



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

**Tuesday, August 06, 2013  
Meeting Minutes**

**Joint Committee Members in Attendance:**

Parks and Recreation Board:  
Hill Abell, Chair  
Dale Glover

Environmental Board:  
Mary Ann Neely  
Jennifer Walker

**Staff in Attendance:**

Tom Nelson, PARD  
Kim McNeeley, PARD  
Gary Gregson, PARD  
Angela Hanson, PARD

Donita Grinde-Houtman, PARD  
Jim Adams, PARD  
Laurie Dries, WPD

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD / ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD JOINT COMMITTEE convened in a joint meeting on Tuesday, August 06, 2013, at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas.

Chair **Hill Abell** called the Joint Committee Meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. The approval of the minutes for the June 04, 2013, meeting was approved with a 4-0 vote.

**2. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION**

- Peter Steinhardt: stated that he had met with an ADA coordinator and Nichole Bohner (Barton Springs Manager); believes there are existing safety issues; would like the committee to look at safety and help guide staff in correcting them; both gross and minor issues; men's bathroom ADA shower was poorly done; he provided a printed list of issues; would like safety as an agenda item for every Joint Committee meeting.

### 3. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION

- Donita Grinde-Houtman provided a briefing on cleaning methodology and reasons for closing Barton Springs each Thursday.
  - Laurie Dries expanded on the environmental impacts to which not closing on Thursdays may contribute
  - Hill Abell asked about permit language stating that recreation/cleaning appears to have little impact on the salamander population
  - Laurie Dries stated that the language being referenced was from a draft version of the permit, and context was different
  - Mary Ann Neely asked if staff had considered shortening hours of closure
  - Tom Nelson stated that the methods currently used require the length of time currently allotted
  - Kim McNeeley asked if changing pool hours or cleaning procedures could jeopardize operating permit
  - Laurie Dries stated that significant changes would require advanced approval from US Fish and Wildlife Service, which is an 18-month process
  
- Laurie Dries provided a briefing on the plans to expose the spring run which is currently routed through a pipe from the Eliza Springs vessel to the bypass culvert.

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

- a. None.

### 5. FUTURE ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- a. Committee members agreed to Peter Steinhardt's request to add safety issues to the next meeting agenda, but then agreed to postpone this item until the committee had discussed what their purview is/will be.
- b. Committee members agreed to add a discussion (and possible action) of the committee's purview to the next agenda.
- c. Committee members agreed to add discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Department Director concerning tree snags and trunks left behind after tree removals at Barton Springs

### 6. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Hill Abell adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m. without objection.