

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
April 25, 1995

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, April 25, 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, Phil Friday, Mary K. Isaacs, and Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Peter Marsh, Tana Goodwill, Martha Peters, Randy Russell, Mark Lord, and Dolores Posada.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Approve construction of a two-slip boat dock at 13815 Pecan Drive, File # SP-95-0116DS.

Approve construction of a single-slip boat dock at 2505 Big Horn, File # SP-95-0117DS.

Phil Friday, Navigation Committee member, recommended approval of the request to construct a two-slip covered boat dock at 13815 Pecan Drive, in accordance with Site Plan #SP-95-0116DS, subject to the following conditions:

1. The maximum distance the boat dock can extend beyond the shoreline is 30', in accordance with Section 13-2-795(1) of the City Code.
2. Navigation light stations to be provided on each corner of the structure and not more than 25' apart, in accordance with Section 13-2-793.
3. Flood lights that direct beams of light outwards towards the water are not permitted. (Section 13-2-793(b)(7)).
4. Because of the high water velocities that can occur in this section of the lake the pilings under the water must be adequately braced to withstand pressure from wind and waves. (Section 13-2-792(a)).
5. The applicants attention should be drawn to the fact that this

section of the lake is subject to high water levels and water velocity during storm events when discharges occur from Mansfield Dam. To avoid possible damage to the boat dock and to stored watercraft consideration should be given to utilizing a floating structure.

Mr. Friday also recommended approval of the request to construct a single-slip covered boat dock at 2505 Big Horn, in accordance with Site Plan #SP-95-0117DS, subject to the following conditions:

1. The maximum distance the boat dock can extend beyond the shoreline is 30', in accordance with Section 13-2-795(1) of the City Code.
2. Flood lights that direct beams of light outwards towards the water are not permitted. (Section 13-2-793(b)(7)).
3. Because of the high water velocities that can occur in this section of the lake the pilings under the water must be adequately braced to withstand pressure from wind and waves. (Section 13-2-792(a)).
4. The applicants attention should be drawn to the fact that this section of the lake is subject to high water levels and water velocity during storm events when discharges occur from Mansfield Dam. To avoid possible damage to the boat dock and to stored watercraft consideration should be given to utilizing a floating structure.

The vote was 5-0.

Make recommendation to Council regarding a 0.268 acre permanent use agreement and an 0.262 acre temporary use agreement in the Walnut Creek/Colorado River Greenbelt.

Phil Friday, Land and Facilities Committee member, gave a brief summary of the use agreement. Mr. Friday stated the committee recommended to follow the Department recommendation of approval of the request for a 0.268 acre permanent use agreement and a 0.262 temporary construction use agreement subject to the following conditions:

1. Restoration and shall be in accordance with the "Restoration Plan" included in the Information Packet for the project submitted by Freese and Nichols.
2. Tree replacement to compensate for the 27 trees that will be removed shall be 600 equivalent square inches or monetary compensation to the value of \$16,196.48. The species and location of the replacements shall be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department.
3. Construction, restoration and revegetation shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the "Construction in Parks Specifications", adopted by the Board, April 25, 1990, and the

notes shown on the project drawings.

4. All restoration and revegetation shall be completed to the requirements and satisfaction of the Parks and Recreation Department.

5. The project drawings shall indicate all approved use agreements within the parkland. The Director of the Parks and Recreation Department shall approve and "sign-off" on the drawings after all use agreements have been approved and granted.

The vote was 5-0.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Make appointments to the Arts and Recreation Subcommittee.

On unanimous consensus from the Board, the three serving members were reappointed. They are as follows:

Rosemary Castleberry
ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres
Mary K. Isaacs

Make recommendation to Council regarding operation of Palm and St. John's Pool in fiscal year 1995-96.

