



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, September 23, 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 6:05 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Board Member Abell made a motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of August 26, 2014. Vice Chair Francell seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Osgood off the dais.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ana Villalobos, Montopolis Advisory Board Member, addressed the Board regarding concerns about the new Montopolis Recreation Center. She stated that the community is not supportive of a shared building with Health and Human Services. She referenced a gentlemen's agreement, made when the City acquired the property, that the property be used only for recreation.

Susana Almanza, Montopolis Neighborhood Association, addressed the Board regarding the new Montopolis Recreation Center, and passed out copies of a deed, which she stated indicated that the land the center was on was parkland, and should be protected. She expressed concern that the Health Department would take control of the center. She mentioned that Central Health has recently opened a location at the old Veterans Administration building, and that the community felt that all health services belong there.

D. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Consent

2. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Austin and the Austin Independent School District for the Ace Reading Tutoring Intervention Program to be offered at Allison, Brooke, Metz, Govalle, Ortega and Zavala Elementary Schools.

Vice Chair Francell made a motion to approve the Consent agenda. Board Member Casias seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Osgood off the dais.

Non-Consent

3. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the renaming of the East Lawn of Auditorium Shores at Town Lake Metropolitan Park.

April Thedford provided the Board with a brief overview and timeline of this renaming process.

Citizen Communication

Neal Spelce addressed the Board in support of the renaming to Vic Mathias Shores. He provided the Board with a packet of information and discussed Mr. Mathias' contribution to Lady Bird Lake and its shores, including support from nine former mayors. He showed the Board a video outlining Mr. Mathias' contribution to the community.

Betty Dunkerley, former Mayor Pro Tem, spoke to the Board in support of the renaming to Vic Mathias Shores.

Ada Anderson spoke to the Board in support of the renaming to Vic Mathias Shores, noting that Mr. Mathias was a creative mind. She spoke fondly about the Austin Aqua Fest

Britney Gilbert spoke to the Board in support of the renaming to Vic Mathias Shores. She discussed his mentorship in her career, and encouraged the Board to support the naming.

Mark Mathias, son of Vic Mathias, shared a letter with the Board that the late Mr. Mathias had written for his children regarding Lady Bird Lake.

Bruce Todd, former Mayor, spoke to the Board in support of the renaming to Vic Mathias Shores.

David King spoke to the Board regarding this renaming, and encouraged them to consider honoring Mr. Mathias in a different way. He suggested renaming the Boardwalk, the First Street Bridge, the Lamar Bridge, or some other public structure in his name. He suggested naming the Auditorium Shores East Lawn after Stevie Ray Vaughn.

Board Member Casias made a motion to recommend to the City Council to rename the East Lawn of Auditorium Shores to Vic Mathias Shores. Board Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0.

4. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding exercising the final five (5) year extension available on the concession contract with Lee Kinser for operations of the Butler Pitch and Putt Concession.

Kevin Gomillion and Kirk Scanlon provided the Board with a presentation regarding the Butler Pitch and Putt concession contract and responded to questions from the Board.

Citizen Communication

David King addressed the Board regarding this concession contract. He stated that he was supportive of this plan, and had some questions. He asked what the PGA recognition meant for the course. He asked that neighbors be involved in any special events at the site.

Board Member Roth made a motion recommend to the City Council to approve the final five (5) year extension available on the concession contract with Lee Kinser for operations of the Butler Pitch and Putt Concession, noting that following this five year extension, the concession should go through the competitive process.

5. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Request for Qualifications (RFQS) for the finance, design, development, management and operation of a municipal golf course at Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park.

Kevin Gomillion provided the Board with a presentation regarding this RFQS and responded to questions from the Board.

Citizen Communication

Margarita Decierdo, member of the Colony Park Neighborhood Association and President of the newly formed Colony Park Lakeside Community Development Corporation, addressed the Board and requested additional information about how existing communities in Colony Park will benefit from this project. She expressed several concerns including, how will the existing community benefit from this development if it indeed moves forward, what will the environmental and traffic impact be, will there be any incentives to involve the existing communities in job creation, will this project be included in other local projects and community plans, and is this project the best use of resources if existing infrastructure issues still exist. She encouraged the Board to develop a taskforce to look at this issue.

James Lopez addressed the Board on this issue, discussing issues with this site becoming a golf course, and encouraging the Board to leave the land as is.

Warren Hayes and Kristina Hayes donated their time to Gary Bellomy. Gary Bellomy, representing the proposer Decker Lake Golf, addressed the Board on this issue and offered some clarification regarding their proposal. He shared images from past developments with the Board and discussed the advantages of a relationship with PGA. He discussed their commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship and the community involvement process.

David King addressed the Board on this issue and asked that the Board give the public more time to review this proposal. He shared some of this questions and concerns specifically about events at the venue and course fees for the public. He shared general concerns about access to parkland in this neighborhood, and expressed that he believes this topic should require a Chapter 26 public hearing.

Ora Houston, member of the Blackland Neighborhood Association, addressed the Board on this issue. She expressed surprise that this park use was in the master plan for this park. She expressed concern about community engagement on this project, and reminded the Board that the City just purchased a new golf course. She encouraged the Board to retain parkland for the many new residents projected to move to that area. She requested that the Board table this issue until the new City Council takes office.

Roy Whaley, Conservation Chair for the Austin Regional Group of the Sierra Club addressed the Board to express that he is not supportive of this plan. He expressed that he's observed a concern for lack of

park and open spaces during recent City Council district debates, and encouraged the Board to not give away this land. He expressed concern about the game of golf losing popularity, and a national trend of golf courses closing.

