

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MARCH 26, 1979

The Parks and Recreation Board met for its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 26, 1979, at the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Present were Mr. Hall, Vice Chairman; and members Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Britton, Miss Dominguez, Mr. Hall, Mr. Nalle, Mr. Ramos, and Mr. Rose. Members absent were Mr. Garrison, Mr. Bray, Mr. Coffee, Mrs. Isely, Mr. Shaw and Ms. Stockard. Members Emeritus absent were Mr. Coates and Mrs. Crenshaw. Staff members present were Leonard Ehrler, Mike Segrest, Roy Guerrero, Bob Delaney, Cliff Warrick, John Hughes, David Reed, Preston Wheeler, Crystal Stewart and Louise Nivison. Visitors included Mr. Charles Bergstrom, Urban Transportation Commission; Bill Panick and Linda Cannon, Building Inspection Department; Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Kostetsky; Mr. Travis Blakesley; Mrs. Martha Boyd and Mrs. Barbara Anderson, Ridgelea Neighborhood Association; Mr. Joe Ternus, Director of the Urban Transportation Department; Mr. Tom Mountz, Engineering Department; Mike Candelas, Health Department; Paul Hoopward and Larry Steinman representing Zilker Railroad, Inc.; Mr. and Mrs. Mike Givens; Agnes Edwards, Alice Rosenquinst and Mrs. Dorothy Richter, Hyde Park Neighborhood Association; Cathy Smart, Research and Budget Department; Mr. B. L. Johnson, Bryant-Curington Engineers; Ray E. Thomas and Ann Henington, Ancco, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m., by Mr. Hall, Vice Chairman.

Mr. Hall asked for approval of the minutes of February 12, February 27 and March 12, 1979. It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Ramos that the minutes be approved as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Martha Boyd from the Ridgelea Neighborhood Association was present to speak about their concerns about the extension of the Shoal Creek Hike and Bike Trail. In April of 1978 zoning was being considered by the City Council to allow for the construction of the Creekcliffe Townhouses in the 3800 block of Shoal Creek Boulevard. The Parks and Recreation Board at its meeting held April 25, 1978, recommended to the City Council that the Shoal Creek Hike and Bike Trail be extended along Shoal Creek in the area of 3912-4010 Shoal Creek Boulevard and the developer agreed to donating an easement either on the east or west side of the creek as desired by the Parks and Recreation Department. The City Council at its meeting held April 27, 1978, granted the developer the special permit to construct the townhouses but specified that the developer donate an easement on both the east and west sides of the creek for the extension of the Shoal Creek Hike and Bike Trail. After no further plans were made the developer declared bankruptcy on October 2, 1978. The attorney for the developer had stated that the easements would be given after the permit was granted by City Council. This action was never taken. They were asking the Parks and Recreation Board to reaffirm their position of acquiring land for the extension of the Shoal Creek Hike and Bike Trail. Mike Segrest stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has requested a legal opinion from the City Legal Department about the status of the easements in this area. Mr. Segrest stated that the Parks and Recreation Department had never projected to buy property in this area for the trail as the land was extremely expensive. Mrs. Boyd pointed out that the developer owns both sides of the creek in this area, and they would like for

the Board to reaffirm their recommendation. Mr. Britton stated that before they could do anything, it seemed they would need the legal opinion from the Legal Department. Mrs. Arnold stated that her concern was that the land might be sold before the Legal Department can get a legal opinion to the Board. Mr. Ehrler stated that the Parks and Recreation Department became aware of the problem just recently and the staff immediately started research on the item and they would follow through with the Legal Department. Mrs. Arnold stated that the Board would stand by their recommendation made at the April 25, 1978 meeting. Mr. Hall thanked Mrs. Boyd for appearing before the Board.

