



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.

Town Lake Center

721 Barton Springs Road, Assembly Room

Austin, Texas 78704

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of October 28, 2014.
2. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of November 18, 2014.

Board Member Glover made a motion to approve the minutes from October 28, 2014 and November 18, 2014. Board Member Abell seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0-1 with Board Member Roth off the dais and Vice Chair Francell abstaining because he was absent.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Shane Poe donated his time to John Robinson. John Robinson addressed the Board regarding the sport of slacklining and the recently amended park rules for this activity. He discussed the rules process that he had been involved in up to this point. He expressed opposition to the permitting requirement for slacklining, especially for anyone under 18. He expressed intention to appeal these adopted rules in an effort to remove the permitting requirement.

Curtis Kensinger addressed the Board and providing some photos regarding slacklining and the recently amended park rules for this activity. He noted that those under 18 are not required to obtain permits for City skateparks. He expressed concern that those making the park rules did not know or understand the sport of slacklining.

D. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Consent

3. Make a recommendation to the City Council to rename the parkland located at 200 Zilker Clubhouse Road to Charles Page Zilker Clubhouse.

4. Make a recommendation to the City Council to rename the parkland located at 200 S. Lamar to Jack W. Robinson Austin Parks and Recreation Department Main Office.
5. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the approval of Permanent Use (16,397 sq. ft.) and Temporary Use (17,992 sq. ft.) of parkland located at 7400 Loyola Ln. (Colony District Park). Mitigation value is \$19,245.12.
6. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding approval to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Austin Parks Foundation and the Downtown Alliance for final design, construction, operation and management of Republic Square.

Chair Rivera corrected for the record that the recommended name for Item 3 should be Charles Page Zilker Park Clubhouse. Board Member Abell 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 Roth off the dais.

Non-Consent

7. Approve the creation of the Holly Shores Master Plan Implementation Working Group and appointment of members.

Chair Rivera introduced this item and named herself, Chair Jane Rivera, and Board Member Michael Casias as appointees. Board Member Casias made a motion to approve the creation of the Holly Shores Master Plan Implementation Working Group and appointment of members. Board Member Osgood seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Roth off the dais.

8. Make a recommendation to the City Council for approval to place a 1,500 sq. ft. historic house, to be used as the Rainey Street History Center, on three potential sites identified within the Rainey Street District.

Ricardo Soliz, Planning & Development Division Manager, presented this item to the Board and responded to questions.

Citizen Communication

Bonita White, President of the Rainey Neighbors Association (RNA), addressed the Board regarding this item and provided a letter to the Board outlining the RNA's opposition to selection of all three sites presented. She expressed concern about the historic house having insufficient funding.

Juan Oyervides, member of the ESB-MACC Advisory Board, addressed the Board regarding this item. He restated the motion of the ESB-MACC Advisory Board in support of the Cummings site and further discussed funding for this historic house. He expressed concern about the house sitting in a dilapidated state without sufficient funding.

Ben Siegel, Co-President of the Rainey Business Coalition, addressed the Board regarding this item. He expressed concern regarding the use of funds on rehabilitation of a house versus important infrastructure needs. He expressed opposition to all of the three proposed locations. He also expressed opposition to the lots being dedicated as parkland. He discussed his understanding of the fund being for improvements, and questioned if this was the best use of those funds.

Chair Rivera made a motion to recommend to the City Council that the house be placed at 700 Cummings Street, contingent upon funding being identified and dedicated for relocation, renovation, and operation. Board Member Casias seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6-1 with Board Member Glover against.

9. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Temporary Use (4,284 sq. ft.) of parkland located at 207 S. Pleasant Valley Road (Kreig Softball Fields), not to exceed 180-365 Calendar Days on parkland. Mitigation value is \$14,052.50.

Kevin Koeller, Austin Water Utility, and Rode Mora, Austin Water Utility, presented this item to the Board and responded to questions. Vice Chair Francell made a motion to recommend to the Director the Temporary Use (4,284 sq. ft.) of parkland located at 207 S. Pleasant Valley Road (Kreig Softball Fields), not to exceed 180-365 Calendar Days on parkland. Board Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0.

E. BRIEFINGS

10. Update regarding the fence and gate installed between the west end of Barton Springs Pool and the Barton Creek Greenbelt trailhead to reduce endangered salamander habitat disturbance at Upper Barton Springs.

Tom Devitt, Environmental Scientist, Watershed Protection Department, presented this briefing to the Board and responded to questions.

Citizen Communication

Karen Magov addressed the Board regarding this issue. She discussed the pressure increased population has placed on the parks. She expressed concern about eliminating this access point and suggested that it may lead to more people taking their cars instead. She also expressed concern about removing this take-out point for kayaks and canoes and the navigation challenges this presents. She expressed objection to the fact that signage was placed without any outreach to the public.

Karen Kreps addressed the Board regarding this issue. She shared that she is a daily Barton Springs Pool user and was shocked to see the fence put up. She shared that she attended most of the master planning meetings and is very active in the community but was not aware of this ahead of time.

11. Update regarding the Shoal Creek Greenbelt Trail Improvements Project

Darryl Haba, Project Manager, Public Works Department, presented this briefing to the Board and responded to questions.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Rivera requested an item on the January agenda for the dedication of 58 and 64 Rainey Street as parkland.

Board Member Glover requested an update regarding the Lamar Beach Master Plan. Director Hensley committed to following up via email.

Board Member Francell requested an update regarding construction at the Auditorium Shores Trailhead. Director Hensley reported that the Trailhead was open as of the afternoon of December 9, 2014.

Board Member Casias requested additional information regarding park rule adoption. Assistant Director McNeeley committed to following up via email to discuss the administrative appeal process through the City Manager's Office.

H. ADJOURNMENT

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