



**Environmental Board / Parks and Recreation Board  
JOINT COMMITTEE**

**November 12, 2014  
Meeting Minutes**

**Joint Committee Members in Attendance:**

Parks and Recreation Board:

Hill Abell, Chair  
Dale Glover  
Susan Roth

Environmental Board:

Mary Ann Neely

**Staff in Attendance:**

Kim McNeeley, PARD  
Nichole Bohner, PARD  
Liza Colucci, WPD  
Robin Camp, PWD

Cheryl Bolin, PARD  
Gary Gregson, PARD  
Tom Devitt, WPD

The Environmental Board / Parks and Recreation Board JOINT COMMITTEE convened in a joint meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, in Room 1029, at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Austin, Texas.

Chair Hill Abell called the Joint Committee Meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- The approval of the minutes for the June 16, 2014, meeting was approved with a 4-0 vote.

**2. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION**

- Kam Magor spoke about a gate that was installed across an access road west of the bathhouse (near the Barton Creek Greenbelt trailhead). She stated that there were no notifications to the public nor opportunity for public input prior to its installation. She stated that she opposed to the gate being there. She also stated that she felt that the agenda item regarding the lighting levels were not adequately publicized.
  - The committee requested that the issue be presented to the full Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

- Karen Kreps echoed Kam Magor’s statements about the gate, and added that the area being blocked is one of the more beautiful areas in the park that can be accessed without paying admission, and residents of nearby apartments utilize crossing there to access pool. Requested that signs be posted notifying pool/park users about PARB briefing.

### 3. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION

- Liza Colucci (Watershed Protection Department Environmental Scientist) provided a briefing on the fencing options to limit access to the Eliza Spring channel that will be created with the project to daylight the spring run.
  - Project has been in design for about 2 years and is approximately 90% complete.
  - Original fencing design was an arch covering the length of the spring run. This design had drawbacks which led to a redesign.
  - New design is a vertical fence on each side of the run.
  - Public input will continue to be accepted through at least December.
- Brian Larson (Larson Burns & Smith LLC) gave a briefing on the lighting installed as part of the General Grounds Improvements project.
  - Displayed plan that was approved by Design Commission.
  - Described stakeholder input process.
  - Described design constraints: Most poles had to stay or be replaced within the same location (no new holes except in limited areas); No underwater lighting was allowed by US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS); Access for installation and ongoing maintenance had to be considered.
  - New flood lights have a six-month “burn in” period in which lights are brightest, and will dim afterward.
  - Dale Glover asked if lighting plan was best available. Brian responded that the lighting consultant stated that it was.
  - Mary Ann Neely asked what was the rationale for USFWS to prohibit underwater lighting. Staff responded that it would be considered disturbance of the endangered salamanders.
  - Karen Kreps (citizen) wanted to go on the record as being very unhappy with how bright the lights are and she avoids going to Barton Springs at night because of them. One can no longer see the stars at night will swimming. Karen also asked about a new sensor-activated light, which Staff acknowledging installing as a temporary measure.
  - Kam Magor asked about a lighting expert that had been contacted by citizens and why the project team did not incorporate the expert’s input. Kim McNeeley stated that PARD staff would look into the issue and provide a response.

**4. BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)**

- None.

**5. FUTURE ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- None.

**6. ADJOURN**

Committee Chair Hill Abell adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m. without objection.