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, stated the Aquatics Advisory Board recommended to eliminate the Palm and St. John's Pool from the system. However, he felt this recommendation should not be made. St. John's Pool is in a neighborhood that is in an empowerment zone and the Department is trying to get them to work within themselves with the resources they have and the limited sources the Department has. In regards to Palm Pool, he has seen a possibility of reconstruction and development along the Waller Creek area and if that were to happen it could bring in some new funding were Palm Pool could be completely redone.

ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres, Programs Subcommittee chair, recommended that Palm and St. John's pool not be closed this year since they have already been budgeted for this year, however they do recommend they close Palm Pool next year and to begin this process during the upcoming budget process.

After deliberation, the Chair asked the Board to vote on the committee recommendation.

The vote was 5-0.

Make recommendation regarding proposed new concessions on Town Lake.

Tana Goodwill, Financial Analyst II, addressed the Board and informed them that the policy for Concessions on Parkland, adopted by the City Council on March 11, 1993, calls for a yearly solicitation of new concession ideas.

Three new concession ideas were received by the Department as a result and according to the Concession Policy, the Parks Board is asked to determine which, if any of the concepts should move forward in the process and be scheduled for a public hearing. Attached are two of the three proposals received. (Attachments A and B) The third was received in the form of a video tape which was shown to the Board entitled "Aqua Tower" which is available for viewing in Ms. Goodwill's office.

At this time, Ms. Goodwill stated the request submitted by Dr. Walter Meyer could not be considered because of an existing ordinance that prohibits a concession to operate from parkland boat docks.

Mary K. Isaacs moved that the Department move forward in the process with the kayaks and/or waterbikes proposal and not consider the Aqua Tower proposal. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0.

Make recommendation to the Department regarding siting of a Wind Harp on Town Lake.

Martha Peters, Special Events Coordinator, addressed the Board and gave a brief summary on the Wind Harp and the location which would be on the North shore west of Possum Point Gazebo near milepost 3 in the wildflower area across from the animal shelter. Ms. Peters informed the Board that Kizer received a Cultural Contract in 1990 to construct a wind harp for placement on the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail. Mr. Kizer completed the wind harp but did not have sufficient funds from the cultural contract to install the work. In March of 1995 the Art in Public Places Panel and the Arts Commission recommended that Mr. Kizer be given another Cultural Contract to complete the project. When asked what was the sound level of the structure, Ms. Peters stated she did not know, except that when a light breeze would blow the upper strings would be activated and higher pitch tones would sound and if a gust of wind were to blow the lower strings would be activated and lower pitch tones would sound. Ms. Peters was also asked if the animal shelter had been give notice of the project and how it would affect them or if the community across the river had been given any notice. She replied she did not know if notice had been given to anyone. The Director asked if the Wind Harp could be temporarily erected for testing.

On unanimous consensus of the Board, it was recommended that the Wind Harp be temporarily erected for testing and then the Board would make a recommendation on a permanent location.

The Chair asked that as a general rule, the Board would like to be sure that notice be given to any proponent or affected party of the various issues brought before the Board to save them or the Department any public embarrassment.

Make recommendation to Council regarding the BCCP Shared Vision and revised BCCP "Shared Vision" Community Conservation Plan Working Group's motions.

The Director stated Department was not prepared to give a presentation at

this time and asked the item be postponed until the next meeting, May 9 and it was passed on unanimous consensus.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

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

The Director summarized how the issue regarding conversion of softball fields in the Havins Complex in Walnut Creek Park to baseball fields got started. Some Council members were approached on the possibility of the conversion. Those Council members asked the Department for information on the cost of the conversion and it was related to them that it would cost approximately \$40 million, which included changing the lights, changing the infield and the outfield, and backstops. The Council members that asked for the information were not in favor of the conversion due to the high cost. He has met with Dan Wimmer of the Men's Senior Baseball and expressed the Department should not be in the business of displacing on group over another since there is a shortage of fields for all sports. The Director's recommendation on hard ball is to find an open area where there is currently not a field and develop a new field. He is looking at two alternative ways of doing this. First, if there is a positive cash flow the Men's Baseball has from its fees he would be willing to look at that and see if they could make certificates of obligation which could be paid back from those funds. Secondly, he is speaking with Larry Young, President of the Phoenix Firebirds, to see if there is any possibility of building an additional field next to the stadium for hard ball.

