

Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board

July 24, 1990

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Mrs. Louise Nivison, Vice-Chair. Board Members present: Terry Colgan, Ron Cartlidge, Sue Robinson, Lawrence Britton, Louise Nivison, Agnes Edwards, Charles Heimsath, Doug Matthews, Neil Iscoe and ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres. Staff present: Manuel Mollinedo, Stuart Strong, David Mascorro, Ron Sparks, Carolyn Kelley, Prenis Williams, Rick Fuszek, Jody Hamilton and Donna Bohls.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sue Robinson made a motion which was seconded by Lawrence Britton. The minutes of December 11, 1989, May 14, 1990 and May 22, 1990 were passed with no dissent.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Dorothy Richter made a presentation to Board Members regarding the trash being left by audiences at the Zilker Hillside Theater. She indicated that litter, glass containers, alcohol consumption and the reserving of seating space by using plastic on the grass are serious problems at the theater. She also asked for additional trash containers and provisions for recycling.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Discussion of Concession Policy on Town Lake

Charles Heimsath, Chair of the Concession Committee, indicated that a final draft has just been completed. A companion document "Annual Report on Concessions" needs to be completed and adopted also to go along with the Concession Policy. Mr. Heimsath thanked Carolyn Kelley and Rick Fuszek who have worked extensively with the Concession Policy Committee. Board Members agreed to hold a public hearing on the concession policy on their regular August 28, 1990 meeting and to place the policy on the September 10, 1990 agenda for action.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Nivison reported that several Parks Board Members had spoken before Council regarding the AMEGO proposal. She thanked them for their time and participation.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Approval of the Rowing Committee Report for Submission to City Council

Mrs. Nivison, Chair of the Rowing Committee, introduced the members of the Committee that were present at the meeting. They are Jeff Hart, President of the Austin Rowing Club; Bob Koretzsky, U.T. Men's Rowing Coach; Mark

Kessleman; Sally Cook, Rower; and Billy Gammon, Rower. Mrs. Nivison opened the public hearing. There were no citizens present to speak before the Board. Mrs. Nivison indicated that there would be another meeting of the Rowing Committee to address the staff comments which had been received and that the report will be returned to the Board for consideration.

Discussion and Approval of Mt. Bonnell Interim Report

Carolyn Nelson, Deputy Director, explained the proposed report in detail to Board Members. Board Members discussed the vegetation/erosion problems on Mt. Bonnell. Carolyn discussed the current signage regarding curfew and rock throwing. Mrs. Nivison called for citizen comments.

Betty Brown spoke on behalf of Richard W. Meyer, Chair of the Historic Landmark Commission. On July 23, 1990, the Historic Landmark Commission met and recommended historic zoning for Mt. Bonnell. This would require the Parks Department to secure approval through a Certificate of Appropriateness procedure for any alterations or additions to the site. This would not affect routine maintenance and repair. The Commission also recommended that if fencing is to be provided as a security measure for the park, such fencing should be around the perimeter of the site, i.e., along Mt. Bonnell Road and the south property line of the park and the materials of the fence should be wrought iron, stone, and/or brick. The Commission did not recommend a fence, but did feel that if a fence were installed, it should be of materials and a style that would enhance this park as it is one of the most frequented tourist destinations in the City.

Hugh Bender addressed the cost of building a deck for observation purposes. He indicated that the money would be better spent for something else since the deck would not deter rock throwing. He thought that spot/random patrols of park police would just as effective as the round the clock protection now provided. Mr. Bender suggested looking into a PID taxing district to fund the needed security for the area with the homeowners in the area paying the costs.

Jim Vure addressed the Board regarding the park police patrols. He felt that the officers should drive their cars to the top of the mountain to be most effective.

Terry Colgan made a motion to submit the interim report to the Council in order to have a report made by the original due date with the following notes:

1. Clearly identify the report as an interim draft on which the Board has made no recommendations.
2. The pages should be numbered.
3. In the cover memo, the schedule for final approval should be clearly laid out.
4. Add a disclaimer regarding the priority order of the recommendations. The order does not reflect their priority.
5. Display the following prominently - No method has been identified to eliminate rock throwing at Mt. Bonnell.

The motion was seconded by Neil Iscoe and passed with no dissent.

Approval of Resolution Recommending Continuing Funding for Community Education

After considerable discussion on this item, ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres made a motion to table this item until August 13, 1990. Doug Matthews seconded the motion and it passed on consent.