

**Parks and Recreation Board Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 22, 2000**

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Rocky Medrano, Vice-Chair, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Clint Small, Mike Librik, Mary Ruth Holder and Jeff Francell.

Staff Members Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kimberley Jamail Mitchell, Juan Valera, Mel Hinson, Stuart Strong, Randy Scott and Donna McKennis.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Chair, Rosemary Castleberry, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINTUES, from the February 8, 2000 meeting

Board Member Carter stated that the vote should accurately reflect all members present; it was determined that the votes will reflect the Chairperson as voting, unless directed otherwise. Mary Ruth Holder made a motion that the minutes be approved with changes to the number of votes. Jeff Francell seconded. The motion passed in favor. (7-0-0).

C. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Tom Atkinson, property owner on Red Bluff Road spoke regarding his concerns of the brush cutting that is being performed at the Colorado River Park, on the eastern side. He stated that he had noticed this work was being performed on a Sunday and he questioned whether the workers were following the Master Plan

Aran Moses stated that she was at the Colorado River Park and the police were called on her. She is concerned about the terrain at the park and would like for the work to halted until consultants can be hired to work with the City crews.

Larry Akers, Secretary, Friends of the Parks signed up for citizens communication. He requests the Board to consider implications of commercial lease of parkland.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Gary Kosut with the Watershed Protection Department spoke regarding the Barton Springs Pool Improvement Project Phase II. This is work that will be done in the park, not the pool. The work is the result of the City's 10A permit with the Fish and Wildlife Service, associated with protecting the salamander, an endangered species. The purpose of is work is to keep stormwater out of the pool and out of the Eliza Spring and Sunken Garden. Mr. Kosut used drawings to help explain the work to be done. This will include cleaning the channels, drainage improvements, addition of berms and swells and inlets to keep stormwater out of the pool and going into Barton Creek, downstream of the pool.

2. David Armbrust with Armbrust Brown and Davis LLP spoke regarding Corpus Christi Natural Gas (CCNG) acquiring property in the Bee Caves area. They are proposing to lease or acquire about 12 acres of land from the Balcones Canyonland Preserve for construction and operation of a wastewater treatment plant. A digital animation presentation was done at this point. Board Member Elaine Carter proposed that this item be delayed for action so that staff and the proposers can meet and come to an agreement of some kind. Chair Castleberry stated that this item will be pulled and go back to the Land and Facilities Committee.
3. Jay Hailey, attorney representing Gagne Development Company, Inc. presented a proposal regarding developing two eighteen hole golf courses and hotel on parkland at Lake Walter E. Long. He stated that preliminary projections for over a period of twenty years estimates the return to the City of Austin to be \$92 million over 20 years to be paid both indirectly and directly from that project. The proposed lease for the hotel and conference center is 99 years. The project's investment is estimated at \$65 million. Pierre Gagne, Gagne Development Company, Inc. of New York spoke regarding the proposal for parkland. He stated that the public will have access to this facility and how important it is that this project is close to the water. Roy Bechtol, planner and golf course architect spoke regarding the proposed project, how it would be a world class facility. Mr. Bechtol spoke briefly of the Master Plan of Lake Walter E. Long and how the project would work with that. He also stated that the area is part that City Council slated as Smart Growth and he sees this as a great opportunity for quality growth in this area. Dick Kemp, President of the Golf Advisory Board spoke regarding the proposed project. Mr. Kemp stated that he believes this will benefit Austin golfers by being able to play at a world class course for a reasonable rate; it will be open to the public. He also stated that this will increase cash flow stream enabling two new golf courses to be built, pay the debt service and keep the green fees at a reasonable rate. Board Member Jeff Francell made the motion that the Parks Board further investigate the proposal and, if the City Council chooses to put this item on the May ballot, then the Board will make a recommendation concerning this proposal. Clint Small seconded. The motion passed in favor. (6-1-0). Carter.
4. H.M. (Mac) Pike, Jr. with the Sutton Company Request for Variance for the Plaza Lofts, 5th and Guadalupe. Item was pulled from the agenda.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Transfer of 12 Acres from the Bohls Unit of the Balcones Canyonland Preserves. This item was referred back to the Land and Facilities Committee.
2. Recommendation Regarding the Development of thirty-six hold Golf Course and Hotel Facility at Lake Walter E. Long. Board Member Jeff Francell made the motion that the Parks Board further investigate the proposal and, if the City Council chooses to put this item on the May

ballot, then the Board will make a recommendation concerning this proposal. Clint Small seconded. The motion passed in favor. (6-1-0). Carter.

3. Recommendation to City Council on Review of Height Restrictions and Variance Request for the Plaza Lofts at 5th and Guadalupe. This item was postponed and will be placed on the March 28th agenda.
4. Construction of Pizzitola Boat dock at 3113 Brass Buttons Trail File No. SP-99-2082DS.
5. Construction of Jeffries Boat dock at 3106 Rivercrest Drive File No. SP-99-0198DS.

Mary Ruth Holder stated that both of these boat docks were originally proposed as two-slip dock that exceeded the 20% rule but both have downsized and are within the 20% rule. The Navigation Committee recommends that they both be approved. Jeff Francell seconded. The motion passed in favor. (5-2-0). Carter, Librik.

F. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director, Jesus M. Olivares stated that due to the elections coming up on March 14th and April 11th the Parks Board meetings will be held at the Parque Zaragoza and Zilker Clubhouse, respectively.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Programs Committee – Met and adjourned.
- Land and Facilities – Met regarding the proposal for golf course and hotel at Lake Walter E. Long.
- Navigation Committee – Met regarding boat dock requests.
- Downtown Commission –
- Municipal Airport Advisory Group – Met and toured a historic hangar at the old airport; there are questions as to what will be done with the structure.

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were various issues discussed by Board Members.

I. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

J. ITEMS FOR FUTURE ACTION

1. East to West Bicycle/Pedestrian Access Through Zilker Park.
2. H.M. (Mac) Pike, Jr. with the Sutton Company Request for Variance for the Plaza Lofts, 5th and Guadalupe.