



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Wednesday, September 23, 2020 – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Board convened in a special meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 via videoconference in Austin, Texas.

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Dawn Lewis; Vice Chair Romteen Farasat; Laura Cottam Sajbel; Richard DePalma; Anna DiCarlo; Sarah Faust; Francoise Luca; Kate Mason-Murphy; Fred Morgan; Nina Rinaldi and Kimberly Taylor.

Staff in Attendance: Kimberly McNeeley; Liana Kallivoka; Lucas Massie; Suzanne Piper; Anthony Segura; Amanda Ross; and Sammi Curless.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the special meeting of September 2, 2020 were approved as corrected on Board Member Cottam Sajbel motion, Board Member Mason-Murphy second on a 7-0 with Vice Chair Farasat abstaining, Board Member Faust off the dais and Board Members Luca and Morgan absent.

Board Members Luca and Morgan joined the meeting at approximately 3:10pm.

B. NEW BUSINESS: PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

1. Make a recommendation to the City Council on the official naming of “Ebba Springs” in response to a proposal filed by a local property owner to the United States Board on Geographic Names, that concerns an unnamed spring located on private property in the City’s extra-territorial jurisdiction near Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park and the Austin Lake Hills neighborhood.

Board Member DePalma made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Board offers no objection to the naming of “Ebba Springs”; Board Member Morgan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 10-0 with Board Member Faust off the dais.

2. Presentation and discussion of the Barton Creek Greenbelt reservation pilot.

Presented by Amanda Ross, Natural Resources Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department. The Board discussed the item, but no action was taken.

3. Presentation and discussion of people experiencing homelessness response on parkland.

Presented by Kimberly McNeeley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department. The Board discussed the item, but no action was taken.

C. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding modifications to the bylaws of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Due to time constraints, item moved to October meeting.

2. Discussion of swimming pools and COVID-19 modified operations.
Presenter: Board Member Laura Cottam Sajbel

Director McNeeley provided notice that pools will open with modified operations beginning on September 26.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the Alternative Funding Working Group (Lewis, Farasat, DePalma, Rinaldi, Taylor).

Due to time constraints, item moved to October meeting.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the Park and Facility Renaming (Ordinance 20160324-021) Working Group (DiCarlo, Luca).

Due to time constraints, item moved to October meeting.

D. DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON PROGRAM AND PROJECT UPDATES AND EVENTS

Public comment from Kevin Reinis regarding Austin Rowing Center. Due to time constraints the item was not presented.

E. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Cottam Sajbel/DePalma – memo regarding Sawyer Cleveland permit to discharge into Barton Creek.
- DePalma/Morgan – item on next month's agenda regarding discussion and possible action on recommendation to City Council to include in the City's state legislative agenda an item focusing on use and renewal of strategic partnership agreements with municipal utility districts and limited districts for the maintenance and operation fees and public access to parkland and trails.
- Faust – carryover bylaws amendment to next meeting and memo focusing on development of a framework that gives broad designations the public can expect of openings based on stages of risk (what's open, what the requirements are, what plans to make when visiting a facility)

Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 4:46pm.