Stephen J. Kreger, Austin Softball Association President, addressed the Board and asked the Board to vote against the recommendation to Council on the conversion of softball fields in the Havins Complex in Walnut Creek Park to baseball fields to avoid future problems since the fields are being well utilized.

Ron Cartlidge moved that the Parks Board recommends against the conversion of the softball fields in the Havins Complex in Walnut Creek Park to baseball fields. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

Don Jellison, ACBL Vice-president, addressed the Board and stated that at the current moment the youth league was leasing 3 fields from the City and would gladly like to be centrally located. They would not require any conversion cost since they can play with 300 foot fences, softball lights, and build mounds so they can play on softball fields.

Dan Wimmer, Men's Senior League Baseball member, addressed the Board and stated he wanted to make a disclaimer on what he perceived to be an image and/or conflict development that baseball players had no intention of doing away with or seeing anything happen to baseball. He strongly encouraged the Board not to follow the motion made by Mr. Cartlidge because it would built conflict in the differences the baseball and softball community and it would be a great impairment in their ability to go forth search for alternative funding sources.

David Ray, Austin Softball Association member, addressed the Board and

urged that they vote for the motion recommended by Mr. Cartlidge stating there were not enough softball fields as it was.

The Director reminded the Board that the item was placed on the agenda as a request by Stephen Kreger and that neither Council nor staff was not moving for the conversion to happen.

Rosemary Castleberry moved an amendment be added to the motion that stated "The Board strongly recommends the pursuit of additional softball and baseball fields for the citizens of Austin." Mr. Cartlidge and Ms. Cruz-Torres accepted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director announced that the City budget cut target was 6% which is equal to approximately 1.2 million. He also stated that the City is already committed to sell 28 million in bonds next year without adding any new projects.

In regards to the Park Police situation, which he knew the Board was supportive of them receiving better salaries, updated equipment, and more staff, he informed the Board Council member Eric Mitchell was also becoming supportive. Ms. Cruz-Torres would like for the Director to keep the Board abreast on the issues and problems in the Park Police Division. The Director stated he would do so and also informed the Board he had made three recommendations to the City Manager regarding the Park Police Division. They were as follows:

1. Bring the Park Police Division up to 90% parity in comparison to Austin Police Department (APD).
2. The Park Police Division become a non-civil division of APD.
3. The Park Police Division be abolished.

The City Manager is in favor of option #2. The financial structure would be set up through APD, but by contract they would report to the Parks and Recreation Department Director. The Director is in favor of option #1. In either case, the Director wants the officers for Lake Patrol, Hike-n-Bike Patrol, pools, and recreation centers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Programs Subcommittee member, gave an updated report on activities being done by the Programs Division. (See Attachment C) Ms. Cruz-Torres announced that Friday, April 28, was the awards banquet for the Parks Board and Community Education Consortium and this year Ron Cartlidge would be honored as the "Outstanding Parks Board member."

Rosemary Castleberry announced she would be the Mistress of Ceremonies at the Cinco de Mayo Press Party to be held at Fiesta Gardens on April 28.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Rosemary Castleberry invited everyone to attend the festivities at the Montopolis Recreation Center celebrating Cinco de Mayo on May 4,5, and 6.

Phil Friday asked that at the next meeting Board members attendance be added on as an Action Item due to his concern of the lack of attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary K. Isaacs moved to have the minutes of the regular meeting of April 11, 1995 approved. Rosemary Castleberry seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0.

The Chair requested that the "Walsh Boat Landing parking" item be removed from the **ITEMS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY** and asked it be placed under **ITEMS POSTPONED/SCHEDULED FOR DEFINITE DATE** for review at the May 27, 1995.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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