

Minutes
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
November 27, 1979

The Parks and Recreation Board met for its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 27, 1979, at the Parks and Recreation Department. Present were Mr. Garrison, Chairman; Mr. Hall, Vice Chairman; Mr. Shaw, Secretary; and members Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Britton, Mr. Coffee, Ms. Doering, Mrs. Isely, Mr. Ramos and Mr. Reed. Members absent were Mr. Bray, Miss Dominguez and Mr. Nalle, Members Emeritus absent were Mr. Coates and Mrs. Crenshaw. Staff members present were Leonard Ehrler, Roy Guerrero, David Reed, Prenis Williams, Linda Tyler, Charles Terry, Robin Moat, Crystal Stewart, and Louise Nivison. Visitors included Jerry Snodgrass; Capt. Pete Bagley; Arthur Talley and Arlan Conners.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by Mr. Garrison, Chairman.

Mr. Ehrler introduced Mr. Prenis Williams, newly appointed Superintendent of Athletics, Aquatics and Tennis for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Garrison asked for approval of the minutes of October 23, 1979. It was moved by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mr. Britton, that the minutes be approved as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Ramos inquired about the sculpture to honor the Viet Nam War Dead to be placed in Waterloo Park. Mr. Ehrler explained the sculpture competition is over and the winning sculpture selected by a qualified juror. The site selected in Waterloo Park will not be suitable for the proposed sculpture and the Military Order of World Wars will have to appear before the board again in order to have another site approved. The group plans to raise approximately \$10,000 for the memorial. This figure will include the installation of the memorial.

Mr. Hall introduced his wife Jan, and explained this was their 14th wedding anniversary. Mr. Garrison welcomed Mrs. Hall to the meeting.

Mr. Garrison commented on the costs of boards and commissions per year. The annual report for the Parks and Recreation Board listed \$4,100. Mr. Ehrler explained these were direct costs and were pretty accurate. The Mayor and Council want to review the costs of the various boards and commissions and the Research and Budget Office is working on a standard reporting system. At the present time there is not a standard and every board or commission reports in a different manner. Mr. Garrison explained the board should be aware of the costs.

Mrs. Isely explained she would have to resign as the board representative for Community Education as she could not attend some of the meetings held at night and she was also keeping her school open until 5:30 p.m. Mr. Guerrero explained that the Community Education Consortium will be asking that boards elect a new representative in January or February and asked if Mrs. Isely could continue serving until that time.

CHANGE OF "McQUEENEY EAGLE" BOAT CONCESSION CONTRACT FOR TOWN LAKE

Captain Pete Bagley explained he was requesting that the concession contract for his boat the "McQueeney Eagle" now being operated on Town Lake be transferred to Mr. Jerry Snodgrass. Captain Bagley explained the boat is to be paid for over a period of 15 years and he will instruct Mr. Snodgrass in all phases of the operation of the boat on Town Lake. Mr. Ehrler explained Mr. Snodgrass needed to bring in a financial statement, a resume and a letter of intent. Mr. Ehrler asked Mr. Snodgrass to bring these items to his office and he will visit with him. After further discussion, Mr. Garrison asked that the subject be placed on the agenda for the December 10, 1979 board meeting.

RESTAURANT/EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON TOWN LAKE AND SOUTH FIRST STREET

Mr. Arlan Conner explained he was proposing to construct a restaurant and executive office complex on an undeveloped tract of land between the proposed Hyatt Regency Hotel and the South First Street Bridge on Town Lake. He would like to be able to continue with the hike and bike trail and boardwalk the same as proposed by the Hyatt Regency Hotel. David Reed, Superintendent of Planning, explained Parks and Recreation Department staff has reviewed the plans and addressed the need for maintaining continuity with the existing hike and bike trail and the proposed boardwalk as a part of the Hyatt Regency Hotel proposal. Previous discussions have favored construction of a boardwalk as a part of Mr. Conner's project as well, but it is recognized that the configuration of the shoreline would allow for both extension of the trail at ground level and an outdoor deck attached to the restaurant. The staff believes that the transition between the existing ground level trail and a boardwalk would best occur at the First Street Bridge, and therefore, recommends a boardwalk as a part of the project. However, staff also desires to work with the owner-architects to reach an agreeable solution. The staff also concurs with the Environmental Board that landscaping and softening of impervious cover should be major considerations in the plan.

After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Coffee and seconded by Mr. Reed that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council approval of the request from Mr. Arlan Conner to construct a restaurant and executive office complex on an undeveloped tract of land between the proposed Hyatt Regency Hotel and the South First Street Bridge on Town Lake; that a public easement be dedicated for a hike and bike trail to maintain continuity with the existing hike and bike trail and the proposed boardwalk as a part of the Hyatt Regency Hotel proposal; that the hike and bike trail be constructed of the same material as the proposed Hyatt Regency Hotel proposal; and that all work done comply with the Parks and Recreation Department Planning Section specifications.