Mrs. Dorothy Richter was present to speak about smoking in pool areas. She would like to request that there be no smoking within the enclosed areas of swimming pools. Over the last two years it has become a very big problem as the filters on the cigarettes do not disintegrate. This makes the cost of cleaning a big problem, as the filters have to be picked up by hand. In order to enforce non-smoking in enclosed pool areas there would need to be ordinances passed. People who swim for health reasons and people who do not smoke do not want to breathe the smoke, and the cigarettes created an unsanitary condition. Agnes Edwards stated that she was a therapist and smoke fumes settle over the water the same as exhaust fumes and in some pools cigarette butts have even been removed from the water in the pools. Mrs. Richter stated that there is an area set aside at the Barton Springs Pool where people could smoke. Mr. Hall stated that the Parks and Recreation Department staff would study the problem and a recommendation brought back to the Board.

#### ITEMS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Ramos stated that he was at the Zaragosa Recreation Center recently and felt there were not enough picnic tables out. He also saw one picnic table in the creek and only one basketball net. Mrs. Arnold asked if there is a time of year when more tables are put out. Mr. Guerrero stated that more were put out in the summer. Mr. Ramos stated that he would like to see concrete tables put in. Mr. Guerrero explained that citizens throw the tables into the creek. Mr. Britton asked about the opening of Givens Recreation Center. Mr. Ehrler stated that the City Council cannot agree on a dedication date as yet, but the center would open Friday, March 30th. Mr. Nalle stated that he would like to report that a wooden garbage container needs to be removed from Barton Creek.

#### PROPOSED AUSTIN METROPOLITAN AREA ROADWAY PLAN

Mr. Joe Ternus, Director of the Urban Transportation Department stated that he was present to discuss the proposed Austin Metropolitan Area Roadway Plan with the Board and introduced Mr. Charles Bergstrom, member of the Urban Transportation Commission. It was an extensive document and he would be glad to answer any questions the Board might have. Mr. Ehrler stated that there were written comments from David Reed, Superintendent of Park Planning in the agenda packet. Mr. Ternus stated that he had discussed the recommendations with Mr. Reed and would be glad to take the recommendations to the Urban Transportation Commission. It was moved by Mrs. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Nalle that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend the following Parks and Recreation Department staff report to the Urban Transportation Department concerning the proposed Austin Metropolitan Area Roadway Plan:

- "1. The plan does give recognition to 'encouraging development of other forms of transportation,' through;
  - a. Development of pedestrian ways and bikeways along principal and minor roads.
  - b. Providing bicycle and pedestrian access across physical barriers.
  - c. Developing access to and between 'schools, transit stations/terminals, activity centers, and neighborhoods.'
2. The plan could be strengthened by stating the specific need for the development of a network of non-vehicular movement systems as a major function of roadway development, linking schools, parks, greenbelts, community attractions, libraries, etc. As stated, now the plan focuses on pedestrian access along, between, to, and across, rather than advocating a movement system which interfaces with existing and proposed roads.

Furthermore, there should be some coordination with Parks and Recreation Department park and open space system planning, and we should provide some leadership in fostering that relationship."

The motion carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC HEARING FOR NAMING OF HEALTH CLINIC AT MONTOPOLIS PARK

Mr. Hall stated that the next item was a public hearing for the naming of the health clinic at Montopolis Park. Mr. Mike Candelas was present from the Health Department. Mr. Candelas stated that the Health Department and the Montopolis Neighborhood Resource Center Advisory Board were recommending the name as Montopolis Public Health Center. Mr. Ramos asked if any other recommendations had been received. Mr. Rheler stated that none had been received. It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Ramos, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the City Council that the health clinic being constructed at Montopolis Park be named the "Montopolis Public Health Center." The motion carried unanimously.

#### BOAT DOCK

Mr. Mike Givens stated that he was representing Mr. George Bruner in a request for approval to remodel a boat dock for Mr. George Bruner, located at 1706-A Quinlan Park Road. Mr. Givens stated that the request for the remodeling was to remove the existing roof over the boat dock; jet creosoted posts into the water to extend existing boat dock out six feet; set new posts on boat dock to extend the height of the roof; new roof constructed of corrugated steel, with redwood deck on top; and construct storage room measuring 18' x 20' above the boat dock. Mr. Nalle stated that he had a problem with the proposed overhead storage area. In the past, these areas ended up in being living quarters. Mr. Givens stated that Mr. Bruner has a house on the property and the area would only be used for storage of skis, life preservers, etc. Mr.

