

**MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
October 10, 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, Marianne Dwight, Phil Friday, Mary K. Isaacs, Rocky Medrano, Hermelinda Zamarrippa, and Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Jesus Olivares, Peter Marsh, Vallerie Edelbrock, and Dolores Posada.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Report on Detention Pond at Yett Creek Park - Alan Rhames, Architect, and Steve Sun, Engineer III, Public Works and Transportation Department, presented to the Board the plan for the detention pond at Yett Creek Park

**ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**ITEMS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION**

**Make recommendation to Council regarding approval of a use agreement for an underground electric line across part of Gaines Creek Park.**

Staff recommended approval of a 0.107 (4,680 square feet) use agreement, 15' wide by approximately 310' long, at Gaines Creek Park to allow the construction of an underground electric line subject to the following conditions:

1. Restoration and shall be in accordance with the "Restoration Plan" included in the information packet submitted by the Electric Utility Department.
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.

Make recommendation to Council regarding approval of a use agreement for Manchaca Road Right-of-Way along the frontage of the South Austin Senior Activity Center.

Staff recommended the approval of the use agreement for an area of 0.015 acres (728 square feet) approximately 5' wide x 134' long at the South Austin Senior Activity Center as right-of-way for the future expansion of Manchaca Road, in accordance with the conditions of the site plan approval.

Mary K. Isaacs, Land and Facilities Committee member, stated the committee had reviewed the use agreement for an underground electric line across part of Gaines Creek Park and the use agreement for Manchaca Road Right-of-Way along the frontage of the South Austin Senior Activity Center. The committee concurred with staff recommendation.

The vote 7-0.

Make recommendation to Department regarding proposed building/use of existing storage space at Lake Walter E. Long Park.

By unanimous consent from the Board, the above item was postponed.

Make recommendation to Department regarding the proposed Dinosaur Garden.

Claudette Hartman, Austin Area Garden Council, and Valleri Edelbrock, Horticulturist, gave a brief presentation on a proposal to provide improvements to the Dinosaur Track area of the Zilker Botanical Garden. The Dinosaur tracks are being degraded by exposure to weather and severe temperature changes. The improvements are intended to protect the tracks while still giving the public an educational experience. The Garden Council will be present to present the proposal. The schematic proposal for the Dinosaur Garden includes:

- \* Protective covering of tracks
- \* Dinosaur track exhibits, as well as cast exhibits
- \* Cretaceous period planting exhibits
- \* Shade shelter, archaeological tent
- \* Irrigation system
- \* Water feature
- \* Water fountain
- \* Directional, entry, and interpretive signs
- \* Trails

In this proposal, the Garden Council will be financially responsible for the design and construction of the improvements, while Zilker Botanical Garden staff will provide labor for covering the tracks. A schematic design has been completed which the Garden Council will use as a fund raising tool. The estimated cost of the project is \$150,000.

The Department is in favor of the proposal and believes that it presents a good way to protect the site and allow public access at the same time. Staff recommended approval of the proposed Dinosaur Garden.

Marianne Dwight arrived.

Ron Cartlidge moved for approval of the proposed Dinosaur Garden. Mary K. Isaacs seconded the motion.

The vote was 7-0-1. Marianne Dwight abstained.

Make recommendation to Council regarding proposed Hill Country Rail-Trail.

Charles Gandy, ex-Board member, showed a brief video regarding the Rail-Trail program.

After the video presentation, Phil Friday asked to be excused from the meeting. Before he left, he asked the Board to consider the following items:

1. To postpone the item, **Review and approve draft 1994-95 Annual Report, including 1995-96 goals and objectives** to allow each of the Board members individually to give Ms. Posada their additions or corrections and to allow the committees to review their goals.
2. In regards to the item, **Make recommendation to Department regarding Departmental plans for 1995-96**, he drafted a resolution for the consideration of the Board on the matter of the management of the Hill Country Preserve, formerly know as the Balcones Canyonland Conservation Plan Preserve, which basically reiterates the stance the Board had previously taken which is to recommend the public use of this preserve be maximized consistent with the habit-management requirements.

Mr. Gandy proceeded with his presentation to the Board.

After deliberation, Marianne Dwight moved that more information be gathered, such as how much value there is in salvage, how much it cost to develop, and maintenance cost, and have Mr. Gandy present the information to the Board at a later date. Jesus Olivares asked the Board to allow the Department to meet with Mr. Gandy before his next presentation and also the Department would ask Raul Calderon, Attorney II, Legal Department, to come to the presentation, since he has been working on this issue, and ask Capital Metro for their input. Mary K. Isaacs seconded Ms. Dwight's motion.

The vote was 7-0.

Make recommendation and request information from the Department regarding the South Mopac Hike and Bike Trails.

Mary K. Isaacs informed the Board she was told that there was land reserved for a hike and bike trail along the South Mopac extension and if that were true, then ISTEА or other funds might be available to get that project

done. Jesus Olivares stated that the Department would be researching the request and come back to the Board with further information.

By unanimous consent from the Board, the above item was postponed.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Make recommendation to Department regarding Departmental plans for 1995-96.**

Phil Friday presented the following resolution before he leaving:

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

Resolution

**PARD Management of Hill Country Preserve (formerly known as Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Preserve ["BCCP"])**

WHEREAS the Natural Resources Management Division of the Parks and Recreation Department now manages the Hill Country Preserve (formerly known as Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Preserve ["BCCP"]); and

WHEREAS the number of acres in the Hill Country Preserve constitutes over 90% of the acreage managed by PARD's Natural Resources Management Division, but the number of persons using said Preserve in 1994-1995 constituted less than 1% of the total number of persons using preserves managed by said Division; and

WHEREAS this Board has consistently recommended that public access to said Preserve be maximized, consistent with habitat-management requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PREMISES, the Parks and Recreation Board renews its recommendation to the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Department that PARD continue to manage the Preserve, and that PARD make every effort to maximize public access to currently developed areas of the Hill Country Preserve, consistent with habitat-management requirements.

After deliberation, Rosemary Castleberry moved to approve recommending the resolution. Mary K. Isaacs seconded the motion. Marianne Dwight added the friendly amendment "currently developed areas". Friendly amendment accepted by Ms. Castleberry and Ms. Isaacs.

The vote was 7-0.

**Review and approve draft 1994-95 Annual Report, including 1995-96 goals and objectives.**

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres moved to postpone the review and approve draft 1994-95 Annual Report, including 1995-96 goals and objectives until the next regular meeting of October 24. Rosemary Castleberry seconded the

motion.

The vote was 7-0.

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

Jesus Olivares, Deputy Director, brought the following items to the Board:

Invitation to:

1. VIP Opening of the Eco Detective Trail at the Nature Center at 12 noon Thurs. Oct. 12.
2. Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for the Old Bakery and Emporium from 11:30 - 1:30 on Thurs. Oct. 12.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

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

Rosemary Castleberry expressed her excitement in regards to the Halloween Trail being done at Auditorium Shores, Boxing and Karate Tournaments, and reminder of the Public Hearing on Advisory Boards.

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres would like a copy of the Aqua Festival financial report.

Ron Cartlidge stated he received a call from the Delwood Optimist regarding a request to use one of the other softball fields for two nights a week.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By unanimous consent of the Board, approval of minutes from regular meeting of 9/12/95 (pp. 19-32) and PARB Retreat 9/30/95 were postponed until the next regular meeting of October 24.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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