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Parks and Recreation Board Minutes
July 14, 1998

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation board was held on Tuesday, July 14, 1998, at noon at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present: Mike Librik, Mary Ruth Holder, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Mary K. Isaacs, Rocky Medrano, Vice-Chair, Jeff Francell, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Jay Stone, Stuart Strong, Donna Bohls, Randy Scott, Mary Ybarbo.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Mary Best, Sergeant Deputy Constable, 2400 Wickersham #231, approached the board and read a letter from Leila Tackett praising the park police and Rocky Medrano. It read as follows: Dear Medranos, May I have your autographs? It was fun to see the picture and article in the American Statesman as it is always interesting to learn what former students are doing. It is particularly gratifying to know that those students are successful and doing productive things. It is especially wonderful to learn that these young people are doing things to help others. I really admire both of you for your work and dedication to the people of Austin. Being a public servant is not easy and is not considered the most important kind of profession by many. Unfortunately, the amount of money one makes is often the measure of success and importance. Public servants are not among those well paid individuals so they often are not looked upon with much prestige. An important question is where would we all be without our police, nurses, teachers, priests, etc.? Money alone doesn't do it, does it? I thank the Lord for people like you. Rocky, you must be very proud to think that your son thought enough of your profession to choose to follow in your footsteps. I am sure that your influence has meant a lot not only to your family but to many in the Montopolis area. We need more role models like you. As a school counselor I see the need for good role models every single day. As I looked closely at the picture I realized that I know a third law enforcement officer in the picture, Julian Hernandez. Julian is the husband of one of our secretaries at our school. He became a mentor to one of our students this spring. Since I am the coordinator of our mentoring program, I have had a chance to get to know him and find him to be a very fine young man. Look forward to working with him again this coming year. I am enclosing the article. I thought you might be able to use another copy to share with family or friends. Do greet the rest of your family and continued success to both of you. Thanks to both of you for all you do and Rocky that includes your work with the Parks and Recreation. Gratefully, Leila Tackett (Mrs. Tackett from St. Marys).

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Make a Recommendation to Construct Boatdocks at the Courtyard at 5908 Cone Circle,
File No. SP-98-0128D

Mary Ruth Holder informed the board the Navigation Committee met and recommends this item is now ready for approval. This statement served as a motion. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote in favor was 7-0 (Librik, Holder, Isaacs, Castleberry, Medrano, Francell, Cruz-Torres).

Discussion and Recommendation Regarding Barton Springs Road Design

Stuart Strong, Division Manager for Planning and Design, informed the board Public Works presently has no plans for construction of the road within Zilker Park. There are no funds available. The area being considered for change is from Robert E. Lee Road to Lamar Blvd. Public Works did consult with Austin

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Neighborhoods Council and some other volunteers to solicit ideas and recommendations. These ideas included sidewalks and bike lanes among others. Mr. Strong introduced Richard Kroeger, Project Manager for the east end of Barton Springs Road project. Mr. Kroeger informed the board a design charrette conference was held earlier in the year with design consultants and volunteers. Drawings were presented showing the designs that have been selected and have been given council approval. A detailed explanation of a round-about was given. Ross Smith, 1719 Norris Drive, a citizen who lives near Zilker Park, approached the board and requested that the speed limit be reduced before vehicles reach Robert E. Lee Road and the bridge entering into the park. Mike Librik informed the board he will be attending the next Urban Transportation meeting and he would like to be able to present a statement from the board about the development of the road inside the park. After much discussion among members a motion which includes the following items will be created and presented to the City Council and the Urban Transportation Commission: (1) the Parks Board should review any changes in Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park impacts the park and its users, (2) the Parks and Recreation Board or its representative should be included on any team that develops plans for this portion of Barton Springs Road, (3) minimizing the taking of parkland is of the utmost concern, (4) development of the plans for Barton Springs road should include features for pedestrian safety and safe alternative transportation plans, (5) any plans for development of Barton Springs Road should include safe, easy pedestrian crossing of the road from one side of Zilker Park to the other, (6) the impact of narrowing Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park to one lane in each direction should be studied. Mary K. Isaacs seconded. The vote in favor was 6-0 (Librik, Isaacs, Holder, Castleberry, Medrano, Cruz-Torres).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares informed the board that an activity call Tug-of-Honor might take place across Town Lake although it did not initially get department approval. The final citizens bond committee listing will be discussed at the council worksession on July 15th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee will meet the 3rd Monday in August
Mike Librik was appointed to the Municipal Airport Advisory Group

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (not for action)

A request was made to reduce the number of trucks on the hike and bike trail.
The Town Lake Advisory Group is getting ready to put together some guiding principles for issues that affect the Auditorium/Coliseum area.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.