

SAVE HISTORIC MUNY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 9, 2019
Location: Penick Room, Lions Municipal Golf Course
2901 Enfield Road, Austin, TX 78703
Meeting Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Mary Arnold*
Brian Greig*
Andrea McWilliams*
Ken Tiemann*

Dawn Lewis (City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board)
Richard Suttle (Representing the University of Texas)
Ross Pringle
Brantley Pringle

*denotes Save Historic Muny District (SHMD) Board Member

Minutes:

1. Call to Order

Mary Arnold called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Item 1 (Citizen Communication)

- a. Dawn Lewis (City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board): Ms. Lewis introduced herself as Councilmember Alter's appointee to the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board and serves as the Chair. She stated that she was attending to observe the meeting.
- b. Richard Suttle (Representing the University of Texas): Mr. Suttle gave background on the University of Texas' (UT) attempts to "solve the Muny/Brackenridge Tract question." UT has signaled that it is willing to sell Muny to the City of Austin for a "reasonable value" rather than at market value. The reasonable value may be \$109,500,000, based upon a UT appraisal. The market value could range from the appraisal district's \$200,000,000 valuation up to a \$400,000,000 value based upon the recent HEB lease. Mr. Suttle believes UT would accept \$109,500,000 at this time. The City of Austin has been asked to consider multiple strategies, including land trades and tax increment financing (TIF). The idea of a "parks bank" that developers could pay fees into is another concept for raising funds to preserve Muny that

has been envisioned by Mr. Suttle. From his perspective, the 10-1 Austin City Council is simply not in favor of giving anything of significant value to UT in order to acquire ownership of Muny. After thoughtful consideration, UT rejected an “exclusive agreement” sought by the non-profit Muny Conservancy; which would like to meet the publicized “reasonable value” price from fundraising. Mr. Suttle noted short time remaining until the lease expires on May 20, 2020. UT polled West Austin and the city at large regarding Muny. The results showed that paying for a park was favored compared to paying for a golf course. It was alluded to that this poll may have played a role in Senator Watson’s legislation that ultimately formed the Save Historic Muny District.

- c. Ross Pringle: Mr. Pringle stated that he has brought his son, Brantley Pringle, to witness a government meeting, as a required component of earning a Boy Scouts of America merit badge. Mr. Pringle supports the significance of the civil rights history associated with Muny.
- d. Brantley Pringle: Mr. Pringle is student at McCallum High School. In response to Mr. Suttle’s pertinent question, Mr. Pringle answered that he was not aware that there was a time at Muny when African Americans were denied access based upon their race.

3. Item 2 (Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551)

- a. Deliberations Regarding the Purchase, Exchange, Lease, Sale or Value of Real Property (Sec. 551.072)
 - i. Discussion regarding the lease, uses or value of property related to the Brackenridge Tract, including the land bounded by Exposition Blvd., Lake Austin Blvd., and Enfield Rd., Austin, Travis County, Texas; and finding of public purpose.
- b. Entered into executive session at 11:00 a.m.

4. Item 3 (Reconvene in Open Session)

Open session was reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

5. Item 4 (Continue Discussion of Work Plan)

Andrea McWilliams: Discussion of a letter signed by supporters of Muny’s history and preservation.

Brian Greig: Discussion of African American outreach and support for acquisition of the golf course.

Brian Greig moved that Ken Tiemann and Volma Overton, III, explore African American outreach and support for acquisition of the golf course. Andera McWilliams seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Brian Greig: Discussion of contacting an attorney with regards to the operation of the District.

6. Item 5 (Review of Draft Minutes)

Brian Greig moved that the November 2, 2019 draft minutes be adopted. Andrea McWilliams seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. Item 5 (Discussion of Meeting Schedule & Future Agenda Items)

The Board will schedule upcoming meetings based upon the availability of the participants.

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Meeting Time:	TBD

8. Item 6 (Meeting Adjourned)

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.