



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 - 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 6:02 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Vice Chair Francell made a motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of March 25, 2014. Board Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Glover off the dais.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Sharon Blythe spoke to the Board regarding disinterring her husband from Austin Memorial Cemetery. She requested that the 60 day timeframe be extended to her timeline.

Angelica Noyola spoke to the Board regarding the new Montopolis Recreation Center. She is not in favor of a joint use facility with HHSD and discussed issues involved in the Bond Election Advisory Task Force.

Jerry Perales spoke to the Board regarding a leak in the channel on Robert E Lee Road, stating that toxic water was now going into the springs. He requested that staff provide a briefing to the Board on this issue.

D. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Consent

2. Make a recommendation to the Arts Commission regarding the approval of a long term loan of an outdoor art piece titled "Dayton" by Jim Huntington on parkland.

3. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the naming of parkland to Del Curto Park.

4. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the naming of the baseball fields at Dove Springs District Park to Freddy P. Zamora Jr. Baseball Fields.

Citizen Communication

George Morales, President of the Dove Springs Community Recreation Advisory Board, spoke in favor of Item 4. He discussed the impact of Mr. Zamora on the community and his lifelong participation in parks programming.

Board Member Abell made a motion to approve Items 2-4 on the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Francell seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 7-0.

Non-Consent

5. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed use of City property at 401 West St. John's.

Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department, made a presentation to the Board regarding recommended future property use at 401 West St. Johns and responded to the Board's questions on this issue.

Citizen Communication

Victor Mannella, President of the University Hills Optimists, spoke to the Board regarding UHO's request for a shared use facility, with details to be worked out later between UHO, HNA, and PARD staff. He expressed that relocation of UHO is not acceptable unless the new location has equivalent facilities and is northeast of IH-35 and HWY 290. He expressed that a merger would kill their organization.

Marla Schmitz, resident of the Highland Neighborhood, spoke to the Board regarding their need for open space in Highland Neighborhood. She discussed the history of the use of this property, and population projections for the surrounding neighborhood. She expressed that 99% of UHO participants are not from their neighborhood, and that the location had maintenance issues.

Robert Deegan, member of the Highland Parks Committee, resident of Highland Neighborhood, and professional landscape architect, spoke to the Board regarding the park from a planning perspective. He shared maps of the property and offered suggestions for proposed layout of fields and other amenities.

Charlotte Garza spoke to the Board regarding the Highland Neighborhood Association proposed compromise of retaining soccer, kickball, tee ball, and coach-pitch on a multi-purpose field, while the remainder of the land would be used as a neighborhood park. She discussed the need for accessible green space in this neighborhood and the availability of other youth sports programs in the area. Steve Zettner, President of Sustainable Neighborhoods, spoke to the Board about the open space issues faced by neighborhoods in the urban core. He thanked the Board for supporting parkland acquisition and noted that lack of space is the real issue.

Chair Rivera made a motion to make a recommendation to Council regarding the use of the City property at 401 W St Johns, that Council accept the Watershed Protection Department's offer to transfer ownership of the majority of the property to Parks and Recreation for the use of a park, to recommend that staff continue negotiations with all stakeholders regarding the use, both temporary and permanent, of that property, and that the requested funding for the temporary reconfiguration of the field be

provided by City Council. Board Member Glover seconded the motion. This motion was withdrawn by Board Chair Rivera.

Board Member Abell made a motion to recommend to the City Council to pursue relocation Option 2 for 401 West St Johns and that the property be transferred to PARD. Board Chair Rivera seconded the motion. This motion was withdrawn by Board Member Abell.

Board Member Osgood made a motion requesting this item return to the Board in May with a resolution on the shared field proposal as put forward both by the neighborhood and UHO, and include an exact amount of funding required in order to make that happen. Board Member Abell seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0 with Board Member Almanza and Vice Chair Francell off the dais.

6. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the adoption of the Republic Square Master Plan.

Marty Stump, Capital Improvement Program Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, made a presentation to the Board regarding Items 6 and 7, related to the Republic Square Master Plan and responded to the Board's questions on this issue. Mr. Stump was joined by Melissa Barry, Downtown Austin Alliance, as well as Daniel Woodroffe and Colin Wallis, Austin Parks Foundation.

Board Member Glover made a motion to recommend to the City Council the adoption of the Republic Square Master Plan. Board Member Osgood seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0 with Vice Chair Francell and Board Member Almanza off the dais.

7. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the approval to negotiate and execute a Parkland Improvement Agreement between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Austin Parks Foundation regarding the execution of final Design, Construction and Management of Republic Square Park.

Board Member Glover made a motion to recommend to the City Council the approval to negotiate and execute a Parkland Improvement Agreement between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Austin Parks Foundation regarding the execution of final Design, Construction and Management of Republic Square Park. Board Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0 with Vice Chair Francell and Board Member Almanza off the dais.

E. BRIEFINGS

8. Eliza Spring Outlet Project – Liza Colucci, Watershed Protection Department

Liza Colucci, Environmental Scientist, Watershed Protection Department, provided an update on the Eliza Spring Outlet Project and answered questions from the Board.

9. Adoption Facility Location Proposal – Austin Pets Alive

This item was Withdrawn.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sara Hensley, Director, Parks and Recreation, provided an update on the new Montopolis Recreation Center development, informing the Board that the City is continuing its engagement with the community

with regards to development and will continue to do so. Assistant City Manager briefed the Public Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday April 23rd and as a result has a couple of questions he will delve into regarding the legal language associated with the Bond.

Sara Hensley, Director, Parks and Recreation, shared a report “Briefing Papers” by the American Planning Association regarding the impact of parks and recreation systems on cities as a whole.

Sara Hensley, Director, Parks and Recreation, announced that the vacant Assistant Director position closes on April 23 and some Board members can expect to be asked to serve on the interview panel.

Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation, provided an update to the Board regarding the annual adoption of the Local Standards of Care Ordinance, commonly known as the Childcare Ordinance. She discussed the contents of the Ordinance and the requirement for annual review by Council.

Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, announced a partnership with Texas State University for a long term study on the impact of participants of the Roving Leader program. The final proposal is in development.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Osgood requested a briefing on the leakage of pollutants into streams on Robert E Lee, as was reported by Jerry Perales during Citizen Communication.

Board Chair Rivera requested a complete update on the new Montopolis Recreation Center when appropriate.

Board Member Glover requested a status update on the proposed Concessions and Contracts Committee of the Parks and Recreation Board.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.