



**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD / ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
JOINT COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, May 9, 2012
Meeting Minutes**

Joint Committee Members in Attendance:

Linda H. Guerrero, Chair
Hill Abell
Jerome Perales, Co-Chair

Mary Ann Neely
Mary Gay Maxwell
Jennifer Walker

Staff in Attendance:

Kimberly McNeeley, PARD
Tom Nelson, PARD
Gary Gregson, PARD
Sharon Knotts, PARD
Jim Adams, PARD

Meghan Turner, EGRSO
Sue Lambe, EGRSO
Emily King, PARD
Jodi Jay, PARD
Clark Hancock, PARD

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD / ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD JOINT COMMITTEE convened in a Special-Called meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, at Barton Springs Pool – South Gate, 2101 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas.

Chair **Linda H. Guerrero** called the Joint Committee Meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

1. OPENING COMMENTS

- Linda Guerrero – explained that this was a special-called meeting with 2 items on the agenda for discussion. She requested that everyone be respectful towards other’s opinions. She then introduced Kim McNeeley to give a short comment.
- Kim McNeeley – Provided some history and background about the artwork placement and the feedback PARD had received from the citizens of Austin. Due to the feedback, PARD put together a compromise proposal and placed it on the website. Kim insured everyone that this meeting was for the citizens to state where they think the artwork should be placed. She stated that no decisions have been made and nothing has been finalized. Then she introduced Sue Lambe from AIPP.

2. CITIZENS’ COMMUNICATION

- Robin Cravey – Thanked the artist for all he has done. Stated it was great to see this process moving forward. Asked everyone to show respect to each other and thanked everyone for participating in the process.

- Sunyong Chung– stated she didn’t think proposed site is the place for the art piece. Want’s the hill to remain green with as little man made impact as possible. Requested everyone go with the option that impacts the trees and the environment in the least harmful way.
- Dan Crow – Thanked Hawkeye for his in-depth explanation. He requested that we not make changes at Barton Springs Pool.
- Peter Steinhardt – stated to Kimberly McNeeley that he had an email from Sara and Tom that is different from her explanation of the process and said he would send her a copy. He feels communication is lacking and there is a misappropriation of money. He doesn’t want changes and feels we shouldn’t spend any money. He wants PARD to maintain what they have already.
- Zoila Vega – gave a detailed description of how the artwork would impact the trees if placed in the critical root zone. She spoke of another piece of artwork created by the same artist that was negatively impacting another tree at the O’Henry Museum. She said she spoke to a certified arborist who confirmed that the tree was dying and it needed to be corrected. She requested that we not allow this to happen at Barton Springs.
- Tom Weber – requested to give a minute and a half of his time to Gary Beyer. He stated that he sympathized with the artist and he was in favor of the art being placed at the entrance.
- Gary Beyer – Feels the integrity of the South lawn should be open and preserved.
- Karen Kreps – Would like to see the artwork placed outside the fence. She requested we down size the art to a small statue of a swimmer at the entrance near the ticket booth and asked that we down scale.
- Robert Johnson – Feels we don’t need any sculptures because the springs are nature’s sculptures. He stated that the bathrooms on the south end are in ill repair and requested they be fixed. He also requested to plant more foliage to keep it greener. He feels the springs are for meditation, contemplation, inspiration and preservation over alteration.
- Kaiba White – stated that she got married on the South lawn and had 2 people attend her wedding (one on a walker and the other in a wheelchair) and they were both able to get across the lawn without any problems. Therefore, she feels there doesn’t need to be any special walkway because their guests were able to wheel up and view the pool area. She wants the artwork to be incorporated into the gate area or at the end of the ramp down to the pool.
- Philip Martin – Confirmed Kaiba White’s statement about his grandparents being able to attend his wedding using a walker and a wheelchair without any problems on the South lawn. They were able to view the entire area including the pool. He suggested having a meeting on the South lawn to include a person in a wheelchair and have them roll through the terrain in various directions to see if it would fit being ADA compliant without having to put in walkways. He hoped he didn’t come across as being disrespectful but felt he should speak out because of his personal experience with his grandparents being able to attend his wedding at Barton Springs.
- Bill Bunch – stated he supported some of the Barton Springs Master Plan and opposed other pieces. He felt one critical piece that is continually forgotten is the recommendation to keep the lawn completely undeveloped and open. One

side is already developed and he wants the South side to stay the way it is. He said if we are going to spend tax dollars we should spend it on saving the water and caring for the grounds.

