



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 – 6:00pm

MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Board convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 via videoconference in Austin, Texas.

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Dawn Lewis, Laura Cottam Sajbel, Richard DePalma, Anna Di Carlo, Sarah Faust, Francoise Luca, Kate Mason-Murphy, Nina Rinaldi and Kimberly Taylor.

Board Members Absent: Vice Chair Romteen Farasat and Fred Morgan.

Staff in Attendance: Kimberly McNeeley, Liana Kallivoka, Lucas Massie, Suzanne Piper, Anthony Segura, Carre Adams, Christine Chute Canul, Megan Eckard, Laura Esparza, Gregory Montes, Vanorda Richardson and Sammi Curless.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Adam Sparks – Hancock Conservancy and support for turning the golf course into park/green space.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the regular meeting of March 23, 2021 were approved on Board Member Rinaldi motion, Board Member Cottam Sajbel second on an 9-0 with Vice Chair Farasat and Board Member Morgan absent.

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

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget.

Chair Lewis made a motion to recommend approval of the Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget as presented in its Budget Forecast; and the Parks and Recreation Board recommends that City Council make the additional allocations on the attached “FISCAL YEAR 2022 UNDER RESOURCED NEEDS” to the Parks and Recreation Department as these are priority items needed to address changes in city services, for parks programming, and pressures on the parks system which are not addressed under the current definitions provided in the budget process; Board Members Faust and Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 9-0 with Vice Chair Farasat and Board Member Morgan absent.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to the City Council for the negotiation and execution of a partnership agreement with Pease Park Conservancy for the operations, maintenance and programming for Kingsbury Commons within Pease District Park.

Board Member Luca made a motion to recommend to the City Council the negotiation and execution of a partnership agreement with Pease Park Conservancy for the operations, maintenance and programming for Kingsbury Commons within Pease District Park; Board Member Di Carlo seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 9-0 with Vice Chair Farasat and Board Member Morgan absent.

NON-CONSENT

3. Discussion and possible action regarding election of Parks and Recreation Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Board Member Taylor made a motion to nominate Dawn Lewis to serve a third term as Chair; Board Member Cottam Sajbel seconded the motion. Chair Lewis accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. The motion passed on a vote of 8-0 with Vice Chair Farasat and Board Member Morgan absent and Chair Lewis abstaining.

Board Member Taylor made a motion to nominate Board Member DePalma to serve as Vice Chair; Board Member Cottam Sajbel seconded the motion. Board Member DePalma accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. The motion passed on a vote of 9-0 with Vice Chair Farasat and Board Member Morgan absent.

4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to the City Council for the adoption of the George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural & Genealogy Center Facility Expansion Plan.

Board Member Rinaldi made a motion to recommend to the City Council the adoption of the George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural & Genealogy Center Facility Expansion Plan; Vice Chair DePalma seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 9-0 with Board Members Farasat and Morgan absent.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding selection of the Chair of the Contracts and Concessions Committee and representative to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board.

Chair Lewis nominated Board Member Di Carlo to serve as the Chair of the Contracts and Concessions Committee. Board Member Di Carlo accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. Vice Chair DePalma seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 8-0 with Board Members Farasat and Morgan absent and Board Member Di Carlo abstaining.

Chair Lewis nominated Board Member Cottam Sajbel to serve as the Board representative to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. Board Member Cottam Sajbel accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. Board Member Mason-Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 8-0 with Board Members Farasat and Morgan absent and Board Member Cottam Sajbel abstaining.

C. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

1. Discussion regarding COVID-19 modified 2021 Summer Camp logistical operations. (Rinaldi, Lewis)

Board Member Rinaldi would like for the Department to explore additional locations for Summer Camps to allow for more open slots. Vice Chair DePalma and Board Member Rinaldi will work together to explore if federal CARES Act funds the City will receive can be used for this purpose and bring back options to the next meeting.

2. Update from joint working group with the Environmental Commission. (Lewis, Cottam Sajbel, Mason-Murphy)

Board Members Cottam Sajbel and Mason-Murphy provided an update regarding the Statesman PUD.

3. Update from joint working group with the Animal Advisory Commission. (Lewis, Faust)

Chair Lewis provided an update regarding the topics discussed thus far including the desire for more education and using all tools available to reach the public as well as options to expand off-lease areas in parks.

4. Update from Downtown Commission. (Taylor)

Board Member Taylor provided an update indicating that the Commission recently voted to oppose House Bill 3813 which would preempt Austin's amplified sound ordinance.

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

Director McNeeley provided a report.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Mason-Murphy – confirmation of who is presenting the Central Williamson Creek Plan next month and to request the Watershed Protection Department be included in the presentation to discuss the land management plan between Congress Avenue and Menchaca Road.
- Cottam Sajbel/DePalma – presentation on the plan for the Statesman property including the PUD and TIF with an invitation to participate to Watershed Protection and Cap Metro staff.
- DePalma – update on Norwood including funding, confirmation that the Holly Shores Vision Plan is included on the City website and a request for update/confirmation related to the pavilions being removed and suggestion to include the Delta Creek Project as part of the MACC expansion project.
- Faust – plans for summer related to cyanobacteria (toxic algae) in Lady Bird Lake and Brodie Oaks PUD and expected increase in visitors to the greenbelt and parkland.
- Rinaldi – plan for ACL Festival this year.

Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.