



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

**Thursday, June 28, 2012  
Meeting Minutes**

**Joint Committee Members in Attendance:**

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

Mary Ann Neely  
Mary Gay Maxwell

**Staff in Attendance:**

Kimberly McNeeley, PARD  
Tom Nelson, PARD  
Gary Gregson, PARD  
Sharon Knotts, PARD  
Jodi Jay, PARD

Nichole Bohner, PARD  
Sue Lambe, EGRSO  
Laurie Dries, WPD  
Mike Hockmuller, HRD

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD / ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD JOINT COMMITTEE convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, June 28, 2012, at the Zilker Botanical Gardens - Auditorium, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas.

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

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. The approval of the minutes for the May 21, 2012, meeting was approved with a 4-0-1 vote.

**2. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION**

- Peter Steinhardt – Spoke about the BS Pool Plan Process/Change in process and using money for maintenance.
- Dan Crow – Spoke about Past resolutions & maintenance. Stated there was never a public bond issue and doesn't feel there is money that "needs" to be spent or has to be spent on this project.
- Karen Kreps – Wanted to know why the Board wants to push the Master Plans through and what is the vested interest in doing so. She also stated if the money can be used for deferred maintenance then that's what it should be spent on.

- Mark Gentle – voiced his support for access to the pool and for the Master Plan.
- Lexi Schooley – Loves South gate entrance as it is and feels money should be spent on maintenance. Appreciates the signage posted for this meeting and wants that continued.
- Bill Bunch – Stated he doesn't like having the agenda with fewer items on it. He wants Eliza Springs restored instead of going forward with grounds improvements.
- Roy Waley – Spoke about citizens not attending meetings because they feel the City doesn't listen anyway. Stated the Serria Club wants to keep the South side as natural as possible, they are fine with the trail & ADA overlook, a crushed granite trail to monument with a small overlook and a mesh fence if a new fence is needed. He took an informal poll & people don't want ornate gate or large overlook pad.
- Zoila Vega – doesn't feel moving fence will protect trees.
- William Towne – His family has been here for generations and supports ADA path & overlook. He's concerned about drainage & parking lot and redirecting water runoff. Wants port-a-potties on South side.
- Rick Morgan – Wants tennis & basketball court lighting so people don't have to play in the dark.
- Robert Corbin – Wants to ban spray sunscreen in pool area. He also wants all non-functioning wires from above to be removed. He stated the diving board makes too much noise & wants the broken diving board hinge to be repaired & he provided the hinges at the meeting. (Kim will do a site visit & respond back to the citizen).

### 3. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION

- None.

### 4. BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

- a. General Grounds Improvements .....Brian Larson, Larson Burns and Smith  
 Perimeter Fence Style  
 South Alignment of Perimeter Fence  
 South Gate Design  
 Ticket Booth

(Facilitated by Mike Hockmuller, Human Resources Department)

- Mike Hockmuller – facilitated the meeting and went over the 4 items/options that would be covered in this meeting. He also provided the citizens with ground rules for the meeting.
- Brian Larson – gave a presentation on the General Grounds Improvements.
- Karen Kreps – Wanted to know why the ticket booth moved from the left to the right side of the South gate.
- Name unknown – Wanted to know about the irrigation system for the trees if the fence line is moved.

- Peter Steinhart – feels master plan should be used to water trees. He wanted to if we had a master plan on how the South gate will be managed and he feels we don't need an ornate gate or an art piece.
- Robin Cravey – stated he & the “Friends of Barton Springs” supports the historic triangular design of stone columns, the ornate gate, the new ticket booth and the wire mesh fencing (although they are no opposed to the iron bar fencing). They also support more than the legally required ADA access and they are in favor of bringing the fence out to add more space to the pool area. They would also like to see the wires taken down and the project move forward.
- Roy Waley – wanted to know if it was verified by a certified arborist that there is an impact to the root zone of the trees outside the fence. Said he was concerned about tables & concession stands being placed on South side. He requested to add an Option D with a gate allowing ADA citizens to leave the pool after hours. He feels that the ticket booth needs to be placed on the original site to allow staff to have a view of the pool and the hill.
- Mark Gentle – doesn't want Option A or B for gates and wants regular routine maintenance done along with the improvements. He also said if the fence is moved...more staff would be needed to protect the trees in the pool area.
- Dan Crow – spoke about the City having a one source revenue stream and he feels the money is there for maintenance & tree watering. He also suggested a ceiling fan be put in the ticket booth.
- Greg Underwood – Encouraged the board to do as little improvement as possible to the South side of Barton Springs.
- Name Unknown – gave presentation of “What If” displaying national treasures with fences around them. She feels iron fences take away from the natural beauty. She likes Plan D (the wire mesh fence).
- Bill Bunch – Wants wire mesh fence, doesn't want a new ticket booth or to have the ticket booth moved, want's ADA path w/o switch backs, doesn't want back gate changed, wants minimal change.
- Mike Cannatti – likes proposals given for fence, gate & ticket booth.
- Name Unknown – doesn't want money spent on the General Plan & wants the fence removed. He doesn't want Austin to do the same as New Braunfels did when they added fencing and a gate and police to guard it.
- Name Unknown – stated that he likes the columns, iron fence & ornate gate. He is in favor of moving the fence out & making improvements & renovations to the South side of Barton Springs so more people can come out to enjoy it.
- Ralph Webster – feels Barton Springs is the crown jewel of Austin not of South Austin and it should be treated with dignity because it is a national treasure. He is in favor of the iron fence and painting it green.
- Name Unknown – feels that bringing more trees into to pool area will make the compaction greater to the trees root systems by the use of the people in the pool area. Doesn't want improvements made.
- Scott Johnson – said he didn't like any of the fence designs that have been offered. Suggested that if the fence is moved out to include trees he thinks plants and vegetation should be planted at the base of the trees to help prevent compaction from occurring. He also suggested putting electricity in the ticket booth.

- Name Unknown – would like improvements kept to a minimum.
- Linda Guerrero – asked for the prices for each option that was being offered.
  - \$45k Option A – Park Entrance Limestone
  - \$35k Option B – Historic Columns
  - \$15k Option C – No columns, welded steel
  - \$8k Option D – Wire entrance with turn styles (not ADA compliant)
- Mary Ann Neely made a motion for the iron fencing.
- Linda Guerrero made a friendly amendment to look at mixed styles of fencing (wire-mesh fence for areas where view is more important, steel pickets for areas where security is of more concern). It was approved by a 4-1-0 vote.
- Mary Ann Neely made a motion to move the fence line to incorporate seven large pecan trees south of the pool. It was approved by a 5-0-0 vote.
- Hill Abell made a motion to use Option D with stone columns from Option B (small gate with turnstile).  
It was approved by a 3-2-0 vote.
- Hill Abell asked for an alternative for the new ticket booth placement to be on the west side of the entrance so the ticket taker is facing the lawn and the turnstile moved to the other side. It was approved by a 5-0-0 vote.

## 5. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Guerrero made a motion to accept the new location to meet at the Boards and Commissions room at City Hall and to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 6:15 p.m. It was approved by a 5-0-0 vote.

## 6. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Jerry Perales adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. without objection.