



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, August 27, 2013 - 6:00 p.m.

Boards and Commissions Room

City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street

Austin, Texas 78701

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jane Rivera, Chair; Jeff Francell, Vice Chair; Lynn Osgood, Susan Roth, Susana Almanza, Hill Abell

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Vice Chair Francell made a motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of July 23, 2013. Board Member Abell seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Daniel Llanes, Chair of the Riverbluff Neighborhood Association, spoke to the Board regarding several topics: in opposition to metered parking in parks, in opposition to the proposed redevelopment at Hancock golf course, in opposition of offering parking to businesses in the parks, and in support of the proposed tubing code amendment.

Michael Fossum, Executive Director of the Austin Heritage Tree Foundation, addressed the Board regarding the tree that fell on a patron on the Hike and Bike Trail last week. He urged increased funding for PARD as well as departmental efficiency improvements.

Zolia Vega addressed the Board regarding cemeteries, urging the Board to request an update from staff on cemetery fees at their next Board meeting and to request that the Director review the scope of work for the long-term cemetery master plan.

Sharon Blythe addressed the Board regarding concerns surrounding the cemetery master plan meeting held on Tuesday August 20th.

Richard Troxell, President of House the Homeless and applicant for "The Homecoming" proposed art donation, offered clarification to the Board regarding his proposed Art in Public Places permanent donation.

D. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Non-Consent

2. Board Member Abell made a motion to recommend to the City Council to not consider any additional development at the Hancock golf course. Vice Chair Francell seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

Citizen Communication:

Emily Schwartz, Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee member, spoke in support of this land remaining a public park, and encouraged the City to explore other uses should the golf course continue to lose money.

Carolyn Palaina, President of the Hancock Neighborhood Association, thanked the Board for their decision and recognized their positive relationship with PARD staff. They are currently exploring other revenue streams for this property.

Joe Rader, resident adjacent to Hancock golf course, spoke in opposition to the proposed development and recommended that this property be designated as a historical marker.

Jim Huddleston, Crawford, Huddleston & Co., addressed the Board regarding his development proposal.

3. Board Chair appointed a Working Group to review and implement the Fiesta Gardens/Edward Rendon Sr. Park Master Plan consisting of: Board Chair Jane Rivera, Board Member Susana Almanza, and Board Member Susan Roth.

4. Board Chair appointed a Working Group to address conservancies consisting of: Board Chair Jane Rivera, Board Member Lynn Osgood, and Board Member Hill Abell.

5. Chris Yanez, PARD Principal Planner, addressed the Board regarding this proposed ordinance amendment.

Vice Chair Francell made a motion to recommend to the City Council an ordinance amending City Code Chapters 25-2, 25-7, and 25-8 relating to the review of requests for approval by the Parks and Recreation Board for projects within 1000 feet of the Lake Austin shoreline. Board Chair Rivera seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

6. Kirk Scanlon, PARD Contract Administrator, presented the proposed ordinance amendments to the Board.

Citizen Communication:

Colleen Quigley spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance amendments.

Daniel Walker, owner and operator of East Side Tubes and MOC Kayaks, spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance amendments.

Joshua Pearson, employee of East Side Tubes, spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance amendments.

Colleen Harvey, employee of East Side Tubes, spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance amendments.

Cathy Kopp spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance amendments.

Jamie McVaney spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance amendments.

Chris Brown, member of the Riverbluff Neighborhood Association, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance amendments and distributed information to the Board related to public safety incidents.

Agustina Rodriguez, member of the Riverbluff Neighborhood Association, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance amendments.

Gina Grande, member of the Riverbluff Neighborhood Association, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance amendments.

Robert Spitz, resident who lives near the river, spoke regarding current and past drought conditions.

Board Member Almanza made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to recommend to the City Council an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 8-1 to add the definition of inflatable flotation device, to add a prohibition on the use of inflatable devices along a portion of the Colorado River, to amend City Code section 8-1-72 related to boating concessions, and to create an offense. Board Chair Rivera seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Board Member Osgood made a motion for the Board to reconsider this item next month as an issue on public safety that includes swimming and signage. Board Member Abell seconded the motion. Board Member Osgood withdrew this motion.

Board Member Almanza made an alternative motion to move this issue forward with no recommendation. Board Chair Rivera seconded the motion. Board Member Almanza withdrew this motion.

