



## **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

Tuesday, July 28, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.

### **Boards and Commissions Room**

City Hall, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Austin, Texas 78701

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## **MINUTES**

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Director Sara Hensley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

#### Board Members in Attendance:

Jane Rivera, Chair; Richard DePalma, Vice Chair; Michael Casias, Rick Cofer, Tom Donovan, Alesha Larkins, Francoise Luca, Alex Schmitz, Pat Wimberly

### **B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of June 23, 2015.

Board Member DePalma made a motion to approve the minutes from June 23, 2015. Board Member Rivera seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 9-0 with Board Members Alter and Vane absent.

### **C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Elisa Rendon Montoya, Vice Chair of the East Town Lake Citizens Neighborhood Association, addressed the Board regarding their concerns about Metz Recreation Center parking lot. Ms. Montoya also provided a letter to the Board.

### **D. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Consent**

#### **Non-Consent**

2. Introduction of Parks and Recreation Board Members.

Director Hensley introduced this item. Each Board Member present introduced themselves and their background or areas of interest.

3. Introduction of Staff Liaisons and Parks and Recreation Department Executive Team.

Director Hensley introduced this item, and her role as executive liaison. April Shaw introduced herself and her role as the staff liaison. Assistant Directors Wright, Stump, and McNeeley introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their areas of responsibility.

#### 4. Discussion of Parks and Recreation Industry Trends and Department Operations.

Director Hensley provided a brief presentation to the Board regarding current parks and recreation trends, including many challenges the Austin Parks and Recreation Department shares with other parks departments. Director Hensley also briefly discussed the scope of the department's services to the community.

#### 5. Discussion of the Parks and Recreation Board Bylaws.

Director Hensley shared with the Board that the City Clerk's Office is currently reviewing all the Board bylaws and that the Board can expect an item on a future agenda to amend them as needed and desired.

Sabine Romero, Attorney Senior with the Law Department, introduced herself and shared that their department is a resource for their questions regarding both the substance of what they do and ethics and compliance issues. Ms. Romero explained that the process to amend bylaws requires Board review, approval from the Council Audit and Finance Committee, and adoption final adoption by the Board.

The Board was encouraged to share any desired amendments with the staff liaison. Scheduling of this item on a future agenda is contingent on alignment with the Clerk's Office review schedule.

#### 6. Discussion of Committees and Task Forces requiring Parks and Recreation Board representation.

Director Hensley introduced this item and explained that there are many bodies that the Board Members will need to place themselves on. Board Members were encouraged to share their areas of interest with the Board Chair. Action items will appear on the August agenda to make these nominations and appointments.

#### 6. Election of Officers.

Director Hensley asked for any nomination from the floor for Board Chair. Board Member DePalma made a motion to nominate Jane Rivera. Board Member Cofer seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 9-0 with Board Members Alter and Vane absent.

Board Chair Rivera asked for nominations from the floor for Vice Chair. Board Member Cofer nominated Board Member DePalma. Board Member Casias seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 9-0 with Board Members Alter and Vane absent.

### **E. BRIEFINGS**

None

### **F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Hensley informed the Board that staff will be trying to keep them informed in writing of upcoming items on the Board's agenda. Director Hensley shared this document with the Board and reviewed several items. She shared that due to time sensitivity, there are several items that will come

directly to the Board in August instead of being first considered by a Board Committee first. These include an interlocal agreement with the Austin Independent School District for the ACE Reading and Tutoring Intervention Program, amendment to a master lease agreement between the City and the State Theatre Company, and temporary and permanent use of parkland for the Waters Park Relief Main project. The Board can also expect an item for a proposed change that would allow the Director to administratively set hours, as well as a proposed change to the naming a renaming procedures for parkland and facilities. In October the Board will received the Annual Town Lake Concession Report, and discuss and adopt the 2016 Board meeting schedule.

Director Hensley also shared that two PARD items will be considered in August at the Council level. On August 6, Council will consider approval of a contract with Texas Gas for installation of a gas line at Bartholomew Pool. On August 20, Council will consider selection of a vendor for the Aquatics Master Plan.

Assistant Director McNeeley provided the Board with some background regarding the aquatic needs assessment, its findings, and the next steps the master plan process will involve.

Director Hensley shared that staff have been engaging with neighborhood groups including Dove Springs, Friends of Govalle, the Gus Garcia Advisory group about mobilizing and sharing their respective needs.

#### **G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Member Casias requested follow up information regarding the Metz Recreation Center parking issue discussed during Citizen Communication.

Board Member Cofer requested a presentation from staff regarding Waste Diversion and Recycling in Parks. He expressed support for placing this Briefing on a slower agenda in the fall. Vice Chair DePalma seconded this request.

Vice Chair DePalma requested information regarding the use of pesticides in the park system. This information was requested by the previous Board and will be provided via memo.

Board Member Donovan requested further information regarding wildflower meadows and their maintenance mowing schedules. Staff will follow up with Board Member Donovan.

Board Member Luca requested further information and follow up regarding the education efforts on topics like erosion, meadows, and off leash areas. Board Member Luca also requested information on security issues and considerations on the trails. Staff will follow up with the full Board in writing.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.