

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
August 8, 1995

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, August 8, 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, Rocky Medrano, Hermelinda Zamarripa, and Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Donna Bohls, Peter Marsh, Warren Struss, and Ron Sparks.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Ron Cartlidge, Vice Chair.

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

ITEMS FOR ACTION

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

6:30 P.M. Public Hearing on City of Austin cemetery headstone policy.

At this time, Phil Friday, Chair, arrived and began presiding over the meeting.

Ron Sparks, Public Service Manager II, made staff presentation. Recapped circumstances leading up to public hearing. Signs are posted at the cemeteries. Received were 5 calls against and 4 calls in favor of the policy change. Opinions both for and against were very strong.

Phil Friday read a fax from Mack De Leon, City of Austin Human Rights Committee member - in favor of policy change so families can have a choice.

Yolanda Villarreal - son buried in section 11; at the time the plot was purchased, she was unaware of the headstone policy; in favor of policy change.

Bill Gross - son buried in section 11; at the time the plot was purchased, he was not aware of the headstone policy; denied request to place an upright monument; in favor of policy change.

Anna Gonzales, step mother of Gonzales' son - requested people be allowed

to choose a flat or upright headstone.

Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director, informed everyone the Department will investigate different ways of making sure that all deeds and regulations be given to the owner at the time of purchase.

At this time the Chair closed the Public Hearing.

Make recommendation to City Council regarding City of Austin cemetery headstone policy.

Phil Friday stated the Board had to make the following choices:

- grant variance - this space only
- grant variance - Section 11 only
- grant variance - all cemeteries
- grant no variance

Ron Cartlidge asked that the Department contact all families with plots in Section 11.

Rocky Medrano was in favor of allowing the families to choose.

Hermelinda Zamarripa was in favor of granting variances for Section 11.

Rosemary Castleberry moved that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to Council that the policy be changed on block 11 at the Austin Memorial Cemetery so as to permit upright or flat stones, but that the property owners on block 11 be notified of this recommendation before the matter is taken up by Council.

Rocky Medrano seconded the motion.

Ron Cartlidge moved to postpone until the issue is reviewed by the City legal department and notification of all plot owners in Section 11 is done.

Mary K. Isaacs seconded the motion.

The vote was 3-4. The motion to postpone was overturned.

The Chair then asked for a vote on Ms. Castleberry's motion.

The vote was 4-3.

Make recommendation to Department regarding special events in Zilker Park.

Warren Struss, Operations Division Manager, made a staff presentation and provided a handout listing all major events and reservations in the calendar year 1993 and 1994.

Mary K. Isaacs moved to recommend to the Department that they not schedule another concert type event involving more than 2,000 people in Zilker Park for the calendar year 1995.

Ron Cartlidge seconded the motion.

The vote was 6-0-1. Hermelinda Zamarripa abstained.

At this time Mr. Friday had to excuse himself from the meeting and turned the gavel over to Mr. Cartlidge.

Make recommendation to City Council regarding renaming of Austin Nature Center to Austin Nature and Science Center.

The Director informed the Board that the Department recommended approval of the renaming of Austin Nature Center to Austin Nature and Science Center. Mary K. Isaacs moved to approve the staff recommendation.

Rocky Medrano seconded the motion.

The vote was 6-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Make recommendation to Council regarding .566 ac. permanent drainage use agreement for water quality pond in Gillis Park.

Peter Marsh, Engineering Associate III, gave the staff presentation. Staff recommendations were as follows:

The above use agreements are subject to the following conditions:

1. Restoration and shall be in accordance with the "Restoration Plan" included in the letter submitted by the Department of Public Works and Transportation.
2. The two Cedar Elm trees be relocated prior to construction. Tree (or shrub) replacements to compensate for the Mesquite and Cedar that will be removed shall be five Red Buds and five Mexican Plums. The location for the replacements shall be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department.
3. The 6' high chain link security fence be black PVC coated mesh with black posts, rails and hardware.
4. 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.
5. All restoration and revegetation shall be completed to the requirements and satisfaction of the Parks and Recreation Department.
6. 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.

Gerry Clayton, Engineering Support Specialist II, Stormwater Management, Public Works Division was also available to answer any questions the Board might have.

Mary K. Isaacs, Land and Facilities Committee member, stated there was no committee recommendation.

Mary K. Isaacs moved to accept the staff recommendation.

Rosemary Castleberry seconded the motion.

The vote was 6-0.

Rosemary Castleberry moved to accept Phil Friday's resolution which reads as follows:

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN**

Resolution

Water Quality Facilities in Parkland

WHEREAS the Public Works Department has proposed to take .566 acres of land in Gillis Park for a permanent water quality facility; and

WHEREAS installation of the facility will prevent public use of said parkland on a permanent basis; and

WHEREAS said water quality facility will create certain safety risks for children;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, the Parks and Recreation Board makes the following recommendations:

1. In general, it is bad public policy to take public parkland for water quality installations when those installations will make the parkland unusable by the public.

2. Any such water quality facilities should be installed in parkland only where there is no other feasible alternative.

3. When such water quality facilities are installed in parkland, adequate compensation should be paid, sufficient to enable the Parks and

Recreation Department to replace the lost parkland.

4. Whenever such water quality installations are installed, appropriate barriers should also be installed to minimize the risk that children may be harmed by the facility.

Rocky Medrano seconded the motion.

The vote was 6-0.

Make recommendation to Council regarding City Manager's proposed operating and capital budgets for 1995-96.

Mary K. Isaacs moved the following motion:

The Parks and Recreation Board approve the City Manager's proposed 1995-96 Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) budget. The Board calls on City Council to recognize the urgent need for additional funding for PARD to counteract the deterioration caused by deferred maintenance and to move Park Police closer to parity in funding with the Austin Police Department.

Furthermore, the Board further strongly recommends that Pioneer Farms funding be reinstated with monies outside the PARD budget.

Rosemary Castleberry seconded the motion.

The vote was 6-0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director gave a report on the baseball issue and stated it was going to be voted on in October.

By unanimous consensus, the Board agreed to attend the August 17 City Council budget hearing and speak in favor of the Department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Rosemary Castleberry wanted to know when work would begin on Montopolis Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres asked that the minutes of July 25 reflect she was present at the meeting.

Rocky Medrano moved to have the minutes of the regular meeting of July 25,

1995 approved with corrections. Mary K. Isaacs seconded the motion.
The vote was 6-0.

Ms. Nivison had the following corrections for the June 27, 1995 minutes:

next to last page; third paragraph from bottom; change to read:
"Ms. Nivison stated there was a problem of people in rowing skulls
being harassed by people drinking on canoes and perhaps there
should be a sign placed at the Zilker Canoe Rental banning alcohol
on canoes."

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres moved to have the minutes of the regular meeting of
June 27, 1995 approved with corrections. Ron Cartlidge seconded the
motion.
The vote was 6-0.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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