

Minutes  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
July 24, 1979

The Parks and Recreation Board met for its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 24, 1979, at the Parks and Recreation Department. Present were Mr. Garrison, Chairman; Mr. Hall, Vice Chairman; Mr. Bray, Secretary; and members Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Britton, Mr. Coffee, Ms. Doering, Miss Dominguez, Mrs. Isely, Mr. Ramos and Mr. Shaw. Mr. Nalle was absent. Members Emeritus absent were Mr. Coates and Mrs. Crenshaw. Staff members present included Leonard Ehrler, Roy Guerrero, David Reed, Don Cramer, Cliff Warrick, Preston Wheeler, Danny Hobby, Bill Schoenemann, and Louise Nivison. Visitors included Bethea Brindley, Harold Brumley, Bruno, Judy and Bruce Ybarra from the West Austin Youth Association; Richard Kranz from the Austin Y.M.C.A.; Linda Cannon, from the Building Department; Bill Criswell, Steve Van, Charles Millman, and Bill Hurd from the Criswell Development Company; Mrs. Virginia Bedinger; Joe Ternus, Director of the Urban Transportation Department; Charles Graves, Director of the Engineering Department; Dick Lillie, Director of the Planning Department; Herbert V. Hillery, President, Austin Contemporary Visual Arts Association; Doyle Nordyke, from the Humane Society; John Robinson from John Robinson and Associates, A.I.A.; and David Turello, from the National Park Service.

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

Mr. Garrison asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of June 26, 1979. It was moved by Mrs. Isely and seconded by Mr. Hall, that the minutes be approved as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Garrison asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 9, 1979. It was moved by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mr. Bray, that the minutes be approved as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Arnold explained the City Council would soon be holding a public hearing on the landscaping amendment to the zoning ordinance. Mr. Bray stated that the issue could be very controversial.

HYATT-REGENCY HOTEL ON TOWN LAKE

Mr. Bill Criswell from the Criswell Development Company explained the proposed Hyatt-Regency Hotel would be on Town Lake between Congress and First Street bridges. The site plan covered 8.8 acres and included a hike and bike trail. They had asked the advice of the Parks and Recreation Department Planning staff concerning aesthetics, practicality and mixing of uses and they planned landscaping on the lake side that would include terraces, rock type walls and the landscaping would be gently sloping. The hike and bike trail on the lake side would be a 10' wide boardwalk. This part of the hike and bike trail would not only serve joggers, but individuals could walk, enjoy the view, or fish. Boat marinas were also planned. The hotel will be a 16 story project with a full atrium and a revolving restaurant on top. Restaurants would also be on the ground floor, and there would be an outdoor pool. They wanted the hotel to have an open feel. Mr. Garrison asked how far the wooden boardwalk would extend over the water. Mr. Criswell explained the boardwalk would extend 8' over the water and 2' would be anchored on shore, with terracing in the back. The boardwalk is entirely within their property line and will be dedicated to the City of Austin after completion. Dorothy Richter stated that joggers questioned the boardwalk and thought it would be of a different material. Mr. Criswell explained there were joggers on the Environmental Board and they felt that needs of joggers should not predominate this part of the hike and bike trail. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Shaw that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City

Council approval of the proposed plans to build a 16-story Hyatt-Regency Hotel on Town Lake, and the construction of a 10' wide boardwalk hike and bike trail on the property along the lakefront that would be dedicated to the City of Austin upon completion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bray stated that he was very excited about the project and commended the planners for their excellent plans.

#### SCULPTURE SITE IN WATERLOO PARK

Mr. Herbert V. Hillery, President of the Austin Contemporary Visual Arts Association, explained the Austin Military Order of the World Wars requested and obtained permission from the Parks and Recreation Board and the City Council to purchase and install a monument in memory of Viet Nam War dead, to be located in the wouthwest area of Waterloo Park off East 12th and Trinity Streets. In response to a request before the Arts Commission, it was decided a monumental sculpture designed and executed by an Austin sculptor would be more appropriate as a monument. The Austin Contemporary Visual Arts Association was requested to run a competition to obtain the sculpture. The Arts Commission has recommended, and City Council has granted \$400 for the competition. The Texas Commission for the Arts has granted \$750. Announcements of the competition have been mailed to a large list of artists and 30 have responded. It is scheduled that the maquettes or models of the proposed monumental sculpture will be exhibited at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library beginning November 11, 1979.

