

Minutes  
Parks and Recreation Board  
1500 W. Riverside Dr.  
August 28, 1990

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on August 28, 1990 in the Parks and Recreation Board Room at 1500 W. Riverside Drive. Mrs. Beverly Griffith, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. Board Members present were: Beverly Griffith, Louise Nivison, Lawrence Britton, ErmaLinda Cruz Torres, Doug Matthews, Agnes Edwards, Neil Iscoe, Terry Colgan, Sue Robinson and Charles Heimsath. Staff present were: Manuel Mollinedo, Stuart Strong, Sandra Aguirre, Jody Hamilton, Prenis Williams, Ron Sparks and Carolyn Nelson.

**Citizens Communications**

There were no citizens present to speak on items other than those on the agenda.

**Director's Report**

Mr. Mollinedo reviewed the Department's list of budget priorities with the Board. He indicated that an expanded aquatics program is number 1 and that expanded recreation hours was now number 2 priority.

**ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS**

**Concession Policy**

Mrs. Griffith began the discussion with citizen comments.

Howard Barnett addressed the Board and is in agreement with most of the items in the concession policy. He would like to see more protection for existing concessionaires. He felt very strongly that these people have made a substantial investment and need special consideration.

Mike Pearce, Lone Star Riverboat Concession, disagreed with portions of the proposed policy. He felt that concessionaires should be considered when planning for special events in the park - especially Aqua Fest. He felt that there should not be a minimum percentage guaranteed to the Department. As long as the concessionaire was not harming the environment and providing a service to the community, dollars to the City should not be a deciding factor.

Mick Vann, Operator of Majestic Diner, encouraged the Board to find a way to make his proposal to operate an organic demonstration garden in Zilker Park a reality.

Richard McCowan, President of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, indicated concern about concessions serving the citizens of the City. He was very interested in the placement of the concessions on Town Lake.

Stuart Miller addressed the Board and had only minor concerns regarding the

proposed policy.

Sam Rivers, Texas Rowing Concession, spoke in favor of the proposed policy.

Mr. Friday, Old West Austin Neighborhood Association, spoke in favor of public hearings before the Parks Board on each concession that is being considered.

After hearing all of the citizens registered to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Approval of Resolution Regarding the Continued funding of Community Education

Terry Colgan, Chair, Programs Committee, distributed the proposed wording of a resolution in favor of continued funding for Community Education. The resolution was to point out to Council areas for improvement in the Community Education program and did not address the \$100,000 proposed cut in funding being considered in the City Manager's proposed budget. After considerable discussion among Board Members and Richard McCowan, President of the Consortium, Terry Colgan made the following motion which was seconded by ErmaLinda Cruz Torres. The motion passed 5-2.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Austin Parks and Recreation Board advises the City Council and City Manager about parks, and recreation and community programs; and

**WHEREAS** the Board fully supports the Community Education concept as a necessary and beneficial complement to programs offered by PARD and other community organizations; and

**WHEREAS** the Board feels it has an obligation to identify areas where it believes the Community Education program can be improved; and

**WHEREAS** the Board's Program Committee thoroughly reviewed and discussed program and budget information provided by Austin's Community Education program; and

**WHEREAS** the Board believes the agreement between the City of Austin and the Austin Independent School District provides insufficient flexibility for Community Education to cope with funding reductions while continuing to serve those segments of the community most in need; and

**WHEREAS** the Board believes that Community Education commits a disproportionate share of its limited financial resources to administration rather than direct service delivery;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Austin Parks and Recreation Board, at its special called meeting on August 28, 1990, recommends that the City of Austin examine the Community Education program to insure that the program is being operated in a resource-efficient manner; and

**FURTHER THAT,** as appropriate, the City of Austin renegotiate the Community School agreement to incorporate a specific mission statement for

the program, flexible budgeting and fund transfer authority to accommodate varying levels of funding, and increased emphasis on acquiring funding from outside sources.

Approval of Option for 138 kV Lines across Town Lake

This item was postponed until the September 25, 1990 meeting.

Recommendation Regarding AMEGO

Ron Sparks, Program Manager - Operations Division, provided the Board with an update on the progress being made on the AMEGO negotiations.

The following motion was made by Sue Robinson, amended by Charles Heimsath and Louise Nivison and seconded by Charles Heimsath. The motion passed 8-0-1 with Terry Colgan abstaining.

**Resolution on AMEGO**

**WHEREAS** the Austin Parks and Recreation Board (Board) advises the City Council and City Manager about park and recreation facility operation and maintenance and the provision of recreation programs; and

**WHEREAS** the Board thoroughly reviewed and discussed the Austin Metropolitan Government Study (AMEGO) recommendations on consolidation of City of Austin and Travis County park and recreation departments; and

**WHEREAS** the Board found convincing evidence that such consolidation would cost taxpayers money, rather than providing a savings; and

**WHEREAS** the Board believes the City and County have diverted significant manpower and financial resources from service delivery in order to compile data used by AMEGO and its consultants; and

**WHEREAS** the Board believes that uncertainties and speculation -- over the last two years -- about budget reductions, reduced employment and a decline in the quality of service delivery due to consolidation have adversely affected the morale of both City and County employees; and

**WHEREAS** the County proposed a consolidation of its Parks Department with its Public Improvements and Transportation Department, saving taxpayers \$200,000 each year; and

**WHEREAS** the Board believes that the best available information clearly shows that the consolidation proposed by AMEGO is not in the best interests of the City and County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Austin Parks and Recreation Board, at its special called meeting on August 28, 1990, recommended that the Austin City Council immediately inform the Travis County Commissioners Court that it no longer wishes to pursue consolidation of City and County parks and recreation departments; and

**FURTHER,** that the Council direct City staff to cease all expenditures of manpower and monetary resources in support of the proposed AMEGO consolidation.

Parks Board's Role in Appeal Process for Denial of Alcoholic Beverage Waivers

Mr. Mollinedo outlined a plan for the Parks and Recreation Board to act as an appeal panel for alcoholic beverage waivers that are denied. This will allow the Board to review denials before the applicant appeals to Council. Mrs. Griffith indicated that this would be a matter to go before the Programs Committee. Mr. Britton expressed concern about the number of serious decisions the Parks Board is being asked to make. After considerable discussion, Neil Iscoe made a motion approve the Director's recommendation and have the Parks and Recreation Board serve as an appeal panel for the denial of alcoholic beverage waivers. This motion was seconded by Sue Robinson and passed on a 7-1 vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.