

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
April 11, 1995**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, 1995 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Ron Cartlidge, Rosemary Castleberry, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Delores Duffie, Phil Friday, Mary K. Isaacs, and Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Jody Hamilton, Stuart Strong, Butch Smith, and Dolores Posada.

CALL TO ORDER

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

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Make recommendation to Council regarding conversion of softball fields in the Havins Complex in Walnut Creek Park to baseball fields.

Mary K. Isaacs, Land and Facilities Committee member, stated the committee recommends postponing making a recommendation to Council regarding conversion of softball fields in the Havins Complex in Walnut Creek Park to baseball fields until the next meeting to give the baseball members a chance to voice their opinion.

Michael J. Heitz, Director, stated the Department had not recommended the conversion be done.

The vote was 4-1-1. Delores Duffie abstained.

Make recommendation to Council regarding alcohol in parks.

Phil Friday, Chair, gave a brief summary on the area to be affected by the proposed alcohol ban and stated he felt league play should be excluded from the ban.

Mary K. Isaacs moved to exclude sanctioned, organized adult league play on parkland (games or practice) from the alcohol ban in the proposed area

(Area 3) and the other two already approved areas. Ron Cartlidge seconded the motion.

The vote was 6-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Public Hearing at 7:00 PM regarding proposed 1996 City of Austin Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Stuart Strong, Planning and Design Division Manager, gave a summation of the CIP process and informed the Board that they were to make new idea recommendations to the Planning Commission on the 1995-96 CIP plan. The Department had already made theirs. (See Attachment A)

Lee Stewart, Shady Hollow Estates Committee Association Amenities Chairperson, addressed the Board and proposed they add \$120,000 to develop Southland Oaks Park to a Level I neighborhood park, since the closest park to their community is 5 miles away.

Lewis Hubbard, Shady Hollow Estates Homeowners Association President, addressed the Board and asked that they add the development of Southland Oaks Park to the CIP list due to the growth in the community.

Paula Fracasso, Austin Parks Foundation Executive Director, addressed the Board and asked 3 million for the development of the rest of the Colorado River Park to the CIP list.

The Director stated that with the new location of the baseball stadium Lakeshore Blvd. would need to be extended and that a more realistic figure would probably be 5.5 million.

Tim Wirth, Trust for Public Land Field Representative, addressed the Board and asked that the Board support trails and greenways.

Ted Siff, Trust for Public Land Project Manager, addressed the Board and stated he applauded the Department adding 5 million for land acquisition and development of greenbelts. He stated the rough estimate for the completion of the highest potential trails would be 20 million and asked the Board be advocates and support greenbelts and trails.

Skip Cameron, Bull Creek Foundation President, addressed the Board and asked for their support of the trail system, which if all 321 miles would be completed it would turn Austin into a jewel in this part of the country.

Jim Strickland, Austin Association for Physical Education and Recreation past president, proposed to the Board they increase funding for new trails maintenance.

Doug Black, Texas Bicycle Coalition Director of Programs, addressed the Board and asked they allocate funding for an integrated trails network - both on and off the road - as a quality of life enhancement.

Mark Lind, Austin Metropolitan Trail Council, addressed the Board and asked

for their support, not just for the trail but also for the Austin Metropolitan Trail Council and their efforts.

Make recommendation to Planning Commission and Council regarding proposed 1996 City of Austin Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

After deliberations, moved to submit to the Planning Commission the following recommendation:

- support the Parks and Recreation Department's proposed 1995-96 Capital Improvement Plan which includes the sale of \$19,213,000 in authorized but unissued bonds for seven projects meeting contractual commitments and expansion needs, and the appropriation of \$591,000 in CIP Interest to replace nine aging playscapes.

- support the Parks and Recreation Department's proposed new projects requiring voter approval in the 1995 Bond Election. The Parks Board also recommends the addition of the following projects:

Colorado River Park Development (\$5,500,000) - construct park improvements to serve southeast Austin neighborhoods, including infrastructure and roads serving the park.

Trails and Greenways (\$20,000,000) - develop a system of regional trails, as recommended by the Austin Trails Council. This proposal is intended to supplement the proposed PARD Greenbelt Acquisition and Development project requiring \$5,000,000.

Dittmar Recreation Center Expansion (\$2,000,000) - enlarge the small South Austin recreation center at Dittmar Park, which is unable to serve the growing need for services.

Montopolis Recreation Center Expansion (\$2,000,000) - add capacity to an older, crowded recreation center serving the youth of Montopolis.

Southland Oaks Neighborhood Park (\$150,000) - Phase I development of new City park in far south Austin.

Town Lake Navigation Barrier Removal (\$500,000) - remove sandbars and obstructions, which limit recreational activities and create navigational hazards on Town Lake.

The vote was 5-0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no Director's Report.

Jody Hamilton informed the Board that there were handouts on the Mt. Bonnell issue Rosemary Castleberry had inquired about and a communication from the Aquatics Advisory Board on not funding the opening of two pools.

Ron Cartlidge asked if there was any further development on the Walsh Landing situation and if there was a way Board members could attend the Mt.

Bonnell community and staff meeting.

Ms. Hamilton stated she was still waiting to hear from the Legal Department on the Walsh Landing issue and Mr. Strong stated said staff had met with the Mt. Bonnell community and they were concerned with the erosion being caused by rock climbers and were hoping to find an effective method of control.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mary K. Isaacs asked what route had Council chosen for the reconstruction of the Holly Street Power Plant transmission lines and had the Department done any research on the the concerns Walter Mizell, a resident along Barton Creek, had with the lack of sanitary facilities such as a clivus or a sanitary sewer toilet, no drinking water for trail users, and mountain bikers going to fast along the trail between Spyglass access and Gus Fruth access.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Phil Friday corrected and made a copy for the files on Attachment A regarding the Barton Creek PUD agreement to show the proposed change the Board had made. (See Attachment B)

Ron Cartlidge moved to have the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 1995 approved with the correction made by Mr. Friday. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

The vote was 4-0-1. Mary K. Isaacs abstained.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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