



Parks and Recreation Department Board Minutes
Tuesday, January 24, 2006
Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office, 200, S. Lamar Blvd. Board Room.

Board members present: Board Chair, Rosemary Castleberry, Vice-Chair, Linda Guerrero, Leonard Lyons, Marilyn Bostick, Clint Small, Jeff Francell, Jeb Boyt and Hector Ortiz.

Board members absent: Mark Vane

Staff members present: Warren Struss, Stuart Strong, Randy Scott, Cora Wright, Farhad Madani, Rick Ramirez, Jay Stone, Robert Armistead, Ricardo Solis and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order by outgoing Board Chair, Rosemary Castleberry at 6:36 p.m.

B. Approval of the minutes, from the November 22, 2005 board meeting.

Incoming Board Chair, Linda Guerrero assumed the position of Chair and asked approval of the minutes.. Board Member Francell moved approval, seconded by Board Member Lyons. Motion passes.

C. Citizen Communication

Jeff Jack spoke to the Board regarding Sand Beach. He indicated that a state statute requires a public hearing be held to ensure that there are no other prudent and feasible alternates for the use of public parkland. He presented a letter that indicated that in order to grant access over public parkland, a Chapter 26 hearing on the access must be held. He is therefore requesting that the Parks Board ask for a legal interpretation on the issue of the public hearing. Since the item is not posted for action, no action was taken.

Dan Garrison, Town Lake Trail Foundation, reported on two projects. The first is the Rowing Center Overlook. Photos were shown indicating erosion etc... The Foundation is proposing to rebuild the edge of the Overlook, re-grade the hillside and reinstall plants

and benches. The second project is Loops Point. Tree work, plantings and other landscaping will be done to complete the project.

D. Items for Action

1. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Standards of Care for Children's Recreation Programs.

Robert Armistead, Division Manager, Programs Division reported that state regulations require licensing and procedures for all child care facilities. Exemption can only be granted if cities pass and adopt an ordinance such as the Standards of Care for Children's Recreation Programs. He indicated that this ordinance has been in effect since 2002. He further explained the requirements of the ordinance highlighting staff and volunteer training requirements as well as criminal background investigations. Since yearly approval of this standard is required from the Board, Board Member Francell moved to re-approve the existing ordinance, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion carried.

2. Election of Officers

Board Member Small moved to nominate Board Member Jeb Boyt as Vice-Chair and Mark Vane as Secretary/Parliamentarian. He explained that both have exemplified outstanding work ethic and dedication to the Board and would serve as excellent officers for the Board. Board Member Bostick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Director's Report

- ◆ Director Struss reported on Town Lake Park and indicated that ground breaking ceremonies would be scheduled within 30-45 days (mid February).
- ◆ The Bond Oversight Committee will make their recommendation to the City Council February 2nd. The department currently has an \$89 million dollar facility package with \$55 million earmarked for renovation and the rest designated for development. Also, a \$90 million dollar open space package for parks is still included.
- ◆ H& R Block has approached the department regarding the Cancer Survivor's Park. Director Struss reported that there are many similar parks throughout the country. He explained that initially there is a \$700,000 donation for the development of the park and an additional \$100,000 maintenance endowment fund follows to help maintain the park. The department is currently looking for possible park sites. More information is forthcoming.

F. Items from Board Members

Land and Facilities: Board Member Boyt reported on a meeting held with the East Boldin Creek residents and another meeting with residents of Turkey Creek, an area along Emma Long Park. Lots of erosion is occurring on the creek and the issue needs to be addressed.

Navigation: Board Member Small indicated that they are in discussion with the Environmental Board, stakeholders and staff regarding establishing uniform standards for Bulk Heading. Currently the stakeholders have agreed in principle to test out some of the options.

Programs: Board Chair Linda Guerrero reported on the following:

- ◆ Inquired about the possibility of changing the meeting time for the Land and Facilities meeting. Two board members are having difficulty adhering to the current time.
- ◆ Wants Board packets be sent out sooner, if possible.
- ◆ Requested a spreadsheet be made available to the Board on the Bond projects (1998 and current)
- ◆ Posed the question about relocating all future Parks Board meetings to the Board and Commissions Conference Room located at City Hall. (all were in agreement)
- ◆ Requested to visit a Bulkhead
- ◆ Posed the question of video taping the Parks Board meetings from now on (all were in agreement)

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Note: A social followed to honor the dedication and commitment of Rosemary Castleberry, Outgoing Parks Board Chair. Incoming Chair Linda Guerrero presented a resolution to Rosemary honoring her for her contribution to the Parks and Recreation Department, the Parks Board and the Citizens of Austin. Rosemary was elected Chairperson of the Board in August 1996. Director Struss presented Rosemary with the "Key to the Department" a beautiful box key set made of the historic Treaty Oak tree. Pictures were taken and food and refreshments were served to all. Rosemary will continue to serve on the Board. Congratulations Rosemary!