



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

**Monday, May 21, 2012
Meeting Minutes**

Joint Committee Members in Attendance:

Hill Abell, Chair	Mary Ann Neely
Jerome Perales, Co-Chair	Mary Gay Maxwell
Jennifer Walker	
Jesus Lardizabal (Resource)	

Staff in Attendance:

Tom Nelson, PARD	Nichole Bohner, PARD
Gary Gregson, PARD	Clark Hancock, PARD
Sharon Knotts, PARD	Sue Lambe, EGRSO
Jodi Jay, PARD	

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD / ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD JOINT COMMITTEE convened in a regular meeting on Monday, May 21, 2012, at the Austin Nature and Science Center, 301 Nature Center Drive, Austin, Texas.

Chair **Hill Abell** called the Joint Committee Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The approval of the minutes for the February 6, 2012, meeting was postponed until the May meeting.
- b. The minutes from the March 19, 2012, April 16, 2012, and the May 9, 2012 special called meeting was approved with a 5-0-0 vote.

2. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

- Robin Cravey – Spoke about past problems related to pool cleaning and maintenance. He mentioned a master plan with short term projects that was put together approx. 5 years ago dealing with cleaning, staffing and maintenance of the pool.
- Zoila Vega – gave presentation on Heritage Trees at the Zilker Hill Side Theater.
- Peter Craig – Asked the Board to preserve the natural state of the springs, reduce taxpayer dollars for non-essential items and asked for the process to be transparent.

- Mark Nowacki – Spoke about the process not being transparent enough and having the Board represent the citizens of Austin.
- Peter Steinhardt – talked about the process and provided a chart from 2010. He asked the Board not to spend bond money on this project and focus on maintenance at Barton Springs Pool.
- Karen Kreps – spoke about communication and the process and how she has issues with the bulletin board and what’s posted on it. She wants communication to be more professional and posted on the web.
- Dan Crow – spoke about the master plan and what it states about the south lawn.
- Ralph Webster – spoke about the fence at Barton Springs and felt most people prefer to have the wrought iron fence instead of the chain link fence.
- Tom Weber – disagrees with land acquisition wants monies to go to improvements such as the parking lot. He would like the South lawn natural yet improved by moving the fence out and building a path to the diving board.
- Brian Leonard – spoke against the master plan and stated that was not publicly vetted.
- Peter Steinhardt – stated that there was civil disobedience because many citizens felt disrespected. He said people wanted meetings with real conversations and there aren’t any. He stated that it needed to be recognized and worked through so there wouldn’t be a mass walk out by the Board or the people.

3. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION

- None.

4. BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

- a. Art in Public Places Artwork for General Grounds ProjectSue Lambe, EGRSO

- Sue Lambe/Hawkeye Glenn (Artist) – spoke about AIPP artwork location and explained about the artist process and introduced Hawkeye (Artist). Then Hawkeye Glenn (Artist) gave a presentation about the design of his original artwork and the design changes he made in order to incorporate shade when it was suggested that the location be changed to outside the gates.
- Gary Beyer – spoke about artwork being closer and compatible with the gate for people with disabilities since the artwork was designed for seating.
- Craig Nazor – stated his concerns about spending a lot of money on artwork and then it being vandalized because it was placed outside the gate.
- Bill Bunch – concerned about combining seating and a doorway with the artwork. Doesn’t want to enter thru 2 gateways. He believes seating is needed and with shade. Feels that having a place to sit in the shade that is close to the gate would serve all the needed functions.
- Roy Webber – Suggested artwork be moved to the side of the path. Thinks its proposed location is an obstruction. He asked that we all listen to each other and stop the accusations and finger pointing.

- Mark Nowacki – stated the artist wasn’t given enough criteria for the project and feels the art location will block space for ambulance. He would prefer the location to be in the woods.
 - Karen Kreps – Spoke about the artwork, its scale, the possibility of vandalism, the artist being over budget and the material not being native to TX or the springs. Wants to see the plan in its entirety and asked Board to approve the whole plan instead of approving it in pieces.
 - Jerry Perales made a motion to look at other locations outside the gate for artwork. No Vote was taken. Item tabled.
- b. Location to Transplant Pecan Tree from Congress Avenue.....Emily King, Urban Forestry Program
- Emily King gave a presentation on the transplant of a pecan tree from Congress Avenue to Barton Springs providing three options for transplant location stating which options had irrigation and which areas needed shade.
 - Ziola Vega – gave an explanation of why she recommended Option 1 very highly.
 - Mary Gay made a motion to recommend Option 1 for the pecan tree transplant. It was approved by a 5-0-0 vote.
- c. General Grounds Improvements - South Gate Options (Gate and Columns) Brian Larson, Larson, Burns and Smith
- Brian Larson gave a presentation on the South Gate and columns showing different options available to choose from.
 - Jennifer Walker asked for an option D to be available for the next meeting.
- d. General Grounds Improvements – Proposed Ticket Booth Brian Larson, Larson, Burns and Smith
- Brian Larson
- e. General Grounds Improvements – Perimeter Fence..... Brian Larson, Larson, Burns and Smith
- This item was included with discussions on item “c.”.
- f. Tree Planting and Heritage Tree Maintenance Plans for VolunteersZoila Vega-Marchena, Austin Heritage Tree Foundation
- This item was postponed.
- g. Tree Stewards CommitteeGary Beyer, Friends of Barton Springs Pool
- This item was postponed.

5. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

6. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Hill Abell adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. without objection.