

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
July 26, 1994

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, July 26, 1994 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Rosemary Castleberry, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Marianne Dwight, Phil Friday, Mary K. Isaacs, Doug Johnston, Rocky Medrano, and Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, Jody Hamilton, John Giedraitis, and Dolores Posada.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

Beatrice Lucio, Montopolis Little League President, addressed the Board with her concerns regarding the delays in the Montopolis Sportsplex project.

Janice Rodriguez, Montopolis Little League Vice President, also expressed her concerns on the delays in the Montopolis Sportsplex project.

The Director, Michael J. Heitz, AIA, gave a brief summary on the project. He informed both Ms. Lucio and Ms. Rodriguez the Department hoped to obtain the land for the Sportsplex in eight (8) weeks.

Rosemary Castleberry moved to have a Public Hearing and/or Board Meeting in eight (8) weeks at the Montopolis Recreation Center to give an update on the project to the community. Marianne Dwight seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Make recommendation to Department regarding Kendra Page Park.

The Director explained what steps the Department had to go through and what the delays had been.

Juan A. Rosas, Silverstone Neighborhood Association member, was inquiring on the completion date of the project, the layout of the project itself,

and why had there been changes in the first layout without any notification to the neighborhood.

Janene Lindholm, Silverstone Neighborhood Association President, would like to see the construction of the park begin as soon as possible and had the similar concerns Mr. Rosas had. Ms. Lindholm was concerned that some of the walkways the neighborhood had wanted were not in the plans. She further stated she would like to have the Department contact her if there were any more changes made.

The Director had answered Mr. Rosas and Ms. Lindholm's questions during his presentation and assured them they would be contacted if any other delays were to arise or they could contact him if they had any more questions.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Discuss possibility of combined public hearing on proposed tree ordinance with Urban Forestry Board on August 2.

Due to conflicting meetings on August 2, the Board unanimously agreed to reschedule the Board meeting of August 23 to August 31 in order to have a combined public hearing on the proposed tree ordinance with the Urban Forestry Board.

Pat Wentworth, Urban Forestry Board Chairman, gave a presentation pointing out some of the highlights in the ordinance.

Make recommendation to Council regarding proposed operating budget FY 1994-95 for the Parks and Recreation Department for presentation to Council at August 11, 1994 Public Hearing at 5:00 PM.

Phil Friday, Chair, presented the following resolution to the Board:

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN

Resolution

1994-95 Operating Budget Parks and Recreation Department

WHEREAS the operations of the Parks and Recreation Department have been seriously underfunded for almost a decade; and

WHEREAS as a result, many playscapes and other Parks facilities have become unusable, and recreational programs have not been sufficient to provide Opportunities for Youth; and

WHEREAS the proposed cut in the PARD budget, if implemented, will

result in a further decline of maintenance levels, including the elimination of PARD's Priority Response Team for maintenance; and

WHEREAS PARD's facilities and programs are vital to the quality of life in Austin, and have a direct impact on neighborhoods, families, youth, and economic growth and youth crime;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD RECOMMENDS that the 1994-95 PARD Operating Budget be increased, rather than decreased.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED this 26th day of July, 1994.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN

Mary K. Isaacs moved to approve the resolution. Doug Johnston seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0.

The Board members will go before the City Council on August 11 during the Budget Public Hearing to show their support for the Department.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Heitz informed the Board of the following items in the Director's Report:

Youth Sports Council - The Department did not have enough money to pay for utilities at the ballfields for the next two (2) months. They have found monies and asked the user groups to institute conservation measures to reduce costs.

Senior Luncheon Program - Due to AISD raising in the cost of the meals, the Hyde Park, Manor, Metz, and Salina luncheon sites will be closed and the participants bussed to another site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres asked staff to research if Festival Beach had actually been renamed after Gregorio Esparza in the late 70's.

Rocky Medrano commended the Director on the Kendra Page Park presentation.

Mr. Friday informed the Director if there was any other way the Board could

show their support for the Department during the budget process to let them know. In regards to the letter the Department received from ADAPT, Mr. Friday noted there is inevitably an issue between the desirability of making our facilities equally available to handicapped persons on one hand and the cost on the other hand. Mr. Friday asked the Board to schedule the retreat and those present agreed on September 17 from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. at possibly Reicher Ranch. Also, since he has been asked to serve on the ad hoc committee reviewing the city's masterplan, he has taken himself off of the Downtown Commission as the Board representative and asked if someone else would be interested in replacing him.

Ms. Cruz-Torres asked when the AISD joint Council work session was to meet. The Director informed her the meeting was scheduled for July 28.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Isaacs moved to have the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 1994 approved. Mr. Friday seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Audio tapes of the Parks and Recreation Board meetings are available through the Director of Parks and Recreation, 499-6717.