- Blair Liles – Spoke about preserving the springs and keeping it natural. She loves art but doesn't want it to affect the natural beauty of the springs.
- Mark Nowacki – asked everyone to tell 5 people about Barton Springs. He said he would setup a Facebook page about the history of the springs. He wants it to remain natural and asked everyone to incorporate themselves into the process and convince the City that Barton Springs doesn't need to be changed.
- Roy Waley – said he was in favor of AIPP but not AIPP at Barton Springs. He feels it's the wrong place to put it. According to his personal survey no one wants the artwork placed inside the fenced area. If it was placed inside the fence it would negatively impact the community's support of AIPP. He feels the artwork should be placed outside the fence for everyone in the city to enjoy. He is in favor of a crushed granite path for ADA folks because it is not intrusive. He also explained to Hawkeye that it wasn't anything personal about him or his art, it's about the location.
- Linda Guerrero – clarified that the Philosopher's Rock was funded with private money because she sat on the foundation when they gave monies to have it built. It was not an AIPP project.
- Mike Cannatti – stated he reviewed the master plan and feels it's a big improvement and supports the City's recommendation for improvements.
- Peter Steinhardt – stated in light of the input given at the meeting he requested Brian Larson to re-evaluate the plans. He feels the current plans (height of fence, columns, etc.) completely changes' the historic presentation of the south side of the pool. He wants to keep the fence and entrance as is and doesn't feel the improvements will help better maintain the trees.
- Bill Bunch – objected to opening up discussion on only one small piece of the plan rather than talking about the entire plan. He feels the new design for the columns makes them look more like walls instead of columns. He doesn't think the columns, fence, etc. are necessary. He thinks all the money should be diverted to maintenance and protection of the springs.
- Karen Kreps – strongly opposes any changes made to the South entrance. She doesn't mind moving the current fence out to include more lawn and trees. She would like to see the money used to restore the historic columns on the other side and to fix bathrooms and fountains along with other needs. She requested we move all of the money to maintenance and repair.
- Roy Waley - Spoke about taking care of the water in the springs and taking care of the watershed. He wants to keep the gate and fence natural saving the current historic chain link fence. He doesn't mind if the current fence is moved out. Also, he wants to keep the current ticket booth and is in favor of a new turnstile.
- Brian Leonard – stated there is an overwhelming consensus that everyone wants to keep the south lawn of Barton Springs as a natural environment. He would like the money used to protect the spring.

- Kaiba White – Stated she doesn't want changes made and would like to have the south gate open longer. She would like the money used for preserving what is already there.

3. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION

- None.

4. BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

a. Art in Public Places Artwork: Location and Integration of Accessible Overlook

.....Sue Lambe, EGRSO

- Sue Lambe – Gave a presentation about getting feedback from the public on the best location for the art piece. AIPP and the artist are in a holding pattern with the art until they receive support for the location of the artwork placement.
- Hawkeye Glenn (Artist) – Gave a presentation on the process he went through for design proposals and locations for placement keeping in mind that it needed to be ADA accessible. He provided a history of the process along with the obstacles and changes he has faced. Then he offered the alternative placement of his art being placed outside the fence (Option 2).
- Hill Abell – made a motion for the Parks staff and Hawkeye Glenn to work together to create an appropriate spot outside the fence of Barton Springs Pool for his art installation and bring it back to the public. This motion was approved by a 6-0-0 vote.

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b. Grounds Improvements: Redesigned South Gate Columns

.....Brian Larson, Larson Burns and Smith

- Hill Abell – made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. He would like to see some different concepts and want's to discuss this project combining the ticket booth with the gate and the columns as one unit. This motion was approved by a 6-0-0 vote.
- Mary Gay Maxwell – stated that since the meeting had to be adjourned the 4 remaining citizens will be the first to speak at the next meeting. They are as follows: Robin Cravey, Gary Beyer, Mark Nowacki and Peter Craig.

5. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

6. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Linda H. Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. without objection.