Craig Nazer, a frequent birder at Decker Lake, expressed concern about this project. He expressed concerns about public access to Decker Lake and the natural environment there. He expressed concern about F1, and the consequences being similar.

Michael Tolliver donated his time to Melvin Wren. Melvin Wren, member of the Colony Park Neighborhood Association, addressed the Board and expressed concern about this project. He discussed the need for community revitalization and economic development in this area. He encouraged the use of the public engagement plan developed by the neighborhood association to reach this community.

Board Member Abell made a motion to recommend that the City Council not approve the finance, design, development, management and operation of a municipal golf course at Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park until after the completion of a community-wide public planning and input process to determine the best use of this property, and recommends that this item return to the Parks and Recreation Board before final City Council consideration. Board Member Casias seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0 with Vice Chair Francell off the dais.

6. Discuss size and nature of events at various Parks and Recreation Department facilities and the process for approval.

Jason Maurer made a presentation to the Board and responded to questions on the size and nature of events at various Parks and Recreation Department facilities and the process for approval.

Citizen Communication

David King addressed the Board on this issue and discussed the event review process that affects the Zilker neighborhood. He is supportive of this process and encouraged it to continue. He encouraged the Board to consider the impact of events and consider placing a limit on the number and size of events. He encouraged donations from private donors.

Susana Almanza addressed the Board on this issue and questioned the alcohol use designation for Pan Am Hillside. She explained that the park is on school grounds and asked the Board to consider alcohol use at parks adjacent to schools.

Phil Thomas, member of the East Town Lake Neighborhood Association Park Planning Team, addressed the Board on this issue and suggested the creation of a neighborhood event control board composed of stakeholders.

This item was offered for discussion only. No action was taken.

Board Chair Rivera made a motion to extend the meeting past 10:00 p.m. Board Member Glover seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Vice Chair Francell and Board Members Abell and Roth off the dais.

7. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the approval of the Pease District Park Master Plan.

Kim McKnight made a presentation to the Board regarding the Pease District Park Master Plan and responded to questions.

Citizen Communication

Lisa Williams and Tim McCrory donated their time to Gordon Kelly. Gordon Kelly, President of Waterloo Disc Golf Club, spoke in opposition to the master plan as proposed. He is opposed to the omission of disc golf in the plan, and stated he would be supportive of the plan if disc golf was added. He expressed disagreement with the department's position that disc golf will not work in this park, and suggested a smaller, more ecologically sensitive course may work. He discussed the national uptick in disc golf courses, and how that compares to the department's investment in disc golf courses. He discussed that the lack of other disc golf courses contributed to the degradation observed. He asked the Board to direct staff to add disc golf back in, or to table the item for consideration by the new City Council.

Tina Contros, who lives near Pease Park, addressed the Board regarding this master plan. She expressed concern that the board of her homeowners association was not consulted, and did not have this item on their upcoming agenda. She expressed concern about the lack of conversations that occurred related to crime.

Jim Christianson, who lives near Pease Park, addressed the Board regarding this master plan. He credited the Pease Park Conservancy for doing a good job on the plan. He cautioned the Board that the City should never do another master plan this way again, and expressed concern about the use of private funds contributing to the master planning process. He expressed that he did not feel the process fair or that all public comments were incorporated. He expressed concern about the proposed parking in the plan, and the effect it will have on crime in the area.

Richard Craig, Chairperson of the Pease Park Conservancy, handed the Board a package of letters of support for the plan and discussed those who contributed. He expressed excitement about getting started with the plan. He explained that the Conservancy applied to 35 foundations for funding for the plan, and received funding from 8 of these foundations. Some foundations expressed interest in helping in implementation, but do not give funds for planning.

Andy Gil addressed the Board on this issue and expressed that Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are vital to the quality of life in central Austin. He expressed that the Conservancy is excited to get started with the implementation phase. He shared that he is a disc golf player, but felt that this park is too fragile for disc golf, and should not be compared to Zilker.

Tom Spencer, former Parks Board member and member of the Pease Park Conservancy, addressed the Board on this issue. He spoke about how Pease Park had been loved to death. He spoke in support of the plan and the model it set for public-private partnerships.

Mike McHone, representing University Area Partners, spoke in support of this master plan. He congratulated the planning team on their efforts. He expressed the need for those affiliated with the University, and those who live nearby, to have this space for recreation.

Bill Head, who lives near the park, addressed the Board on this issue and spoke in support of the master plan. He expressed that he felt the outreach efforts for the planning meetings was widespread, though he understands how some residents may still have missed the message. He expressed concern about the Board tabling the issue until a new City Council is in place. He referenced the maintenance of Central Park as an example of a public private partnership.

Board Member Osgood made a motion to recommend to the City Council the approval of the Pease District Park Master Plan. Board Member Glover seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0 with Vice Chair Francell off the dais.

E. BRIEFINGS

8. Donation Opportunity offered by American Honey Bee Protection Agency/Central Texas Bee Rescue for Beehives within the Park System – Meredith Gray, Conservation Program Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department

Meredith Gray provided a presentation to the Board on this topic and responded to questions about the program.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sara Hensley, Director, Parks and Recreation, did not discuss any items.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair Rivera shared that Board Member Casias has requested an action item on the agenda to review the designation of AB Cantu Pan Am Hillside as it relates to alcohol sales in response to comments given during Citizen Communication.

Board Chair Rivera shared that Board Member Casias has requested an action item on the agenda to discuss the recommended site plan and uses at Montopolis Recreation Center given comments received during Citizen Communication.

Board Member Glover requested a written update regarding the land on which the ESB-MACC sits, the two adjoining parcels, and PARD's plan to dedicate this land as parkland.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.