

**MINUTES/PUBLIC HEARING  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
May 23, 1995**

The Public Hearing on proposed Special Events Policy and regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, May 23, 1995 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Lake Center Assembly Room, 721 Barton Springs Rd. Board members present were Ron Cartlidge, Rosemary Castleberry, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Delores Duffie, Phil Friday, Mary K. Isaacs, Doug Johnston, Rocky Medrano, and Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Jody Hamilton, Warren Struss, Peter Marsh, and Dolores Posada.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

**CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION**

**ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

**Make recommendation to Council regarding use agreements for detention pond, inundation, sanitary sewer, and temporary access in Bartholomew Park.**

Tom Hegemier, Engineer III, Transportation and Public Services Department, and Peter Marsh, Engineering Associate III, PARD, gave a brief summary of the use agreement.

The Department recommended approval of the request for:

1. 13.065 ac. Permanent Inundation Use Agreement
2. 80' Temporary Access Use Agreement
3. 0.807 ac. 20' wide Permanent Sanitary Sewer Use Agreement
4. 0.296 ac. 60' wide Temporary Access Use Agreement

The above use agreements are subject to the conditions listed below:

1. Restoration and shall be in accordance with the "Restoration Plan" included in the Information Packet for the project submitted by the Department of Public Works and Transportation.
2. 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.
3. All restoration and revegetation shall be completed to the requirements and satisfaction of the Parks and Recreation Department.

4. 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.

Mary K. Isaacs moved to approve the staff recommendation. Rosemary Castleberry seconded the motion.

The vote was 6-0.

#### ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

#### ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

##### Make recommendation to Department regarding Walsh Boat Landing parking.

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, asked the above item be postponed. He informed the Board he had asked Jesus Olivares, Deputy Director, to form a team to approach the problem at the Walsh Boat Landing parking lot. The Department's Lake Patrol had begun to enforce the laws as they were currently established. Since then, the Department has received concerns from both the Lower Colorado River Authority and the merchants in the area. The Director wants to bring all those groups together and return to the Board with a recommendation.

Phil Friday, Chair, with unanimous consensus from the Board, asked the item be rescheduled for the second meeting in July.

At this time the Chair announced the Public Hearing was officially opened.

##### Public Hearing on proposed Special Events Policy.

#### CLARKSVILLE WEST END JAZZ & ARTS FESTIVAL/PEASE PARK

Harold McMillan, Clarksville Jazz Festival/Diverse Arts Group Director - presented the Board a petition of about 200 signatures from people living on Windsor, Park, and Kingsbury streets supporting the festival and asked the Board grandfather into the policy that they be allowed to stay at Pease Park.

Joy Poth-Aleman, Diverse Arts Group volunteer - presented the Board copies of proclamations, letters, and newspaper articles stating the festival's enrichment to the community and urged the Board to allow them to stay at Pease Park.

Victor LeBlanc, Clarksville West End Jazz & Arts Festival Associated Director - urged the Board to take into consideration the cultural aspects of this festival and allow them to stay at Pease Park.

Barbara Bridges, Clarksville Jazz Festival volunteer - encouraged the Board to grandfather in events which have become an Austin tradition, such as the festival, if special events bar is put into place at Pease Park.

Madeleine Sosin, Clarksville Jazz Festival Programming Director - supports the festival and asked that the Board allow the event to be held in Pease Park.

#### UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS YMCA/EYORE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY/PEASE PARK

Lynda Gamage - supports Eeyore's and asked the Board to allow all special events currently in Pease Park on an annual basis for more than three consecutive years be grandfathered and allowed to continue to use Pease Park.

Wadene Harrison, Old Enfield Homeowners Association President, presented to the Board an abbreviated copy of their 1986 neighborhood plan with the section that focused on parks and the environment which stated their specific recommendation was to limit group size permitted under the reservation system. The current officers concur and would like it limited to 500 attendees. They feel Eeyore's has outgrown the park.

Bruce Elfant, Travis County Constable, Precinct 5 - urged the Board to "grandfather" Eeyore's into the special events policy and have the neighborhood and the events group meet to work out the logistics for next year so we can conserve this cultural event and set the model for working through these problems in the future. He presented to the Board 80 Citizen Communication sign in sheets that supported Eeyore's being grandfathered into the policy.

Jim Christianson, Enfield Homeowner Association member - urged the Board to approve the policy and help the neighborhood in terms of the environmental impact that the number of people attending such an event makes on the park.

Alison Viola, Eeyore's Birthday Party volunteer - urged the Board to grandfather the event into the special events policy.

Jeanne Vier, resident of the neighborhood - she applauded all of the events that are held at the park for the wonderful work and funding raising they do, but they need to be held a park that is larger than Pease Park.

Mr. Friday stated that the Department had suggested alternative sites such as Waterloo Park and asked if someone could explain why it would be a poor site.

The Director stated the Department was not against the events, but felt they had outgrown Pease Park and would like to propose that everyone work together to find another location for them that all could agree on.

Rob Carroll, participant - told the Board he sees no reason why it should be moved.

Alana Cash, resident of the neighborhood - urged the Board to have Eeyore's moved and other events be regulated more strictly.

Les Carnes, Eeyore's Birthday Party Trustee & Event Organizer - expressed to the Board his concern that the Department had not solicited his opinion in regards to this policy and that in according to the consumption patterns

through the years do not show that the event is any bigger than in 1979. Asked why Waterloo Park would be a bad alternative, he stated he would not subject the hospital to that amount of traffic and the impact on the environment would be tremendous.

