

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**January 24, 1995**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, 1994 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center, 741 Pedernales St. Board members present were Ron Cartlidge, Rosemary Castleberry, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Marianne Dwight, Phil Friday, Mary K. Isaacs, and Doug Johnston.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Jody Hamilton, Frank Hodge, Colonel Leroy Swift, Senior Sergeant Pauleen Hatch, Patrol Officer Sheila Anderson, and Dolores Posada.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

**CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Frank Hodge, Contract Supervisor, gave the Board an update on the new Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center. The contractor for the project is Contractors and Associates, Inc. Mr. Hodge stated that construction is scheduled to begin in the middle of February.

Raul Rosas, Parque Zaragoza Board member, announced there would be a ground breaking ceremony Saturday, February 18, 1995 at 1:00 p.m.

Neal Graham, Manager of Public Involvement, Electric Utilities Department, gave a presentation on the reconstruction of Holly Street Plant transmission lines. Mr. Graham stated that Council had passed a resolution directing them to pursue the phase closure of the plant. It will involve closing two of the four units by 1998 and the remaining two units by 2005. He presented the Board the two alternative routes that were being considered. Residents and various groups including the Holly Power Plant Closure Committee are asking the lines be taken out of the neighborhood. Phil Friday, Chair, asked Mr. Graham to advise Council that most of Board and staff agreed that they would like to see minimum impact on parkland. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres felt that in the best of interest to the community, it would be best to move the lines out of the neighborhood to whatever else was available.

Paul Hernandez read a letter that was written by Robert Donley, Co-chair of the Holly Power Plant Closure Committee. "See Attachment"

Mr. Hernandez commented that with all of the sacrifices the people have made in that particular neighborhood and the environmental concerns people have had all of these years, that it is not to much to ask to move the lines from the community. The recommendation they would like to make to the Parks and Recreation Department is to find the best way to make it possible along the parkland and they will work with the department all the

way.

Leroy (Colonel) Swift, Park Police Administrator, spoke to the Board about concerns regarding the Park Police Division and the number of officers on the force, their salaries, and status of equipment. Col. Swift told them the Director is trying everything possible to ensure Park Police officers receive salaries equal to other departments. Each time an officer is lost, it causes a great impact on the division. Due to lack of officers, they are forced to focus on problem areas first. Park Police officers perform the same duties/services that APD officers do, yet they do not receive the same salaries. Park Police officers are exposed to the same dangers, yet APD officers start at a higher rate than a 9 year Park Police officer. Recruiting has been difficult due to salaries. Equipment needs are serious, especially cars and computers. Park Police officers work hard in order to provide the citizens of the community the best services and they do not get support from the community. The Director commented that the Park Police Division when established as part of the Parks and Recreation Department did not have the same responsibilities. They now back up APD when needed. The Boat Patrol enforce the law in all of Lake Austin. What they started out to be are not what they are today. He also informed the Board that the Park Police Association had voted to try and be absorbed by APD. The Director does not want to see that happen because they would eventually dissolve. He is trying to get the City Manager and the Council to look at the Park Police budget separate from the Department. Mr. Friday and the rest of the Board are going to do everything to try and help with the Park Police Division needs.

#### ITEMS FOR ACTION

#### ITEMS FOR CONSENT

#### ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

#### ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Approve construction of boat docks and retaining walls at  
5600 Craggy Point, File # SP-94-0421DS;  
4805 Precipice Cove, File # SP-94-0497DS;  
3201 Rivercrest Drive, File # SP-95-0006DS; and  
1407 N. Weston Lane, File # SP-94-0418DS.

Ron Cartlidge, Navigation Committee Chair, stated the committee recommended the approval of the construction of the above boat docks and retaining walls.

The vote was 5-0.

#### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, gave a brief report on the following subjects:

- \* RFP on train concession
- \* Lone Star Riverboat RFP
- \* Phoenix Firebirds sign a contract with Scottsdale, AZ
- \* quarter cent tax

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rosemary Castleberry, Programs Subcommittee member, gave the committee report on Opportunities for Youth.

#### ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Cruz-Torres appreciated and was grateful to the staff at the Pan Am Recreation Center for their helpfulness during the time the Day Care she managed was housed there.

Ms. Castleberry stated she hoped there would be a lot of programming for all youths. She informed the Board she would be judging Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament.

Mr. Friday informed the Board that the Planning Committee Report was presented to Council and he gave a copy of the issues that pertained to the Department to them. He wanted to know if anything else could be done about the situation at the Walsh Boat Landing parking lot.

Mr. Heitz informed the Board there would be a Public Hearing in February regarding the Central City (Rosewood) Entertainment Center.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron Cartlidge moved to have the minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 1994 approved with the following corrections:

pg. 16 Directors Report, re: Kealing Space Center; add so the sentence will read they no longer need the Department's help.

pg. 17 Navigation Committee Chairs report; add what was the status on the response and add the file number.

pg. 16 change the first recorded vote to read " 1-7-1".

Mary K. Isaacs seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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