Vice Chair Francell made a motion to recommend to the Director to study the feasibility and appropriateness of a tubing concession in this location. Board Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4-2 with Board Chair Rivera and Board Member Almanza opposed.

7. Sharon Hamilton, Austin Water Utility, addressed the Board regarding this projected, referred to as Polygon 337.

Citizen Communication:

Zoila Vega, Austin Heritage Tree Foundation, addressed the Board regarding concern for the trees in this area and proposed a barrier from the drip line or the critical root zone, whichever is the largest, fencing around the parking area to protect the trees, and mitigation afterwards.

Board Member Osgood made a motion to the Director to approve a Temporary Use Area (9,375 sq. ft.) not to exceed 354 Calendar Days on parkland, with a mitigation value of \$40,694.20. Board Member Abell seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

8. Shawn Cooper, PARD Park Development Coordinator, made a presentation to the Board regarding the Butler Fields Parking Study.

Citizen Communication:

David King, of the Zilker Neighborhood Association Executive Committee, spoke in opposition to the proposed parking meters at Butler Shores Ball Fields and suggested ways to increase park usage.

Linda Puckett spoke in opposition to the proposed parking meters at Butler Shores Ball Fields.

Vice Chair Francell made a motion to recommend to the Director the installation of metered parking during the weekday work hours at the parking lots of Butler Shores. Board Member Abell seconded the motion. The motion failed on a vote of 3-3 with Board Chair Rivera, Board Member Almanza, and Board Member Roth opposed.

Board Member Almanza made an alternative motion to not meter Butler Park. Board Chair Rivera seconded the motion. The motion failed on a vote of 3-3 with Vice Chair Francell, Board Member Abell, and Board Member Osgood opposed.

This item moved forward with no recommendation to the City Council.

9. Chris Yanez, PARD Principal Planner, gave a presentation to the Board regarding a temporary dock extension associated with the THIRST art installation and outlined staff's recommended condition of a navigational safety evaluation six weeks after installation at 1304 ½ W. Riverside Drive.

Vice Chair Francell made a motion to recommend to the Director approval of a temporary dock extending one-hundred and eighty three (183) feet from Lady Bird Lake shoreline for the Women and Their Work THIRST project to include staff's recommended condition of a navigational safety evaluation six weeks after installation. Board Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

10. Chris Yanez, PARD Principal Planner, gave a presentation to the Board regarding staff's recommendation to approve construction of a dock at 26 feet in width and extending 39 feet from shoreline at 3415 Westlake Drive.

Board Chair Rivera made a motion to recommend to the Director the approval of construction of a dock at 26 feet in width (37%) and approval of a dock extending 39 feet from shoreline at 3415 Westlake Drive. Board Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

E. BRIEFINGS

11. Briefing on the Austin Center for Events Special Events Ordinance. Board Chair Rivera postponed this item to the September 2013 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

12. Laura Esparza, PARD History Arts & Nature Division Manager, provided a briefing to the Board on the Public Art Donation Review Process and the proposed donation of "The Homecoming."

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARD Assistant Directors provided the following to the Board:

- Erosion concerns near Roy G. Guerrero Metropolitan Park: Staff has been closely monitoring the erosion affecting County Club Creek. PARD has dedicated funding from the Operating Budget and is undergoing interim improvements. In the long-term PARD is working with Watershed

Protection and Public Works to identify a long-term, sustainable solution. PARD is reviewing options to pursue monetary compensation for work performed in this area by a contractor.

- Alcohol in the Parks Policy: PARD has researched common practices, reviewed the City Ordinances, and looked at City park rules and Department policies. This draft policy is currently being reviewed by the City Law Department. This policy should be available for the Board to review and take action on at the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting.
- PARD partnership with Watershed Protection regarding the vegetation cobamba: This is an aquatic vegetation that is causing recreational navigation issues for concessionaires on Lady Bird Lake. PARD and WPD are putting together information for concessionaires to expedite removal of this vegetation at their expense. PARD will return to the Board at a later date with more information.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair Rivera requested a comprehensive report on the issue of tubing at the September meeting.

Board Member Abell requested a briefing regarding the department's policy on disposal of invasive species along the Barton Creek Greenbelt.

Vice Chair Francell requested additional information regarding the Trail of Lights schedule and road closures.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.