



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, July 26, 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 6:15 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Linda Guerrero, Chair; Sara Hatfield Marler, Vice Chair; Hill Abell; Jeff Francell; Carol Lee 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, Angela Means, Tom Nelson, Johnnie Price, Troy Houtman, Kelly Nesvacil, Willie Conrad, Gene Faulk, D'Anne Williams, Albert Homann, Donna Bohls, Sharon Knotts, Tony Arnold and Joe Diaz.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of May 24, 2011 were approved on a motion by Vice Chair Marler and seconded by Board Member Abel. The motion carried 6-0, with Board Member Perales off the dais.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

No citizen communication.

D. BRIEFINGS

2. Barton Springs Pool By-pass Update – Johnnie Price, Watershed Protection Department, presented the current time line for the project.
3. Cemetery Contract Briefing – Gilbert Hernandez, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, presented the process to amend and restate the contract with the Intercare Corporation.

Sharon Blythe requested the Board to recommend the Parks and Recreation Department issue a new RFP (Request for Proposal) for the cemeteries.

4. Balcones Canyon Preserve Discussion – Troy Houtman, Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Kelly Nesvacil, Balcones Canyonland Preserve, presented the Memorandum of Agreement protecting the Bracketed Twist Flower and the process of non-profits/volunteers must complete to record their research findings on the flower.

5. Update on Disc Golf at Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park – Gene Faulk, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, presented the proposed layout of the holes/course. Mr. Faulk informed the Board the Department will begin clearing debris on the site on Monday, August 1, 2011.

Lou Moreno, Malcolm Yeatts and Gordon Maxim-Kelley all spoke in favor of the disc golf course at Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park.

6. Norwood House Update – Marty Stump, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, presented the six current designs under review by the public and stakeholders.

David Lundstedt requested the dog park to remain in some capacity at the Norwood House site.

Pat Valls-Trelles requested a large area of the Norwood Estate be dedicated off-leash area for dogs.

7. Mabel Davis & Yett Creek Park Off-leash Area Update – Ricardo Soliz, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, presented the planning initiatives to grow the off-leash areas in the City.

Pat Valls-Trelles was in support of a dog park at Mabel Davis Park.

Jennie Anderson spoke in favor of Yett Creek Park becoming an off-leash area. She stated she was concerned about access to the park, as well as parking availability.

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Hensley informed the Board of the status of the operator selection of the Waller Creek Boathouse. The Department is moving forward with prepositioning.

Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, informed the Board that the first draft of the guidelines for the partnership between the Department and the various support groups has been completed. A committee will be formed to review the draft and to create a second draft. The goal of the committee is to have the guidelines finished by mid-September.

Director Hensley shared with the Board the new signage that went up at the Northwest Recreation Center. She also mentioned various playgrounds that have undergone resurfacing and park blitz that have been completed by the building maintenance crews. She informed the Board that Staff will be briefing the Board at their next meeting on the redesign of the Walsh Boat Landing park lot. Also, the Department is working with citizens living next to Slaughter Creek Park about having better enforcement of the burn ban in that area. Finally, the Department worked with Austin Energy to install a wind turbine out at Decker Lake.

Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, informed the Board of the closure of the Turn-Roberts Recreation Center due to structural engineering problems.

F. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

10. Action Item: Make a recommendation to the Director approving the boat dock at 3107 Westlake Drive. Board Member Abell made a motion to approve the boat dock. Board Member Rivera seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0, Board Member Perales was off the dais.
11. Action Item: Make a recommendation to the Director approving the Temporary Use of Parkland in Town Lake Park: Shoal Beach and Auditorium Shores and Butler Park. Board Member Rivera made a motion to the Director to move forward. Vice Chair Marler seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0, Board Member Perales was off the dais.
12. Discussion and Possible Action Item: Approve a resolution regarding Compliance of Conditions of Shoreline Modification at 2700 Edgewater. Board Member Abell made a motion to approve the resolution. Vice Chair Marler seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0, Board Members Francell and Perales were off the dais.

Ann Finch, David Rodewald, Rodewald, Alan Roddy, Amy Rodewald, Helen Gilbert and Russell Thurman spoke in favor of the resolution.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair Marler requested the Department provide the Board with information regarding the proposed budget in a timely manner.

Chair Guerrero suggested having a work session between the Parks and Recreation Board and the Austin Parks Foundation Board.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.