



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes
September 26, 2000
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2000 in the Board Room of the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office located at 200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Mary Ruth Holder, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim, Amy Babich, Clint Small, Rocky Medrano and Rhonda Taylor.

Staff Members Present: Jesus M. Olivares, PARD Director, Randy Scott, and Dina Haines.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, at approximately 6:35 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, from the August 8 and August 22, meetings

Board Members Holder and Taylor made various changes to the minutes. Board Member Castleberry made the motion to accept the minutes as amended by Board Members Holder and Taylor. Board Member Holder seconded the motion.

C. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Tommy Eden spoke in support of Resolution for Bicycle parking racks in Austin parks.

D. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Use Agreement across parkland, Barton Springs Road Project, Phase II, Umlauf Sculpture Garden.

Board Member Holder stated that this item has gone before the Land and Facilities Committee. **Board Member Holder** stated that the areas of discussion in the meeting were the installations of a wrought iron fence for aesthetic reasons, obtaining letters of support from the Umlaufs for the project, informing the neighborhood association about the project, and re-vegetating the area with native

plants. The Public Works Department has worked to accomplish all of those items brought up at Land and Facilities meeting.

Lucia Stan, P.E., Design Engineer with Public Works Department gave a presentation regarding the Barton Springs Road Project, Phase II which will include the reconstruction of approximately 2,200 linear feet of Barton Spring Road starting from Jessie Street to Robert E. Lee Road. The reconstruction will improve Barton Springs Road to a divided four lane roadway with a raised landscaped median, bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the Barton Springs Road to comply with the approved Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan (AMATP). The project will also include storm sewer and water and wastewater improvements. The existing roadway is adjacent to the Umlauf property. In order to widen the existing roadway, additional parkland will be required. Ms. Stan also stated that a concrete wall resembling limestone would be constructed including retaining wall to Umlauf property. Also that a rod iron fence will be placed on top of a concrete retaining wall from Umlauf property. The cost of wrought iron fence will be shared between City of Austin and the Umlauf family. ✓

Board Member Francell asked Ms. Stan when would the project begin? Ms. Stan informed him that it is projected for March 2001. The project will take approximately 12 months to complete.

Board Member Babich asked Ms. Stan if there were going to be bike lanes on both sides of Barton Springs. Ms. Stan stated that there would be bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Board Member Holder made a motion to approve the Barton Springs Road Project, Phase II. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion.

Board Member Taylor asked Ms. Stan if Public Works had presented their proposal to the Urban Transportation Commission. Ms. Stan stated that Urban Transportation Commission had already approved the project. Parks Board Members felt that Public Works Department should keep the Urban Transportation Commission informed. **Jesus Olivares**, PARD Director, then stated that the only reason this request was before the Parks Board was because the construction would be occurring on parkland and that the Parks Board would have to give their approval. **Mr. Olivares** then stated that the Parks and Recreation Department would send correspondence to Peter Rieck, Director, Public Works and Transportation Department informing him once the Parks Board Members had approved the right of way request. **Mr. Olivares** also stated that he would make a recommendation to Peter Rieck to share the information with the Urban Transportation Commission.

Board Member Kim arrived at 6:52 p.m.

Board Member Holder made the motion to amend her previous motion to reflect the statements made by Mr. Olivares regarding the sharing of information with the Urban Transportation Commission. **Board Member Francell** seconded the amended motion. **The motion was passed in favor. 7-0-1.** Board Member Kim abstained.

2. Make Recommendation to Director regarding Resolution Concerning Bicycle Parking in Austin Parks.

Board Member Babich made a brief presentation regarding park patrons inability to ride their bikes to the parks because there were no bike racks to lock their bikes should patrons want to jog on the trails instead of biking.

Mr. Jesus Olivares stated that PARD has worked with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program in the past and would continue to work with them to install additional bike racks. Mr. Olivares will request an inventory assessment be made from the Operations Division as to which parks and recreation centers would most benefit from this resolution.

The Board received citizen comments from Tommy Eden in support of the Bicycle Resolution. After discussion, **Board Members Holder, Small and Kim** recommended changes to the Bicycle Resolution so that the last paragraph of the resolution state as follows: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Parks and Recreation Department work with the City of Austin and Pedestrian Program to install an appropriate number of bicycle racks at car-parking area, bus stops on parkland, bus stops for hike and bike trails, athletic fields, picnic areas, concert areas, and park concessions in and at new and existing parks and recreation facilities as identified by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Board Member Holder moved that the resolution be adopted with the changes from the Board Members, **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **Motion was passed in favor 8-0-0.**

E. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Jesus Olivares, Director, spoke of the event "Zilker Park Adventures" held at Zilker Park on Saturday, September 23, 2000. Zilker Park Adventures had over 4,000 people at the event and was a great success. Texas Parks and Wildlife was also in attendance with a canoe pond, rock climbing wall and several activities for children. This will be an annual event held at Zilker Park.

Lorraine "Grandma" Camacho Center grand opening was also a great success. Mr. Olivares informed the Board of a new after school program taking place at the center. The program will be a pilot program to help youth at risk and tutoring students with reading and writing with computers. At the end of the year an

assessment will be addressed as to which students excelled through the after school program. Dr. Peter Witt, Head, Department of Recreation, Texas A& M University will be conducting an evaluation of the program.

Mr. Olivares also invited Board Members to the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the J.J. Pickle Elementary School and St. John Community Center to be held Saturday, September 30th at 10:00 a.m.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Board Member Medrano, Programs Committee member, commented that the Lorraine "Grandma" Camacho Center grand opening was a beautiful success. Mr. Medrano also stated that he was very pleased with the fact that teachers from Metz were going to be paid to tutor the children at the center.

Land and Facilities Committee

Board Member Holder, Land and Facilities Committee member stated that the item regarding the Barton Springs Road Project Use Agreement had been considered at the last meeting held September 19, 2000. Also discussed at the Land and Facility meeting was a donation process to the Town Lake Corridor. The committee was hoping to form a group with stakeholders for future donations who could screen all donations for safety and maintenance concerns. The stakeholder group will include representatives of the Austin Community Foundation and Austin Parks Foundation. Board Member Holder also informed the Board Members that she and Board Chair Castleberry had attended a meeting of a subcommittee of the Environmental board concerning the Steiner Ranch development agreement and that this agreement would also come before the Land and Facilities Subcommittee and then be on the next Parks Board agenda.

Navigation Committee

None

Downtown Committee

Board Member Small stated that the next meeting was going to be September 27, 2000. Mr. Small commented on a letter the board had received from the legal department regarding the Prairie Grass Proposal reminding the board that they could not take a stand, because the Downtown Committee is appointed by City Council.

G. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.