

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
November 8, 1994**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, 1994 at 6:30 p.m. at the Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center, 800 Nile St. Board members present were Ron Cartlidge, Rosemary Castleberry, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Delores Duffie, Marianne Dwight, Phil Friday, Mary K. Isaacs, Doug Johnston, and Rocky Medrano.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Jody Hamilton, Randy Russell, Debbie Dorsey, Tana Goodwill, Heather Griffith-Peterson, and Dolores Posada.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into an Executive Session to discuss the proposed concession for Zilker Park.

The Board convened to the regular meeting at 6:50. At this time, Phil Friday announced that Howard Barnett, the concessionaire, had exercised his right to appeal the decision of the committee through a channel that is different from the Parks and Recreation Board. Based on that, the Board voted unanimously to postpone their consideration of the issue until the regular meeting of December 13.

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

There were no Citizen's Communication.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR COMMENT

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Austin Transportation Plan-- Liz Badger gave a brief presentation on the Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan (AMATP). Katherine Nichols gave a brief presentation on the Austin Metropolitan Trails Council.

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Make recommendation to City Council regarding the Austin Transportation Plan.

The following are the staff's AMATP Recommendations:

The Department will address the recommendations, as they impact park and recreation issues.

Policy A-1: Provide a comprehensive bicycle, pedestrian and trails program which will remove barriers to continuous bicycle and pedestrian travel.
Staff recommends approval; park trails are more useful if they are connected to a larger transportation system, including on-road trails and sidewalks.

Policy A-2: Employ incentives for bicycles and pedestrians as alternatives to the automobile in congested areas.
Staff recommends approval; in a park setting, non-automobile travel will be a more pleasant option by trails that are attractive and link points of travel. Bicycle use could be encouraged by bicycle storage and changing/shower facilities at destination points.

Policy A-3: Design all roadways not legally prohibiting bicycles or pedestrians to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
Staff recommends approval; the example of the Johnson Creek trail system parallel to MoPac is could be designed into many major roadways.

Policy A-4: All roadway designs should include facilities for advanced bicyclists, and identify appropriate roadways which could have facilities for casual and beginning bicycle riders.
Staff recommends approval; both the recreational and advanced bicyclist should be served by appropriate roadway designs.

Policy A-5: Adopt a metropolitan bicycle route system.
Staff recommends approval; the Austin Bicycle Plan should identify roadways that are designed and maintained to serve bicyclists. In addition, staff recommends the Austin Bicycle Plan include off-road trails.

Policy A-6: Solicit public involvement from bicyclists and pedestrians to identify high priority projects.
Staff recommends approval.

Policy A-7: Increase funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities associated with new roadways.
Staff recommends approval, but suggest off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities also received funding.

Policy A-8: Support continued development of an off-road trails plan connecting activity centers such as schools, parks, shopping centers and work places.
Staff recommends approval; efforts such as the Austin Metropolitan Trails Council should be supported.

Policy A-9: Adopt design standards to facilitate increased safety and use, and which preserve sensitive environmental features.
Staff recommends approval.

Rocky Medrano moved the Board approve the above staff recommendations. Ron

Carlidge seconded the motion.

The vote was 9-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Barton Springs Pool Cleaning Methods--Randy Russell, Sports Management Division Manager, gave a presentation on the cleaning methods at Barton Springs Pool (BSP). Debbie Dorsey, Aquatics Division Supervisor, and Robert Hansen, Environmental Quality Specialist, Environmental and Conservation Services Department, were also available to help answer any of the questions the Board or the public might have.

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION (continued)

Make recommendation to Department regarding cleaning methods at Barton Springs Pool.

Mark Gentle addressed the Board and stated that his concern was the maintenance of the deep end at BSP.

The Board discussed adopting the following resolution:

Barton Springs Pool Maintenance

WHEREAS the primary concern in the management of the Barton Springs Pool must be the quality and safety of swimming; and

WHEREAS current maintenance procedures are resulting in a shallow end which is dangerously slippery and a deep end which is increasingly clogged with algae and silt; and

WHEREAS there is no reliable evidence that previous maintenance procedures had threatened the viability of the Barton springs Salamander; and

WHEREAS the Barton Springs Salamander has not yet been officially designated as an endangered species;

~~NOW~~, therefore, in consideration of the premises, the Parks and Recreation Board recommends to the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Department that it resume previous maintenance procedures, including the controlled use of chlorine in the shallow end and the appropriate dredging of silt in the deep end; and that the impact of these procedures on the Barton Springs Salamander be studied.

