



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Tuesday, August 22, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.
Board and Commissions Room, City Hall
301 W. Second Street
Austin, Texas 78701

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jane Rivera, Chair; Richard DePalma, Vice Chair; Michael Casias, Rick Cofer, Tom Donovan, Romteen Farasat, Dawn Lewis, Francoise Luca, and Randy Mann

Board Members Absent:

Romteen Farasat
Mary Katherine Stout
Fred Morgan

Chair Rivera made a correction to the board members listed on the meeting agenda and added a newly appointed District 8 Board Member Mary Katherine Stout.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of July 25, 2017.

Vice Chair DePalma made a motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of July 25, 2017. Board Member Donovan seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0 with Board Member Casias abstaining, and Board Member Farasat, Morgan, and Stout absent.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Leon Hernandez, addressed the Board and voiced his concern about the use of Parque Zaragoza as a temporary shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Gavino Hernandez, spoke to the Board and also voiced his concern about the use of recreation centers for shelters for individuals experiencing homeless and advocated for more programming.

Helen Miller, spoke to the Board and also expressed her concern about the use of recreation centers Rosewood and Zaragoza for homeless shelters. Ms. Miller voiced her concern about and

programs being taken away for children.

Barbara Slott, Colony Park Neighborhood Association, spoke to the Board against using recreation centers for sheltering individuals experiencing homeless and expressed her concerns about children and children programming.

Chair Rivera moved items 5., and 6. before items 2., 3., and 4.

F. NEW BUSINESS: BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Briefing and discussion to introduce the “Stronger Austin” partnership between Austin Parks and Recreation, Austin Public Health, and It’s Time Texas

Lucas Massie, Acting Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department, and Baker Harrell, It’s Time Texas, made a presentation to the Board regarding the Stronger Austin partnership including educational and recreational opportunities and answered Board Members’ questions.

6. Briefing and discussion regarding recycling in City of Austin parks

Liana Kallivoka, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department, made a presentation to the Board regarding the recycling efforts and challenges at the Parks and Recreation Department parks and facilities. Assistant Director Kallivoka and Richard McHale, Interim Assistant Director, Austin Resource Recovery, answered Board Member’s questions.

D. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Non-Consent

2. Establish a working group regarding fees for the use of City pools

Chair Member Rivera rescinded this item and announced that the Board was not going to take action on this item.

3. Select four Board Members to serve on the Aquatic Master Plan Task Force and discuss the Master Plan review process

Chair Rivera nominated Board Members Cofer and Lewis, Vice Chair DePalma and Chair Rivera, to serve on the Aquatic Master Plan Task Force. All nominated accepted the nominations. The motion was made by Vice Chair DePalma and seconded by Board Member Mann.

The motion carried on a vote of 8-0 with Board Member Farasat, Morgan, and Stout absent.

John Rooney, Programs Coordinator, Austin Parks Foundation, commended the work Parks and Recreation Department staff and stakeholders did during the Master Plan creating process and offered assistance of the Austin Parks Foundation with the process.

E. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Discussion on council direction regarding the Aquatic Master Plan Task Force

Kimberly McNeeley, Acting Director, Parks and Recreation Department, informed the Board on the Council direction and council resolution no. 08172016-52 regarding the Aquatics Master Plan Task Force and answered Board Members' questions. Acting Director McNeeley discussed the process and logistics of the process and offered staff help with the assigned tasks.

Discussion was held on the he Aquatics Master Plan Task Force.

Alan Pease, Aquatic Advisory Board, addressed the Board, provided his input on the Aquatic Master Plan, and made suggestions regarding the Aquatic Master Plan evaluation process.

G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kimberly McNeeley, Acting Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, informed the Board about Council resolution no.: 20170810-033, provided an update on new Texas State legislation, Bond Election Advisory Task Force, aquatic and other summer programs, community initiatives, and future items.

H. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Rivera—requested update on housing individuals experiencing homelessness at recreation centers as a part of the Director Report

Board Member Mann—asked for information about low scoring of Austin cemeteries on the survey

Board Member Casias—requested an action item to dissolve Holly shores working group

Board Member Donovan— requested information on Blunn Creek and a possibility for it to become a preserve

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.