

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES**

September 27, 1994

**Montopolis Recreation Center
1200 Montopolis Drive**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, September 27, 1994 at 6:30 p.m. at the Montopolis Recreation Center, 1200 Montopolis Drive. Members Present: Phil Friday, Doug Johnston, ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Marianne Dwight, Mary K. Isaacs, Rosemary Castleberry, Ricardo "Rocky" Medrano, and Ron Cartlidge.

Staff Members Present: Michael J. Heitz, Jody Hamilton, Minnie Gonzales, Robert Armistead, Stuart Strong, Peter Marsh; Health and Human Services Staff: Lupe Morin; Water and Wastewater Utility staff: Cathy Harrington.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

Beatrice Lucio addressed the board regarding the need for greater support and funding for boxing at Montopolis Recreation Center. Board Members Castleberry and Medrano expressed their interest in expanding the programs at Montopolis, Givens, and South Austin Recreation Centers.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Approve construction of a single-slip boat dock at 3806A Island Way, File # SP-94-0205DS.

Approve construction of a single-slip boat dock at 5409 Scout Island Circle South, File # SP-94-0208DS (Update).

Rosemary Castleberry moved approval of both boat dock items with staff recommendations. Rocky Medrano seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

At this point the Chair with the approval of the Board took an item out of order:

Make recommendation to Council regarding temporary use of RBJ Park by Health and Human Services.

Doug Johnston presented the Land and Facilities Committee summary of the proposal from Health and Human Services to use a portion of Rebekkah Baines Johnson (RBJ) Park for placement of a temporary building during renovation

of their offices adjacent to the park. The Health and Human Services Department will improve the parking area after removal of the temporary building. The improved parking area and the development of a community garden in the area is part of the Parks and Recreation Department's Master Plan. Board Member Johnston stated the Land and Facilities Committee recommendation to approve the temporary use. The vote was 7-0.

The Board resumed the order of agenda after this action.

Make recommendation to the Department regarding the Montopolis Youth Sportsplex.

Stuart Strong reported to the Board that the purchase of the land for the Youth Sportsplex had been delayed by the need to do additional environmental study of the area since there had been a City dump in the 1950s. The title to the land had to be cleared due to its being part of Resolution Trust Corporation holdings. 140 acres have been acquired; two additional parcels of 60 acres and 50 acres are in process. Closing is expected on the 60 acre tract on Oct. 12 and on Oct. 26 for the 50 acre tract. The 50 acre tract is designated for the youth sportsplex. Mr. Strong noted that the purchase does not include the garbage dump site and the sportsplex will be away from the site.

A request for architects to design the facility is scheduled to go out in October. Once selected, the consultant will meet with interested members of the community regarding specifics of the facilities at the Sportsplex. The size is not yet fully determined; however, a four-field complex is planned for about a 40 acre site. In response to questions about the funding for the complex, both Mr. Strong and Mr. Heitz reinforced that the full \$2.9 million is available. Approximately \$550,000 is designated for land acquisition, but Mr. Strong did not expect the land acquisition to cost that much. He could not reveal the proposed cost at this time. The timetable for the project is still estimated at 1 year for design, 6-12 months for construction.

Citizens in the audience expressed concern at the increasing cost of construction the longer that phase is postponed. Commissioner Marcos de Leon suggested that the community develop a committee to review the status every 90 days. He also requested that his office be informed through December of any developments. Mr. Heitz committed to a 90 day update on the project, with the next being at the first meeting in January. Marianne Dwight moved that the Montopolis Youth Sportsplex be placed on the Parks and Recreation Board agenda at least every 90 days. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion with the addition that the update include an audit of the funds for the project. P. J. Martinez and Beatrice Lucio will be the community contacts for the monitoring group. The Chair noted that a vote was not necessary for this action since the Director committed to provide the updates and to notify community members.

Make recommendation to Water and Wastewater Utility regarding Barton Creek Sewer Lift Station Improvements in Zilker Park.

Doug Johnston representing the Land and Facilities Committee reviewed the need for improvements to the lift station in Zilker Park and noted that the

committee recommended improvements but did not have a recommendation as to the building site or shape. The Water and Wastewater Utility recommended building an above-ground facility which could house the ticket station for the Zilker Eagle train and the electric and mechanical equipment for the lift station. The intent is to duplicate the design of the bathhouse and other buildings in the park with the native stone exterior.

Ron Humphries, an Electrical Engineer with the Utility, explained that the underground options had problems with oxygen, water impact, and exhaust. He also showed the Board several options which the Utility had examined. The discussion focused on the impact of delaying a decision on the options until the Parks and Recreation Department could determine if any of the requests for proposals for the train concession involved moving its location. The Water and Wastewater Utility would prefer to have a decision in the near future so that this lift station and two others could be bid on as a package.

Doug Johnston moved to table action on this item until the first Parks Board meeting after receipt of the proposals for the train concession. The motion was seconded by Rosemary Castleberry. The vote was 5-0-3 with Phil Friday, ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, and Marianne Dwight abstaining.

Make recommendation to Council regarding an interlocal agreement between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Austin Community College.

The Director Michael J. Heitz, AIA, provided an overview of the agreement and referred to the recent audit which had raised the issue of there being no formal agreement and also one which provided equity for both the City and the Austin Community College. The attached agreement clarified both parties' benefits.

Ron Cartlidge moved approval of the agreement; Mary K. Isaacs seconded the motion. The vote was 8-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Review Board Bylaws, Ordinance, Goals as they relate to PARD Goals and Objectives 1994-95.

Due to the lateness of the hour and the absence of the pages from the retreat item in the current backup, the Chair requested that this item be tabled until the October 11 meeting. He asked the Chairs of the standing committees to review the committee goals and to propose new goals for 1994-95.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director reported that the request from Don Page to change the name of Kendra Page Park had been withdrawn. He had been concerned about the changing nature of the neighborhood and had been concerned that damage to the park could reflect badly on his daughter's memory. He had, however, been reassured that the park would be watched and that any damages could be fixed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (NOT FOR ACTION)

Doug Johnston was concerned about the work that had been done in the Barton Creek Greenbelt. The Director committed to have the Greenbelt crew call him to discuss the problem in depth.

Rosemary Castleberry raised her concern about the status of the boxing program and identified the need for local programs. The Director noted local opposition, but Ms. Castleberry noted that this opposition had produced no contenders at any of the boxing tournaments at which she had been a judge recently. She underscored the need for tournaments locally and requested support for them and suggested the recreation center advisory boards supported purchase of a ring.

Ms. Castleberry also asked about the construction of Montopolis Park and asked that the work be adjusted to allow their carnival to occur the first week in May.

Marianne Dwight indicated that she intends to be a more active board member in the future and noted her busy work schedule had prevented her in the past. She also reported a complaint about the parking spaces at Barton Springs Pool: staff use of parking spaces and the need to remark handicapped spaces to allow access to the ramp.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres expressed her appreciation for the notification by Programs Division staff of a Community Council meeting at Montopolis. She also requested a copy of the Capital Improvement Program report every 90 days. The Director committed to reproducing the same report given to the Acting Assistant City Manager quarterly.

Phil Friday noted that it was time for officer elections and requested they be part of the next meeting, Oct. 11. He also reported on the activities of the Planning Committee, for which he is the Parks Board representative. He reported that he planned to suggest that the Land Development Code have exceptions for certain types of Parks and Recreation Department construction and renovation work. He also requested that Board Members provide him with any lists of needs for changes that they have seen.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

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