The site originally selected is less satisfactory for a major sculpture. Since a major function of the sculpture is to enhance the aesthetic quality of downtown Austin, a more visible site is desirable. The request before the Board was for a ten yard diameter circle, centered at a point approximately 50 yards from the 12th Street curb and 20 yards from the Trinity Street curb, be designated as the site for the sculpture instead of the original site. Mr. Charles Graves stated that he was present for another subject on the agenda and was a member of the M.O.W.W. Board and this request had not been brought up. Mr. Hillery explained that he has been working very closely with Col. Lawson W. Magruder, Jr., coordinator for the project and sculpture needed to be adapted to the site selected. Mr. Coffee explained the site was very important to a sculptor. After further discussion, Mr. Garrison asked that the item be placed on the Parks and Recreation Board agenda for August 13, 1979.

#### 16-COURT TENNIS CENTER SITE

Mr. Ehrler stated that information submitted to the Board by the consultant's report recommended the following sites: (1) Toney Burger Activity Center; (2) South Austin Recreation Center/Mueller Tract; (3) Town Lake at Humane Society Site; and (4) Larson Tract. Mr. Bray explained the Board held a public hearing on the matter July 9th, a work session and also an executive session. Mrs. Arnold stated that the Tennis Advisory Board felt the tennis center should be located in South Austin. Dr. Harold Brumley representing the West Austin Sports Organization explained his group has two baseball fields located on the Town Lake site with an investment of approx. \$20,000. They would be glad to relocate the fields if the following concerns can be addressed:

1. They needed sufficient land to build three baseball fields.
2. The area selected should be close enough to the West Austin area so that parents can carpool and get the children to the fields.
3. It would take money to relocate the fields and they wanted to expand at the present location on Town Lake.

Mr. Bray asked if their group has looked at alternatives. Dr. Brumley stated that they have, but it would take a great amount of money. Mr. Bray asked if they were on a lease basis now. Dr. Brumley stated that they were on a one year lease basis for \$1 per year. To expand and build another field at the Town Lake location would cost around \$50,000. Mr. Coffee asked if the Parks and Recreation Department staff

have potential sites for expanding Little League activities in West Austin. Mr. Ehrler stated they did not. Mrs. Isely asked about the Humane Society. Mr. Ehrler explained the proposed site would take one corner and the existing parking lot. Mr. Nordyke from the Humane Society explained the corner in question was where they wanted to put an educational building. At this point, they were not sure whether they have a 25 or 55 year lease, but were checking on the matter. Mr. Kranz from the Y.M.C.A. explained their field is used 12 months of the year for all kinds of sports. Danny Hobby, Supervisor of Tennis, commented on the various sites. He pointed out juniors and adults needed a tennis center in the south part of Austin. Mr. Garrison asked about the area around the Parks and Recreation Department, including the softball fields. Mr. Ehrler explained the area was approximately 4 acres and approximately 11 acres was needed including parking for a 16 court tennis center.

It was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Hall, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council selection of the Town Lake site for construction of a 16 court tennis center. Mr. Coffee asked what costs would be involved if the area around the PARD administrative building could be used and relocate the existing ballfields. Mr. Ehrler explained it would cost from \$40,000 to \$50,000 to relocate and relight a softball field if the money was available. There were approximately 20,000 softball players and they were very instrumental in the passage of the last Parks and Recreation Department bond election. After further discussion, the motion failed with Miss Dominguez, Mr. Coffee, Mrs. Isely, Mrs. Arnold, Ms. Doering and Mr. Ramos voting no. Mr. Shaw, Mr. Hall, Mr. Bray and Mr. Britton voted yes. Mr. Garrison, Chairman did not vote.

It was moved by Mr. Ramos and seconded by Miss Dominguez that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council selection of the South Austin Recreation Center/Mueller Tract for construction of a 16 court tennis center. The motion failed with Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Bray, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Isely, Mr. Coffee and Mr. Garrison voting no. Mr. Ramos, Mr. Shaw, Miss Dominguez, Mr. Britton and Ms. Doering voted yes.

It was moved by Mr. Coffee and seconded by Mrs. Isely that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council selection of the Toney Burger Activity Center site for construction of a 16 court tennis center. The motion failed with Miss Dominguez, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Hall, Mr. Bray, Mrs. Arnold, Ms. Doering, Mr. Britton and Mr. Ramos voting no. Mr. Coffee and Mrs. Isely voted yes. Mr. Garrison, Chairman, did not vote.