Phil Friday moved the above resolution be adopted by the Board. Doug Johnston seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-1-1. Marianne Dwight abstained.

Make recommendation to Council regarding use of recreational facilities at Bergstrom.

Peter Rieck, Economic Development Manager, Aviation, gave an overview of the facilities at Bergstrom. He stated that as of December 1994 all fields will be denied use due to the beginning stages of construction. The gym is property and under the use of the United States Air Force. Mr. Rieck did however tell everyone that there is a program being started that will allow the Aviation Department to recycle and salvage the materials that they will not be using, such as buildings, fencing, lighting, etc... and that the Parks and Recreation Department will be able to benefit from this program.

No action was taken.

Accept Annual Concession Report.

Mary K. Isaacs moved the Board accept the Annual Concession Report presented to the Board. Marianne Dwight seconded the motion.

The vote was 9-0.

Make recommendation to Council regarding revision of ordinance regarding prohibition of jet skis on Lake Austin on specified holidays.

The Director gave the staff recommendation as follows:

Based on State law, the Department recommendation is to discontinue the ban. Prior to implementation, however, recommendation by the Parks Board and approval by City Council are required.

Ron Cartlidge, Navigation Committee Chairperson, stated the committee disagrees with the staff recommendation and that they unanimously recommend that the Department continue the ban on jet skis during certain holiday periods on Lake Austin, that is Memorial Day, Labor Day and July 4 for the following reasons:

- * there appears to be one citizen request to rescind the ban to Council
- * the present ordinance came about as a compromise between banning the jet skis all together during all weekends or having no ban at all.
- * the Texas Water Safety Act does mention the jet ski operation, but does not do much as far as curtailing the dangerous activities that occurs with jet skis
- * disagree that there is no substantial reason could be offered to continue the ban and that holiday weekends are no better or worse than other summer weekends in terms of the number of watercraft that are on the lake.
- * no one with jet skis has come before the committee and has stated they would like jet skis on the lake at all times, but they have had numerous citizen complaints, particularly on the noise level from the jet skis
- * in the minutes of a Parks Board meeting in 1985 the following was stated, "The Parks and Recreation Department staff have spent a great deal of time on a study to determine the carry capacity of Lake Austin and it was quite clear from the study that Lake Austin has gone beyond its capacity on weekends" and the committee cannot see anything that has lessened the load on Lake Austin of boat

traffic and jet ski traffic and that the number of jet skis has at least doubled in use

The vote was called on the Navigation Committee recommendation.

The vote was 8-0-1. Delores Duffie abstained.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Make recommendation to Council regarding approval of the Department entering into a five-year contract with Austin Canoe and Kayak.

Postponed until December 13, 1994.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, informed the Board on the opening of the Roy Kizer Golf Course which was on November 5, 1994.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Cartlidge drove by the Walsh Boat Landing parking lot and there were about 25 cars without boat trailers that appeared to be restaurant or condominium users, not Walsh Boat Landing users.

Mr. Medrano has received good comments from the fight night at the Montopolis Recreation Center. He would like for the Department to do more than talk positive about having a boxing program.

Mr. Johnston asked if we could charge for people to park at the Walsh Boat Landing parking lot.

Ms. Castleberry was excited about how well the boxing tournament at Montopolis Recreation Center had gone and invited everyone to the center again the following weekend for a karate tournament and for the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 17.

Ms. Cruz-Torres asked if the money had been found for the Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center and if the Elisabet Ney Board had been disbanded.

Mr. Friday suggested that anyone who had corrections to the Board Members list give them to Ms. Posada. He polled the Board on having a second meeting in November and it was decided that if one was needed it would be held on Monday, November 28.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Delores Duffie moved to have the minutes of the regular meeting of 10/25/94 approved with the following corrections:

**Items from Board Members, last line should read:
No decision made pending further discussion.**

Marianne Dwight seconded the motion.
The vote was 9-0.

Mary K. Isaacs moved to have the minutes of the retreat of 9/17/94 approved with the following corrections:

Page 90, last paragraph should read:
All Board Members may talk.

Ron Cartlidge seconded the motion.
The vote was 9-0.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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