



Parks and Recreation Board  
Minutes

Regular Meeting  
November 24, 2009

Vice-Chair Marler called the Board Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Board Chair Linda Guerrero, Vice-Chair Sara Marler, Hill Abell, Jeff Francell, Carol Lee, Jerry Perales and Jane Rivera.

Staff in Attendance:

Sara Hensley, Stuart Strong, Ricardo Soliz, Cora Wright, Tony Sanchez, Farhad Madani, Kate Tanguis, Tom Nelson and Tino Garcia.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Board Member Rivera moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Lee. Motion carried.

2. Citizen Communication: General

Elizabeth Gardner, President, Austin Rowing Club - updated the Board on club activities.

Matt Knifton, Texas Rowing Center - provided a video addressing the club's special programs.

Diane McDiarmid, Texas Rowing Center - discussed Paralympic rowing at the Club.

Tom Wald, League of Bicycling Voters - discussed park curfew on transportation routes and requested removal of curfews.

Jeff Jack, addressed issues regarding Town Lake Park.

Rich Garza, Pachanga Festival - updated the board on Latino Music Festival.

3. Briefs

- a. Cell Towers: The presentation was made by Jim Howerton, Program Manager, Austin Energy.
- b. Update on Butler Park Phase III: The presentation was made by Earl Broussard, TBG Partners.

4. New Business and Action Items

- a. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding permanent and temporary use of parkland at Reilly Elementary School.

Presenter: Connie Smith, Public Works Department

The motion to recommend the permanent and temporary use of parkland at Reilly Elementary for the purpose of water and wastewater improvements at Airport and Chesterfield was made by Board Member Rivera, seconded by Board Member Hill. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0.

Vote count: Members voting aye: Board Chair Guerrero, Vice-Chair Marler, Board Member Francell, Board Member Hill, Board Member Lee, Board Member Perales and Board Member Rivera.

Members voting nay: None

- b. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding a Parks Board resolution concerning Youth Sports Leagues.

A motion requesting revisiting and revising current contracts between the City and Youth Sports Leagues regarding the use of City funds to pay for private non-profit organization's utilities and requests that the Mayor and City Council support department staff in the implementation of the recommended allocation strategy was made by Board Member Lee, seconded by Board Member Rivera. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0.

Vote count: Members voting aye: Board Chair Guerrero, Vice-Chair Marler, Board Member Francell, Board Member Hill, Board Member Lee, Board Member Perales and Board Member Rivera.

Members voting nay: None

- c. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding an ordinance granting a site specific amendment to City Code Section 25-8-514 (Save our Springs) and a variance to

City Code Section 25-8-482 (Critical Water Quality Zone). This action will allow for construction of a temporary access road and temporary crane pad in the Critical Water Quality Protection Zone of Barton Creek.

Presenters: Tom Nelson, Division Manager, Aquatic Division and Weston Solutions.

Citizen Communication: Agenda Item

Thomas Weber, Friends of Barton Springs Pool - requested Board support to approve the variance request in order to remove flood debris.

Robin Cravey, President, Friends of Barton Springs Pool - also requested Board support to approve the variance request in order to remove flood debris from the pool.

Ralph Webster, Austin Parks Foundation, supports the recommendation to the City Council and requested Board support to approve the recommendation.

Zolia Vega - urged the Board to defer the variance request for 6 months because the project design is not yet completed.

Mary Yarrington, Friends of Barton Springs Pool -urged Board support to approve the recommended action.

Peter Steinhart - indicated that there are sequencing problems with this request and asks to defer the action until a maintenance plan is put in place.

A motion requesting approval of the recommended site specific amendment to City Code Section 25-8-514 and granting a variance to the City Code Section 25-8-482 was approved on a Board Member Perales motion, seconded by Board Member Hill. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Vote Count: Board Members voting aye: Board Chair Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Marler, Board Member Francell, Board Member Hill, Board Member Perales and Board Member Hill.

Members Voting Nay: None

Members Abstaining: Board Member Lee

## 5. Director's Report

Director Hensley reported on the following:

- December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>: Leadership and Community Workshop meetings on the Waterloo Master Plan.
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Onion Creek Design Charette from 6-8p.m. at Mendez Middle School.

- Children and Families Task Force Resolution on ¼ and ½ mile parks will require a task force to look at the resolution and show where the gaps are throughout the city.
- The department will kick off a business plan meeting for the FY 2009-2010 budget. This document will be shared with the Board.
- Texas State University is assisting the department developing a comprehensive business analysis for our cemeteries. They will look at new service models, challenges etc...
- Staff and Board will be invited to a workshop, conducted by the Central Park Conservancy, March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The department will update the Board on a Pay and Display Initiative that will consider adding parking kiosks at certain parks within our system. Some of the parks under consideration are: Butler along Auditorium Shores and the area adjacent to the Dougherty Arts Center.
- Asleep at the Wheel and friends will provide a free concert on December 21<sup>st</sup>. as part of the Trail of Lights festivities at the Zilker Hillside Theatre.
- A brief is being scheduled for the January Parks Board retreat to update the Board on Alcohol Prohibition on Parkland.
- Since the Inlet at Waterloo Park is about to be constructed, a walk-thru was conducted by the staff and consultants to evaluate the conditions of the existing trees in the park. A report is forthcoming.

#### 6. Items from the Board

Board Member Lee requested an update on the status of the bulk heading resolution that was pass by both the Environmental Board as well as the Parks Board.

Board Member Rivers requested an update on spending public monies on public entities. (A briefing will be provided at the December meeting)

Board Chair Guerrero appointed Board Member Francell to the Navigation Committee and appointed Board Members Hill Abell, Sara Marler and Jerry Perales to a Parks and Open Space committee to review the Downtown Parks and Open Space proposal and to make recommendations along with staff to the full committee.

Board Chair Guerrero asked all members to stand and give Assistant Director Strong a round of applause for his outstanding contribution to the department and the Board. Mr. Strong has announced his retirement this December.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.