



**Parks and Recreation Department Board  
Minutes  
October 10, 2000  
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, October 10, 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:** Stuart Strong and Dina Haines.

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, at approximately 6:34 p.m.

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

The Board members recommended several minor changes to the minutes. **Board Member Holder** made the motion to accept the minutes with corrections. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion. The vote was in favor 7-0-0.

**Board Member Babich** arrives 6:45 p.m.

**C. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION**

**Susan Baxter-Harwell** spoke regarding her concern about the Norwood House and tract, including current maintenance, future use, and planning. Ms. Baxter-Harwell lives next door to the lot on which the house is located. She is concerned that the house is an eyesore to visitors to the City along the IH-35 and Riverside Drive from the Bergstrom Airport. Ms. Baxter-Harwell also stated the possibility of the neighborhood association forming an advisory board to look into future planning for the Norwood Estate. **Board Chair Castleberry** suggested referring her concerns to the Land and Facility Committee meeting next week, October 17, 2000. **Stuart Strong**, Division Manager, Planning Design and Construction, stated that the graffiti on the Norwood House would have to be submitted to another city department, Building Services, for graffiti removal and that PARD would notify them of her concerns to put a work order in.

**Susan Hoover, Circle C Homeowners Association** was in attendance to answer any questions the board members might have concerning the renaming of Slaughter Creek Metropolitan Park.

**D. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

1. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Steiner Ranch Development Agreement.

**Board Member Holder** stated that this item had gone before the Land and Facility Committee meeting October 3, 2000. The focus at the meeting was the parkland dedication issue, preserve issues and fencing needs along the adjacent City of Austin's Cortana tract. Ms. Holder explained that the resolution before the Board members incorporated recommendations to Council concerning these issues. Ms. Holder explained that she had another concern about the development agreement not reflected in the resolution, that sidewalks in the development will be on only one side of the street and that there are no provisions for bike lanes. Considering that there will be parks and schools in the development, Board Member Holder said that sidewalks and bike lanes are needed for children to be able to go safely to the parks and schools. City Attorney **Andy Martin** stated that the Planning Commission would consider those items. He also agreed to inform City Council of the Parks Board's discussion of these transportation issues.

**Board Member Francell** stated that he was most concerned about the parkland dedication issues and the fence that is needed to protect the City's Cortana tract and not as concerned about specific terms of the conservation easement agreement with Travis County.

**Richard Suttle**, Attorney for Steiner Ranch Developers answered questions from **Board Members Francell and Medrano** concerning the proposed use of the preserve land to be managed by Travis County to satisfy the City of Austin's parkland dedication ordinance. Mr. Suttle also answered questions concerning the sidewalk issues stating that the developer is still looking into those concerns.

**Andy Martin, City of Austin Attorney**, described the history of the development agreement, which, once it is finalized, will resolve various claims and disputes between the property owners and City of Austin.

**Board Member Francell** asked to make one change to the Resolution. **Board Member Holder** noted the change. **Board Member Holder** made a motion to adopt the resolution with the change and forward it to City Council. **Board Member Taylor** seconded the motion. **The vote was in favor 8-0-0.** A copy of the resolution as changed and adopted by the Board is attached to these minutes.

2. Make Recommendation to City Council regarding the Renaming of Slaughter Creek Metropolitan Park.

**Board Member Small** reported on his discussion with **Susan Hoover, Circle C Homeowners Association**, regarding the association's willingness to join in the Adopt-A-Park Program for Slaughter Creek Metropolitan Park for improvements and enhancements.

**Board Member Holder** stated that we need to ensure that Slaughter Creek Metropolitan Park is for 'public use' and there is still a concern that renaming the park Circle C Metropolitan Park on Slaughter Creek may give the misimpression to some that this is a private park. **Susan Hoover**, stated that signage at the entrance of the park states that the park is a 'public park.' Board Member Holder also stated that signage in the park must be consistent with PARD signage for other public parks. She further informed Board members that the park naming policy needs to be reviewed to ensure that park naming is consistent and that the Board is making recommendations consistent with the policy, particularly in light of new large suburban developments presently being considered by City Council. The Land and Facilities Committee will review this policy and report back to the Board.

**Board Member Small** also noted that the signage to the park had been discussed at the August 22, 2000 meeting and it was agreed upon by all Parks Board Members that the signage in the park would be a standard PARD park sign.

**Board Member Small** made the motion to recommend to City Council that the name change from Slaughter Creek Metropolitan Park to Circle C Metropolitan Park on Slaughter Creek. **Board Member Francell** second the motion. **The vote was in favor 7-0-1.** Board Member Holder abstained.

3. Make a Recommendation to the Director regarding a Resolution to Settle the Dust in Austin Parks.

**Board Member Babich** stated that all summer, with drought conditions, the trails and parks are full of dust and she is hoping for a solution to the problem as reflected in the resolution she had prepared for the Board's consideration. After further discussion from all Park Board Members, stated that watering the trails would be a budget issue involving the procurement of more water trucks to be used to drive on to the trails and parks to water areas that could be watered. At the moment, the Parks and Recreation Department has a watering truck that is used to water trees.

**Board Member Taylor** suggested that the Director do a site review of the hike and bike trails to determine what can be done to address the dust problem. **Mr. Strong** informed Board members that during the springtime the workers add layers of a combination of granite gravel and clay that are used to prepare the trails for the heavy summer time usage.

**Board Member Holder** then stated that the board members wanted the Parks and Recreation Department staff to consider it a concern.

**Board Chair Castleberry** suggested the Board members' statements and concerns about this issue are taken into consideration and that PARD staff do a presentation about the problem and possible solutions at a future Board meeting.

**Board Member Small** made the motion that the Parks Board makes the above recommendations to the Director. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The vote was in favor 8-0-0.**

4. Election of Park Board Officers.

**Board Member Small** made the recommendation to the Director that Rosemary Castleberry remain Chair of the Parks Board, Richardo "Rocky" Medrano remain as Vice Chair and Mary Ruth Holder to take the position as Secretary. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The vote was in favor 8-0-0.**

**D. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

None

**F. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Programs Committee

**Board Member Medrano**, Programs Committee member, commented that he had attended the J.J. Pickle Elementary School/St. John Community Center grand opening on Saturday, September 30, 2000. Mr. Medrano also noted that the St. John's community and many other people attended the event. Mr. Medrano also thanked the members of the Parks Board for allowing him the pleasure to be on the Parks Board and Program Committee.

Land and Facilities Committee

**Board Member Holder**, Land and Facility Committee member commented that the Steiner Ranch development agreement and Circle C renaming had been discussed at the October 3 meeting. Ms. Holder also informed the Parks Board that the Norwood Estate would be discussed at the next Land and Facility Committee meeting, October 17. Ms. Holder also gave an update on the Gardens at Bull Creek regional detention facility project. She informed the board that she and Board Chair Castleberry attended a joint sub-committee meeting of the Land and Facilities committee and the Environmental Board to get an update on the project. They learned that the adjoining development is causing severe erosion in the area, including across the Balcones Canyonland Preserve and joint parkland and water quality protection land.

Navigation Committee

None

Downtown Committee

**Board Member Small** stated that the next meeting would be Wednesday, October 11, 2000.

**G. NOTES FROM THE MEETING**

Board Member Babich will join Land and Facility Committee.

Board Member Taylor will join Programs Committee

Parks Board Retreat at Mayfield Park, November 4.

Item topics to Discuss:

- 1) Talk about different segments of the PARD
- 2) Review changes to budget and how it will impact PARD
- 3) Goals for all Sub Committees

**H. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:09 p.m.