

**MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
March 14, 1995**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 14, 1995 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, AIA, Donna Bohls, Tana Goodwill and Dolores Posada.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

**CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION**

Walter Mizell, resident along Barton Creek, addressed the Board with his concerns on several problems along creek between Spyglass access and Gus Fruth access. Rock climbers stay in same area all day, every day and need sanitary facility such as a clivus or sanitary sewer toilet. Another concern of his is that the mountain bikers go too fast along the trail. Last, he offered an extension of his water line at city expense with meter to provide water trail users.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION**

**Make recommendation to Council regarding extension of current contract for Zilker Eagle.**

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, stated that the contract for the Miniature Train Concession in Zilker Park expired on April 30, 1994. Following two public hearings a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on March 14, 1994. The evaluation team which reviewed the responses recommended that this solicitation be canceled and a new one issued limiting proposals to the current 16" gauge track. A new RFP was issued on September 12, 1994. On February 2, 1995 Council passed a resolution directing Parks and Recreation Department staff to issue a new RFP with special emphasis on converting the train to an alternative fuel source, establishing a second terminal and extending the track to the parking lot under the south side of Loop 1, and train cars that are more easily accessible. As a result, the RFP issued in September has also been

anceled.

Mr. Heitz stated that in an effort to ensure that the train continues to operate and serve the park users until a new contract is awarded, the Parks and Recreation Department will be requesting that the City Council extend the contract with to the current concessionaire, Zilker Eagle Inc. from April 1, 1995 through September 30, 1996.

The current contractor is requesting a fee increase at this time to offset the income lost when the train was shut down from September 7, 1994 to November 19, 1994 to remove contaminated soil from one of the tunnels. The fees for this concession have not been raised since 1986. They are as follows:

	<u>Current Fees</u>	<u>Proposed Fees</u>
Adults and children		
over the age of twelve	1.25	1.75
Children under the age of twelve	1.00	1.50
Children under one	free	free
Groups (20 or more)	.75	1.25
Senior Citizens	.75	1.25

Minimum hours of operation, weather permitting, will be:

Summer (June 1 - August 31)

Tuesday - Sunday 10:00 am - 6:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays for maintenance

Off Season (September - May)

Weekends only 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

He also stated the concessionaire has agreed to conduct a complete upgrade to the aesthetics and passenger comfort features of the trains by the end of September 1995, provided the proposed rate increase is approved. The equipment upgrade would include removing and repainting the trains and providing new, more comfortable seating for the passenger cars.

Staff recommends that the Parks Board approve the extension of this contract and the increased fees as listed above.

Mr. Friday asked that the item be postponed until the March 28 meeting and asked staff to get justification from concessionaire for price increase, especially in the children's' rate.

After discussion, Rosemary Castleberry moved to have the item postponed until the March 28 meeting and asked Mr. Beall be present at the meeting. Marianne Dwight seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Approve revised Parks and Recreation Board policy for naming of parks and recreation facilities.

Phil Friday summarized the recommendation of the Committee As A Whole regarding the naming policy. Mr. Friday suggested a change in the wording in paragraph 3. There was consensus among the Board. The revised proposed guidelines are as follows:

Guidelines for Recommending Names  
for City Parks and Recreational Facilities

The Parks and Recreation Board finds that one of its responsibilities is to make recommendations to the City Council regarding proposed names for parks and recreation facilities, including improvements, or any part thereof within a park. The Board further finds that the Street and Facility Naming policy adopted by the City of Austin on June 12, 1984, does not provide sufficiently clear guidelines to aid the Board in discharging this responsibility. The Board therefore adopts the following guidelines, superseding all of its previous guidelines:

1. Where possible, names should reflect prominent land features.
2. Where a park or playground shares the same site with a school facility, it is desirable that the park or playground should have the same name.
3. Parks and recreational facilities may be dedicated in honor of a living or deceased person(s) who has rendered significantly valuable service to the community and City of Austin.
4. Once a park or facility has been officially named for a person(s), that name shall not later be changed.
5. The Board shall provide two weeks advance public notice at any site which is proposed to be named, and the Board shall allow public comment on any proposed name(s). The notice shall include any proposed name(s).

