



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, September 27, 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 6:10 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Linda Guerrero, Chair; Lynn Osgood, Jane Rivera, Carol Lee, Hill Abell, Jerry Perales, and Jeff Francell

Staff Members in Attendance:

Kimberly McNeeley, Kelly Snook, Cora Wright, April Thedford, Ricardo Soliz, Sharon Knotts, Randy Scott, Annick Beaudet, Gilbert Hernandez, Robin Vietz, Derek Martinie, David Taylor, Tom Nelson, Christina Moreno, Franklin Fejarang, Kevin Gomillion, Beverly Mendez, Melissa Larsen and Carol Haywood

Chair Guerrero appointed Board Member Rivera as the interim Vice Chair.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of August 23, 2011 were approved, with a correction by Board Member Lee, on a motion by Board Member Rivera and seconded by Board Member Lee. The motion carried 6-0-1, with Board Member Francell abstaining.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Sharon Blythe – Requested the trees be watered in Mountain View Park and for staff not to mow the dirt. She also requested the cemetery contract to be re-issued.

Colleen Theriot – Asked for the Department to work with the group, Norwood Posse, to refurbish the Norwood House.

Matt Knifon – Invited the Board to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the wheelchair accessible ramp at the Texas Rowing Club dock.

Daniel White – Reported to the Board on his efforts to remove invasive species from Big Stacy Park.

D. BRIEFINGS

2. Bike Rack Installation at PARD Facilities and Parks – Annick Beaudet, Public Works Department, provided an update to the Board regarding the retrofitting of bike racks at various city pools.
3. Morris Williams Golf Course Update – David Taylor, Public Works Department, presented the design scheme of the new cart barn and clubhouse.
4. The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan – Carol Haywood, Planning and Development Review Department, presented on the current status of the comprehensive plan.
5. Urban Park Stakeholders Update – Heather Way, Stakeholder Group Co-Chair, presented the final report of the working group.
6. Cemetery Contract Options – Gilbert Hernandez, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, presented on the restated draft agreement for the cemetery options.

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FY 2011-2012 Budget Process – Assistant Director Cora Wright informed the Board that the budget process has been completed. Dottie Jordan Recreation Center and Austin Recreation Center will remain open, but the Department will be looking for public-private partnership opportunities for these facilities.

Items from Council – Assistant Director Cora Wright informed the Board of two possible items from council coming forward on the October 6th Council Meeting. One will grant the City Manager or his Designee, the Parks and Recreation Department Director, the ability to issue a burn ban that would include a class C misdemeanor for non-compliance. The second item will address smoking in parks and moving to a smoke-free park system.

Old Bakery – A temporary concession agreement has been executed with Austin Parks Foundation and the Department. The agreement will allow Austin Parks Foundation to run a café at the Old Bakery with the proceeds going directly back to the Old Bakery for maintenance needs.

Public Engagement Training – Department staff will be going through on-going trainings regarding how to lead public engagement meetings.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Abell requested an update on the public input on the programming at the new Waller Creek Boathouse.

Board Member Lee requested information on the Department's involvement in the Austin GO website redevelopment project.

Chair Guerrero an update on the encroachment issues by Driveway Austin. She also requested an update on the Department's tree planting efforts.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.