



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Tuesday, September 26, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.
Zilker Botanical Garden, Auditorium
2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78746

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Board Members Absent:

Mary Katherine Stout
Rick Cofer

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting of August 22, 2017.

Jane Rivera made corrections to the minutes and Board Member Casias made a motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of August 22, 2017 with corrections. Board Member Mann seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 9-0 with Board Member Cofer and Stout absent.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Anna Villalobos, Montopolis Advisory Board and representing Montopolis recreation community, expressed her concern about the lack of resources at the Montopolis Recreation Center. Ms. Villalobos also expressed her concern about centralizing the Halloween Party and Easter Egg Hunt and moving it to the Dove Springs Recreation Center.

Susana Almanza, President of the Montopolis Neighborhood Association, also expressed concerns about the community not being allowed to have Halloween celebration for children. She requested that the process for decisions regarding consolidating events be revised.

Susan Silverman, River Hill Neighborhood Association, informed the Board of the designation of the neighborhood as one of two IDA international dark sky places in the Central Texas area. Ms. Silberman invited the Board to partner with them for educational events and expressed a concern about a nearby project that may cause a lighthouse effect.

Bill Bunch, Executive Director, Save Our Spring Alliance, addressed the Board and spoke about the Mayor's proposed solution to the Downtown Puzzle and expressed his concern regarding expansion of the Austin Convention Center and funds that may be spent on a small park downtown.

Robert Corbin, addressed the Board and spoke about issues with dogs off leash in Zilker Park and irresponsible dog owners in Austin parks.

D. NEW BUSINESS: ACTION ITEMS

Consent

- 2. Make a recommendation to City Council to recommend authorization of negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and the Austin Independent School District for the Literacy First Program (formerly ACE: A Community for Education) to be offered at Allison, Brooke, Govalle, Metz, Ortega and Zavala Elementary Schools**

Chair Rivera read the item into the record. Board Member Casias made a motion to approve the item on consent agenda. Board Member Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 9-0 with Board Member Cofer and Stout absent.

Non-Consent

- 3. Dissolve the Holly Shores Working Group**

Board Member Casias made a motion to dissolve the Holly Shore Working Group. Board Member Lewis seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 8-0 with Board Member Stout and Cofer absent and Board Member DePalma of dais.

E. NEW BUSINESS: BRIEFING ITEMS

- 4. Staff Update on the Soil Remediation around the Holly Power Plant, Including Nine Acres of Parkland Transferred to Parks and Recreation Department from Austin Energy**

Eric Stager, Environmental Scientist Senior, Austin Energy, and Rey Hernandez, Project Management Supervisor, Parks and Recreation Department, made a presentation to the Board regarding the decommissioning of the Holly Shores Power Plant and its transfer to the Parks and Recreation Department and answered Board Members' questions.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Board Member Casias departed at 7:03 p.m.

Liana Kallivoka, Assistant Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, provided an update on master plans, upcoming events, department programs, and fiscal year 2017-2018 budget.

Board Member Luca departed at 7:30 p.m.

Board Member Cofer arrived at 7:39 p.m.

G. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Rivera—requested action items on appointments to standing committees

Chair Rivera—asked for a follow up on the Montopolis Recreation Center issues mentioned during citizen communication

Board Member Donovan—offered to deliver a report on the Wildflower Meadow Project

Vice Chair DePalma—requested staff briefing on issues with dogs off leash in parks with focus on enforcement (and enforcement options / compliance ideas) of on-leash policy

Board Member Lewis—update on illegal dumping and issues with trash in parks

Board Member Mann— requested an update on the Veterans Park (specifically if something can be done to screen off the noise from MoPac)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 7:41p.m.