



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, August 26, 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 6:01 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jane Rivera, Chair; Jeff Francell, Vice Chair; Dale Glover, Susan Roth, Lynn Osgood, Michael Casias

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Board Member Osgood made a motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of June 24, 2014. Board Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0 with Board Member Glover off the dais and Board Member Abell absent.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

David King addressed the Board regarding funding and expressed concern about operation and maintenance of parks by private entities. He expressed concern regarding the future of Auditorium Shores and encouraged finding funding from the public or other resources.

Gloria Moreno, Pedernales Neighborhood Association, spoke in opposition to the closing of east 4th street associated with the special event at Pan Am Recreation Center on October 25, 2014. She expressed that this event, hosted by the Easter Seals of Central Texas, distorts the meaning and significance of Dia De Los Muertos. She also expressed concern regarding the volume of music, parking, traffic, and the \$35 entry fee for adults.

Gavino Fernandez spoke in opposition of the October 25 event at Pan Am Recreation Center and inquired about when the department began reserving recreation centers for special events. He expressed concern that the event was already being marketed but had not secured all necessary permits yet. He shared that residents had signed a petition against this event. He expressed concern about the precedent this would set for SXSW events.

Paul Hernandez, East Town Lake Citizens Neighborhood Association, spoke in opposition of the October 25 event at Pan Am Recreation Center. He expressed concern about the precedent this would set in his neighborhood and some of the negative behaviors they expect to occur.

Mark Gentle expressed concern regarding the current management of the department. He expressed concern regarding an open records request he submitted pertaining to the private use of parks, stating

that the response was incomplete. He expressed concern about private entities being able to derive revenue from parks.

Thomas Whittmore expressed concern regarding the lack of aquatics programming specifically for the age group 10-16. He noted the importance of small group gatherings to affect high school dropout rates.

Rick Luna spoke in opposition of the October 25 event at Pan Am Recreation Center, stating that is was not appropriate for neighborhoods.

D. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Consent

2. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the approval of the Colony Park District Master Plan.

Citizen Communication

Barbara Scott, President of the Colony Park Neighborhood Association, addressed the Board and noted that there is not a swimming pool in the Colony Park area. She encouraged the Board to seek funding for this, and promised a return trip to the Board should the Gus Garcia neighborhood receive a pool before their neighborhood.

Vice Chair Francell made a motion to approve the Consent agenda. Board Member Glover seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Abell absent.

Non-Consent

3. Board Chair to appoint a new member to the Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Board Chair Rivera appointed Board Member Michael Casias to the Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee of the Parks and Recreation Board. Board Member Casias accepted.

4. Board Chair to appoint a new member to the Joint Committee of the Environmental Board/Parks and Recreation Board.

Board Chair Rivera appointed Board Member Michael Casias to the Joint Committee of the Environmental Board/Parks and Recreation Board. Board Member Casias accepted.

5. Adopt the amendment to the Parks and Recreation Board Bylaws, as approved by the Audit and Finance Committee on August 12, 2014, removing the Navigation Committee and allowing the Board Chair to serve as a non-voting member of the committees.

Vice Chair Francell made a motion to adopt the amendment to the Parks and Recreation Board Bylaws, as approved by the Audit and Finance Committee on August 12, 2014, removing the Navigation Committee and allowing the Board Chair to serve as a non-voting member of the committees. Board Member Glover seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Abell absent.

6. Discuss Concessions and Contracts Committee Report – Committee Chair Francell

Vice Chair Francell, and Committee Chair to the Concessions and Contracts Committee, provided a brief report to the Board regarding the new committee's successful first meeting and their scope.

Citizen Communication

Mark Gentle spoke to the Board regarding his attendance at the first Concessions and Contracts Committee meeting. He expressed particular concern regarding the special event/use agreements in the parks that do not go to Council for approval and thus would not be considered by this Committee. He also discussed the Special Events Ordinance.

E. BRIEFINGS

7. Major Revisions for the Special Events Ordinance after First Reading – William Manno, Corporate Special Events Program Manager

William Manno, Corporate Special Events Program Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding the major revisions to the Special Events Ordinance since first reading, and responded to questions from the Board on this issue.

Citizen Communication

David King, Zilker neighborhood resident, spoke regarding this ordinance and asked that the notification process be properly aligned. He requested further information on the impact of events based on their tiers.

Christi Cuellar Lotz, Ballet Austin, spoke to the Board regarding this ordinance and expressed some concerns. She requested a clearly delineated timelines and deadlines for the application process, notification to affected persons, and the approval/disapproval process by affected persons, and the appeal process. She requested a sample of last years' events according to the proposed tiers. She shared their recommendations for each tier.

8. Auxiliary Water Codes Coordination Project Recommendations – Dan Pedersen, Reclaimed Water Program Manager, Austin Water Utility

Dan Pedersen, Reclaimed Water Program Manager, Austin Water Utility, provided a presentation to the Board regarding the Auxiliary Water Codes Coordination Project Recommendations, and responded to questions from the Board.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sara Hensley, Director, Parks and Recreation, introduced Assistant Director Charlie Romines. She noted that the Department is busy with Council Resolutions and scheduling a Board Retreat to strategize regarding Board transition. She noted that the Concessions and Contracts Committee held their first successful meeting, and that the Board should expect a September item regarding the Spillway. She noted that the pool and summer programming season is winding down.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Glover requested more information regarding the availability of swim programs for ages 10-16.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.