Doug Johnston moved the policy be adopted as amended. Mary K. Isaacs seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-0.

Approve naming of Quail Creek Park Hike and Bike Trail for Chris Mosqueda.

The staff recommendation was to approve the naming of Quail Creek Park Hike and Bike Trail for Chris Mosqueda.

David Nettle, resident of Quail Creek, supports the staff recommendation to name the Quail Creek Park Hike and Bike Trail for Chris Mosqueda.

Ella Salazar, Public Works and Transportation Department Community Services Coordinator, informed the Board of the many ways Chris helped their Department and supports the staff recommendation to name the Quail Creek Park Hike and Bike Trail for Chris Mosqueda.

Barbara Chavez addressed the Board and stated she supports the staff recommendation to name the Quail Creek Park Hike and Bike Trail for Chris Mosqueda.

The Chair also informed the Board that there had been 13 phone calls to the Department and one E-mail message supporting the staff recommendation to name the Quail Creek Park Hike and Bike Trail for Chris Mosqueda.

Rocky Medrano stated he had received numerous calls in favor of the naming and felt robbed of never having met Chris.

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres stated she had even received calls from the legislators wanting to know what they could do to urge the Board to vote favorably for the naming.

Rocky Medrano moved to approve naming of Quail Creek Park Hike and Bike Trail for Chris Mosqueda. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-0.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, gave a brief summary on the following Department issues:

Baseball - he will issue copies of the market study that was done on the feasibility of the baseball stadium being built in Austin.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

#### **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Rosemary Castleberry - letter received by Board members on Mt. Bonnell issues and she felt that someone should attend the meeting that was talked about in the letter. A couple informed her that the Frisbee golf course at Bartholomew Park is deteriorating and she also wanted to know if anyone in the Department knew who may be the president of the Frisbee golf organization in Town. She was informed that John Houck of Circular Productions could help her. Ms. Castleberry extended an invitation to all to the Fish fry fundraiser to be held at the Montopolis Recreation Center March 31 to support the boxing program.

Marianne Dwight - concerned with conditions on Hike-n-Bike trail duck area and bikers going too fast. The Director will look into what solutions may be available.

Rocky Medrano - in regards to the draft of Park Police powers, pg. 28

11-1-11 A, he is concerned with the wording and would like to have it changed in order to cover any loop holes it may have. The Director will check with legal to be sure wording does not limit areas of responsibilities.

Mary K. Isaacs - asked for an update on the cleaning of the Barton Springs Pool. The Director informed her they are now using a big scrub brush that goes under a bobcat and has really done a good job on the shallow end and that at the moment they are still trying to find a solution for the deep end but what they are doing at the moment is working.

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres - asked why the 1993 income was listed in the Aqua Fest report. The Director will try to get a clarification.

Doug Johnston - dissatisfied with the way the Department has handled its money and issues, especially in Zilker Park.

Phil Friday - update on the Barton Springs Road underpass. The Director stated it is waiting for the ISTE A grant to come. Mr. Friday asked if the Rowing and Sculling Concession will come to the Board before approval. The Director replied it would but cannot be sure at what time. Mr. Friday noted that on March 9 there was scheduled an amendment to the architectural services agreement for the Central City Entertainment Center. The Director stated it passed.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rocky Medrano moved to have the revised minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 1995 approved. Marianne Dwight seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-0.

Doug Johnston moved to have the minutes of the regular meeting of February 28, 1995 approved with the following amendment:

pg. 22 Add: Attached to the minutes is a summary of some of the information presented.

Mary K. Isaacs seconded the motion.

The vote was 6-0-1. Rosemary Castleberry abstained.

#### CITIZENS COMMUNICATION (continued)

John Boswell, traveling folklore singer, addressed the Board and asked if the Board would consider asking the Department to change its concession policy regarding the fee of \$250.00 for small concessions and let someone such as himself ask for donations while performing on park property.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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