Bill Panick from the Building Inspection Department, explained that there is an ordinance requiring Council approval if anyone wants a permit to construct living quarters over the water. Mr. Nalle stated that experience in the past has been that invariably someone would live in the storage area. Mr. Rose suggested that action be postponed until the next night meeting. Mrs. Arnold asked if the Board could give permission for Mr. Givens to proceed with the dock construction. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Nalle and seconded by Mr. Rose that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend approval of the remodeling of the boat dock for Mr. Bruner with the exception of the storage room above the boat dock. The motion carried unanimously.

#### PROPOSED FILL SITE ON LAKE AUSTIN

Mr. Tom Mountz from the Engineering Department stated that Bryant-Curington, Inc., Consulting Engineers, were requesting approval of the filling of a portion of a tract owned by Raymond E. Thomas situated on the west side of Taylor Slough and north of Scenic Drive. The fill operation would be performed in compliance with Ordinance No. 781102-C which consists of filling of the subject area (maximum fill depth 3') with the street excavation spoils from the Bello Vista Subdivision now stockpiled on the site; providing shoreline protection and erosion sedimentation control by placing rock rip-rap along the proposed shoreline; and constructing concrete or masonry tree wells around significant trees as shown on the site plan and to be drained to Lake Austin by an inter-connecting 6" P.V.C. drain. Mr. Mountz stated that one section of the area tends to collect all types of trash. Restoration would need to be made according to environmental guidelines. Mr. Johnson from Bryant-Curington, Inc., stated that the fill presently stockpiled would be used to fill in the requested area and rebuild Scenic Drive. Mrs. Arnold asked if rebuilding Scenic Drive was a City function. Mr. Johnson stated that it was the burden of the developer. Mr. Nalle stated that he would like to tour the area before any decision was made by the Board. After further discussion, it was agreed that the Parks and Recreation Board would tour the area at their Tour Meeting to be held April 9th at 12:00 noon. Mis Dominguez asked about the City involvement. Mr. Mountz explained the request for a fill permit comes under Lake Austin controls and requires approval of the Engineering Department and the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Hall asked that the item be placed on the next night meeting agenda to be held April 24th.

#### STRUCTURES TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON PARK LAND

Mr. Hall stated that this was a recommendation from Mr. Coffee and since he was absent that the item be placed on a future agenda.

#### ZILKER PARK RAILROAD

Mr. Paul Hoopward stated that he would like to introduce the prospective purchasers of the Zilker Park Railroad. Mr. Hoopward introduced Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Kostetsky. Mr. Ehrler stated that Mr. Clay Strange from the Legal Department was present and might like to speak. Mr. Strange stated that the present prospective purchasers were not the same ones that appeared before the Board at an earlier meeting, and they were submitting a better contract to the City. His recommendation would be that the contract with Mr. Glenn terminate simultaneously with the beginning of the contract with Mr. and Mrs. Kostetsky. The contract is almost identical to the original contract with Mr. Glenn with

