completion of the renovation, the Austin Transportation Department will come in and add parking meters to the lots.

Director Hensley informed the Board that the Department is in the process of revising its sports agreement with youth sports providers. The Department is looking at more holistic approach.

6. Advisory Board Retreat Update – Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, presented an update and a plan of action to move forward to develop a set of guidelines for the partnership between the Department and the various advisory boards.

Mr. Stephen Kreger signed up to speak in support of the efforts made by Assistant Director McNeeley to establish guidelines for the partnerships between the Parks and Recreation Department and the advisory boards.

F. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

7. Action Item: Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the boat dock at 4510 Rivercrest. Board Member Francell made a motion to approve the boat dock. Board Member Rivera seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Phil Moncada signed up to speak on behalf of the owners as their agent. He was in favor of approval of the boat dock.

8. Action Item: Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the boat dock at 3117 Westlake. Board Member Rivera made a motion to approve the boat dock. Board Member Francell seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-1.

9. Action Item: Make a recommendation to the Watershed Protection Department supporting the conceptual repair plan for the Barton Springs Pool Bypass. Board Member Perales made a motion to approve supporting the conceptual repair plan. Vice Chair Marler seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0.
10. Action Item: Make a recommendation to the Director supporting the termination of the lease agreement with Hostelling International: Austin. Director Hensley informed the Board that action item had been revised to be just a briefing with no action.

Gilbert Hernandez, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, presented background history and the current status of the agreement between the City and Hostelling International.

Shaya Zucker signed up to speak on this item, and chose to donate her time to Kassi Darakhshan.

Kassi Darakhshan, Executive Director of Hostelling International: Austin, presented information describing the services and programs provided by the Hostel.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Next month's Board meeting will be cancelled due to the City Council Inauguration Ceremony.

Board Member Abell asked about adding bike racks at Big Stacy Pool, Zilker Park, and at the new BMX/Skate Park.

Board Member Lee asked for more information regarding the permanent solution for the scour hole at Bull Creek District Park.

Board Member Rivera asked for an on-going report on the progress of the Advisory Board Council. She also requested an inventory of all the contracts managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Vice Chair Marler requested a list of the pool closures proposed in the FY 2012 budget. She asked for staff to look into the concerns of lack of parking at the MACC in the early morning hours. Also, she asked staff to follow-up with concerns expressed about the management and care of Austin Memorial Park.

Chair Guerrero requested a copy of the Department's policy on public-private partnerships. She also requested a briefing by PARD staff and Balcones Canyon Preserve staff regarding the protected plant at Mt. Bonnell.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.