Ames Smith, resident of the neighborhood - wanted to re-emphasize that their objective is not shut down the event, but to try and deal with the logistical problems they are faced with the people that attend the events and use some of the money paid for the use of the park to restore it after the events.

Mr. Friday asked Stacy Suits, UT YMCA Chairperson, if they now gave any money for the restoration of Pease Park and he answered no. When asked if that was something they would consider as part of the use agreement, he stated that if there was an evenly applied policy to replace documentable damage caused by a specific event, he would have no problem with it.

Mr. McMillan stated he felt that by signing the contract, he was putting money back into the Department's funds. The Director stated that fees collected by the Parks Department, except for enterprise funds, go into the general fund account, not the Parks Department.

Don Bartos, citizen, stated to the Board that the idea of taking Clarksville and Eeyore's both out of Pease Park was bad and if that were taken out, with the cooperation of everyone, this policy could work.

Stacy Suits addressed the Board and stated they were just asking to have Eeyore's and Clarksville grandfathered into the policy and not asking that the neighborhood take on any more events that might come along.

After deliberation among the Board, Ron Cartlidge moved that the section of the policy which states that "no events larger than group picnics will be allowed in Pease Park due to the lack of parking" be deleted from it. ErmaLinda Cruz-Torres seconded the motion.

Rocky Medrano moved the motion be amended by keeping the policy as it written in the draft policy and add a grandfather clause that would read "provide that any events held in the year preceding this policy will continued to be allowed or grandfathered." Mr. Cartlidge and Ms. Cruz-Torres accepted the amendment.

The vote was 7-1 on the amendment.

Next, the Board voted on the main motion that would read as follows:

"No events larger than group picnics will be allowed in Pease Park due to the lack of adequate facilities, provide that any events held in the year preceding this policy will continued to be allowed or grandfathered."

The vote was 8-0.

The Board recessed for 5 minutes.

**AUDITORIUM SHORES AND ZILKER PARK**



Jack Macy, Austin Aqua Festival Commodore - proposed all events held requiring a sound permit be charged a fee and that the hours of operation and sound be curbed during the summer weekdays.

Ingrid Weigand, Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association President - expressed her concerns to the Board regarding the extensive use of Auditorium Shores, the sound levels, and the traffic caused by these events.

Laura Mordecai, Austin Federation of Musicians Program Manager - asked that the Board remember that this series of concerts was specifically designed to be considerate of the neighborhood and that by lowering the current decibel level and/or changing the curfew during weeknights would effect the concerts severely.

Gail Armstrong, resident - stated he felt that all the other parks should host 28 events such as Auditorium Shores or that each time a park opened that allow amplified sound, some of the Auditorium Shore events should be moved to them.

French Smith, Roadstar Productions President - asked that the Board consider leaving the decibel levels at the current levels and stated it was the individual that the Department deals with that actually makes the difference.

James Rounds, Zilker Neighborhood Association Vice-President - informed the Board he was upset that citizen's input was not asked for until 7 months after the Department had already been writing the policy and that the 85 decibel level was unacceptable, the city should be more aggressive on the towing policy, and security should be twice of the recommended amount. He feels that the policy itself was so vague the neighborhoods would be cut out of the drafting process and everyone would simply say they had one meeting and the Department chose not to take their concerns into consideration.

Jack Moore, citizen - informed the Board he was pleased with the draft and the process but questioned what would happen to those who failed to comply with the regulations, would they forfeit money, have the plug pulled or would they just continue to perform until their event was over.

Robert Corbin, citizen - expressed to the Board that he lived a mile away from Auditorium Shores and when he had to listen to someone else's choice of music at 8-11 p.m. he felt that was an infringement on his rights. He asked that the Board please lower the sound volume to 75 decibels.

Robert Meyer, Arts and Entertainment Liaison Planning and Development - stated the City had asked him to do an extensive research study on decibel levels throughout the country. He found that the cities that had the most effective sound ordinances were monitoring at the receiving location and that different variables were taken into consideration.

Mary Margaret Quadlander, owner/resident - stated the noise level is outrageous and not acceptable to residents in the Bouldin Creek

neighborhood during concerts and asked the noise level be lowered or abolish amplified music at Auditorium Shores.

Warren Struss, Operations Division Manager, stated that the Department had begun trying to monitor at the receiving location and had found they could not get a reading but could hear the music loudly. Then they went down to the shores, spoke to the promoters and sound technicians and there it was at an acceptable level. The Department is trying to struggle with the concert goers to make sure they get satisfaction and be sensitive to the neighborhood.

Mr. Meyer stated this would require some study addressing the specific needs of this community and all sectors of it and come up with a workable solution which will ultimately be a compromise.

Ms. Mordecai stated there would have to be some understanding that we live in an urban area and that there is a certain amount one would have to put up with for the sake of all of the other taxpayers who enjoy this type of entertainment.

Mr. Armstrong feels that the concerts in the parks or any outdoor activity that involves amplified sound is a privilege that is given to the City by the citizens who have to endure them and there should be limits. He feels his neighborhood endures more than its share.

The Public Hearing was officially closed by the Chair at 10:55 p.m.

The Board deferred a decision on the policy until the next meeting to be held June 13, 1995.

Make recommendation to Council regarding proposed Special Events Policy.

#### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to the late hour, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 9, 1995 were rescheduled for approval at the next regular meeting.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Audio tapes of the Parks and Recreation Board meetings are available

through the Director of Parks and Recreation, 499-6717.