No motion was made to recommend the Larson Tract.

Mr. Bray explained that he was not comfortable with any of the sites. Mr. Hall asked about the availability of other sites. Mr. John Robinson explained that in the opinion of his firm, the sites recommended were the best. The only other sites were the Hancock Golf Course and the property on Pleasant Valley Road. Mr. Coffee again asked about the property around the Parks and Recreation Department Administration building. Cliff Warrick, Superintendent of Athletics & Aquatics stated he did not believe there was sufficient property and four (4) new ballfields were being constructed at the Krieg Complex. After further discussion, Mr. Garrison asked that the item be placed back on the Parks and Recreation Board agenda for the night meeting to be held September 25, 1979. The consultant would investigate any other available sites and have the information ready for the meeting.

#### DAM IN THE UPPER SHOAL CREEK WATERSHED

Mr. Charles Graves, Director of the Engineering Department explained this dam was a part of a system of dams located in the upper Shoal Creek Watershed. This was a reinforced earth dam located south of Spicewood Springs Road at Woodhollow Drive and was one of twelve detention ponds. The project is the central feature in a regional stormwater detention program to mitigate the threat of stormwaters. On June 17, 1972, Captain Jimmy Buford of the Austin Fire Department was drowned while attempting rescue of a young person caught in flood waters of Shoal Creek in this area. Because of the physical prominence, aesthetic values, technical significance, and historical meaning, the Engineering Department was recommending a name selection for the dam. It was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mrs. Iseley that the Parks and Recreation Board set a public hearing for a recommended name for a dam presently being constructed in the Upper Shoal Creek Watershed at Woodhollow Drive for August 13, 1979.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM PHASE I

David Reed, Superintendent of Planning explained some of the aspects of the plan. Input from Council appointed Boards and Commissions would be sent to the City Planning Department and they would compile a report for City Council. Recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Board would be important. There was further discussion, and it was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mrs. Isely that the Parks and Recreation Board set a public hearing for recommendations on the Downtown Revitalization Program Phase I for August 13, 1979.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

It was moved by Mrs. Isely and seconded by Mrs. Arnold that Mr. Barrett Garrison be elected chairman. Mr. Bray asked that Mr. Garrison be elected by acclamation.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mrs. Isely and seconded by Mr. Shaw that Mr. Coffee be elected Vice Chairman. Mr. Coffee declined and Mrs. Isely withdrew her motion and Mr. Shaw withdrew his second. It was moved by Mr. Coffee and seconded by Mr. Bray that Mr. Hall be elected Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Ramos that Mr. Shaw be elected Secretary. There were no other nominations.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### BULL CREEK

Mr. Ehrler explained the Courtyard wastewater approach main and lift station work has created a problem in Bull Creek near Cat Creek. Mr. Ehrler asked Linda Cannon from the Building Department to comment on the matter. Mrs. Cannon explained the contractor in making the very deep excavation for this project used spoil from the

excavation to place a coffer dam around the excavation. This extended into Bull Creek. The contractor has submitted a letter that they will remove the coffer dam when construction is complete and will restore the lakeshore to the same state it was in when construction began. The original permit was taken out in 1975 and they discovered they had to move the excavation from the original site plan. Unless the area is restored properly, they will not have a sewer system. The Building Department will continue to monitor the project.

#### BARTON CREEK/ZILKER PARK LAND ACQUISITION

David Reed reported that his staff was preparing a report to be submitted to the Mayor and City Council at their meeting to be held on August 30, 1979, on the Barton Creek/Zilker Park Land Acquisition. The Property Management Department was working on costs for the same report. In walking the Barton Creek Watershed, many things have been discovered. There are walls over 100 years old that have been on the Federal Register since 1975. The Edwards aquifer is in the watershed and the entire watershed was quite beautiful. We could buy one-half of the watershed and still lose the springs by land use. He has also met with land owners along the area.

#### PARKING FEES IN ZILKER PARK

Mr. Ehrler explained the program would be experimental for most of the month of August. The parking fee would be \$1 per car on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The purpose would be for the control of cars. Handicapped persons would not be charged to park. There would be a free shuttle bus running every 15 minutes from a parking area under Mo-Pac into Zilker Park. The fees charged would be to recover the cost of the bus rental.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.