the exception of the sale of souvenir trinkets, post cards, pennants, T-shirts, railroad hats and other like items of souvenir value appropriately designed and properly related to the operation of a miniature railroad, and there was no problem with this. There was some disagreement on Section II concerning the percentages to be paid to the City. Mr. Blakesley, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Kostetsky stated that there would be no problem with this section. Mr. Strange stated that another change would be an increase to 50¢ per ride for adults. At present the rate was 35¢ for adults and children. The children rate would stay at 35¢. Mrs. Arnold asked if these prices would be in effect until April 30, 1984. Mr. Strange stated that they would unless it was determined that a change be made at a later date. Mr. Ehrler asked about the insurance. Mr. Strange stated that he had recommended \$1 million in insurance, but apparently this amount was most difficult to obtain. Mr. Kostetsky explained that he had contacted three insurance companies and none could provide that much insurance. He would have to go outside Austin and the cost would be prohibitive. Even the insurance company that he deals with at the present time could not provide that much coverage. They had agreed to increase the insurance coverage from \$300,000 to \$500,000 for bodily injury no later than April 22, 1981. Mr. Blakesley stated that the contract provided \$100,000 for property damage, \$300,000 for bodily injury and the provision that bodily injury per person be increased to \$500,000 in two years. Mr. Ehrler asked that if in the event the Board approves the contract and the City Council did not approve the rate increase for adults to 50¢, would this change the proposed purchase. Mr. Kostetsky stated that they would have to reconsider and probably would not make the purchase. There is a need for a great deal of upgrading of the equipment and he did not feel it could be done without the increase. Mr. Hall asked if he would be directly involved in the daily operations. Mr. Kostetsky stated that it would be his major business. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Nalle and seconded by Mrs. Arnold, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the City Council approval of termination of the present concession contract with Mr. B. F. Glenn, and approval of the proposed concession contract for the Zilker Park Railroad between Nicholas and Catherine Kostetsky and the City of Austin. The motion carried unanimously.

#### PROPOSED MURAL AT ROSEWOOD RECREATION CENTER

Mr. Ehrler showed a colored rendition of a mural proposed to be placed at the Rosewood Recreation Center. He explained that the Rosewood Recreation Center Advisory Board would pay for the mural and the artist had agreed on \$50 for his services and supplies would be purchased from available funds for \$65. The mural was proposed for the wall in the game room. Mrs. Arnold asked what materials would be used. Mr. John Hughes stated the paints would be acrylic and the mural would be painted on the cement block wall. Mrs. Arnold stated that she felt it should be referred to the Arts Commission for their review. Mr. Hall asked that the rendition of the proposed mural be referred to the Arts Commission for their review and approval.

#### DONATION OF LAND

Mr. Ehrler stated that Mr. Beverly Sheffield of the Austin Community Foundation has been working with Mr. D. C. Bradford concerning the donation of a 10' x 144' piece of land bounded by Toomey Road on the east, Butler Park on the north and west, and property at 406 Sterzing Street on the south. Mr. Ehrler explained

that the property was adjacent to ball fields on Toomey Road and the Parks and Recreation Department had no problem with accepting the gift. It was moved by Mr. Nalle and seconded by Mrs. Arnold that the Parks and Recreation Board accept the donation of land from Mr. D. C. Bradford for use as park land by the Parks and Recreation Department. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Arnold asked that Mr. Garrison send a thank you letter to Mr. Bradford from the Parks and Recreation Board.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES

Mr. Hall asked that the item of the Parks and Recreation Department proposed fees and charges be postponed until another meeting.

#### 1979-1984 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Mr. Ehrler discussed the proposed 1979-1984 Capital Improvements Program. He explained there would probably not be funds available for operation and maintenance of anything new that might be constructed. Also, the Parks and Recreation Department did not have a Master Plan at the present time. His recommendation would be to fulfill the present bond obligations for 1979-1980 and issue a two year moratorium on the construction of any new facilities. For the next two years this would give the department a chance to upgrade and renovate existing facilities. The department would continue the purchase of greenbelt and park land. Mr. Rose asked about the new tennis center. Mr. Ehrler stated that this project was already underway in the 1979-1980 Capital Improvements Program. Mr. Ehrler introduced David Reed, Superintendent of Park Planning. Mr. Reed explained that a Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan was badly needed and funds were available in the 1978-1979 Capital Improvements Program, and a request for a two year moratorium on new facilities was excellent strategy. He explained Austin has vocal citizenry and Austin is known all over the country for its excellent Parks and Recreation system. Mr. Reed stated that he was delighted to be a part of the department. Mr. Ehrler stated that Mr. Reed brings a new dimension to the department. He explained that the Research and Budget Department gives very little time for the Capital Improvements Program to be submitted and he would like to ask if the Board could meet later in the week to take final action on the projects. After discussion, it was agreed the Board would call a special meeting for Thursday, March 29, 1979, at 12:00 noon, at the Parks and Recreation Department.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.