Mr. Conner asked about liability if someone was injured on the hike and bike trail on their property. Mr. Ehrler explained that once a public easement is dedicated to the City of Austin an injury on that easement becomes the responsibility of the City. Mr. Hall asked if the shoreline would be altered. Mr. Conner explained in some areas a portion of the shoreline would be obscured by the boardwalk extending out over the water. Mrs. Arnold explained Town Lake and Lake Austin will be discussed as a part of the master plan and looked at as total lake development and not piece meal.

The motion carried with Mr. Hall abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR BARTON CREEK GREENBELT - 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

Mr. Ehrler explained the Parks and Recreation Department is presently asking permission to make application for a grant for federal matching funds for Barton Creek Greenbelt Acquisition. During the 1979 State Legislative session, House Bill 233, Urban Area Recreation and Open Space Fund, was passed which would allow for matching State funds also, through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. As yet, no grants have been approved from this fund and hopefully, this might be the first one. Funds are secured from a certain portion of the cigarette tax. The Parks and Recreation Department is asking for permission to submit two grant applications, one for federal funds and one for state funds. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will decide which one will be submitted and the amount is for \$1,400,000 matching funds. David Reed, explained the reason for a public hearing is because of new executive federal regulations requiring citizen response on the impact of the project on the 100-year floodplain. Also, as required, the grant application has described the impact of this project on the 100-year floodplain as follows:

"in order to minimize any adverse impact on the floodplain, only trail improvements will take place in the area subject to flooding...to mitigate the potential for harm to lives during periods of flooding, on-site management measures will be taken to anticipate high flows and regulate use of the creek corridor. This action will be particularly important during high rainfall periods of spring months."

It is clear that public ownership and control of the Barton Creek corridor is in the best interest of the citizens of Austin through environmental protection and sound land use. The area proposed to be acquired is from Loop 360 to the Lost Creek Subdivision. The Soil Conservation Service has made a survey of the area and it is possible that the watershed is not a national park type, but might possibly be a national recreation area. Mr. Reed explained that he and Mr. Ehrler met with the City Council in executive session and were given permission to use options and leases for the Barton Creek Greenbelt acquisition. Mr. Ehrler explained that proceedings for the purchase of the property is now in the hands of the Property Management Department and the procedure in the past has been for purchase by fee simple. Mr. Reed explained a public notice of the public hearing tonight was run in the newspaper which was also a requirement. The public hearing closed.

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED NAME FOR NORTHWEST RECREATION CENTER

Mr. Garrison explained this was a continuation of the public hearing held on October 23, 1979. At that meeting the names of B. J. "Buster" Robinson, Tim Roche, Jr. and Northwest Recreation Center were submitted. Mr. Bob Davis, a member of the Steering Committee of the Allandale Neighborhood Association explained his association was recommending the name remain the same, "Northwest Recreation Center." If groups wished to honor deceased persons, funds could be contributed and plaques placed inside the building.

Mr. Hall pointed out that Parks and Recreation Board policy designates, that where possible, names for facilities will reflect prominent land features. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Isely, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council that the new recreation center located at 2913 Northland Drive, be officially named the "Northwest Recreation Center." The motion carried unanimously. Mrs.

Arnold suggested that as soon as the center has an advisory board that it be made known to them the suggestion made for placing plaques inside the building in memory of deceased persons from contributions given for that purpose. Mr. Guerrero introduced Mrs. Linda Tyler, Supervisor of the center. Mr. Garrison explained that some time in the future he would like to name a facility in honor of Mr. Buster Robinson. Mr. Coffee suggested that perhaps something along Barton Creek could be named for him.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING CHANGES

It was agreed by board members that the regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting for Monday, December 10, 1979, be held at 12:00 noon at the Parks and Recreation Department instead of a tour meeting, and that the regular meeting scheduled for December 25, 1979, be cancelled. Mr. Garrison reminded all board members of the Capital Improvements Program work session to be held Tuesday, December 4, 1979, 5:00 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation Department.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Trends Report

Mr. Ehrler explained the Trends Report is an element of the Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan, and asked that all board members read the report. The Parks and Recreation Department staff held a retreat on November 14th and reviewed the report and discovered there are some very distinct and definite trends in the report. David Reed explained he would like each board member to read the report carefully, fill out the report in the back and return to the Planning Section. The report is only a draft and after receiving input the final report will be completed to carry through the Master Plan. Mr. Ehrler explained one aspect brought out is that this is the age of the pedestrian and could very well be the reclamation of the pedestrian. He personally is very excited about input from the board.

Resident Planning Aides

Mr. Ehrler explained the Planning Section is planning to hire 10 part-time Resident Planning Aides to work on a part of the citizen participation element of the Austin Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. David Reed explained that if any board members knew of any potential candidates for the positions to please let him know. The information was also sent out to 78 neighborhood associations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.