



**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2023**

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on JANUARY 23, 2023 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Cottam Sajbel called the PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Laura Cottam Sajbel, Sarah Faust, Nancy Barnard, Lisa Hugman, Dawn Lewis, Patrick Moore, Nina Rinaldi, Kathryn Flowers, and Anna Di Carlo.

Board Members in Attendance Remotely:

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Miles Tarnow - Cub Scout
Kris Heslop - Expedition School
Sharon Blythe - Austin Memorial Park
Mary Faro - NW District Park Pond
Kayla Reese - Austin Parks Foundation
Mike Cannatti - Barton Springs Conservancy
Karen Zeidan - Butler Pitch & Putt issues
Kevin Reinis - Austin Rowing Club
Adam Shedlosky - Expedition School
Adhyayan Singh - Expedition School
Scott Cobb - Barton Springs Lifeguard
Chase Wright - Hungry Hill Foundation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of November 28, 2022. The minutes from the meeting of November 28, 2022 were approved with the following amendments on Board Member Lewis' motion, Board Member Moore's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent. The amendments were: Page 1, Board Members in Attendance Remotely, the "e" was removed from Kathryn Flowers name, and; Page 2, Item 5, "Endevor" was corrected to "Endeavor".

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Discussion and possible action on the draft Zilker Park Vision Plan public engagement process.
Board Members received public comment and discussed this item.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council that the City of Austin Parks Board supports continued public management of Zilker Park, along with increased public funding for and improved management of the park by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, and opposes the further privatization of Zilker Park operations and management; and (a) that the City Council consider appointing a special parks citizen task force, including volunteers from rewilding and others who have been involved with Zilker, to jointly consider the future of Zilker Park and balance that with a goal of recommending priority investments (and dollar amounts of such investments) of all of our metropolitan parks and wildlands, with such recommendations to be consistent with the approved City plans cited above and any approved vision plan for the respective regional parks, and further consistent with the City's goals of equity and inclusion and reducing dependence on travel in and storage of automobiles; and(c) in the event the City Council chooses (b) and appoints a special task force, that the City Council take care to assure that members of such citizen task force are not employed by or otherwise representing the financial interests of any for-profit or nonprofit park concessioner was withdrawn.

At 9:08 p.m., the motion for a five-minute recess was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent. The Board reconvened at 9:17 p.m.

3. Presentation and discussion and possible action on the findings of a comprehensive lake capacity study of Lady Bird Lake.
Dr. Amanda Masino and Dr. Rohan R. Thompson, Houston-Tillotson University gave a presentation and answered questions.

The motion to refer this item to the Parks and Recreation Board Contracts and Concessions Committee was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Board Member Rinaldi's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.

4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council concerning the creation of a concession in Town Lake Metropolitan Park through the issuance of a Request for Proposal or for the continuation or termination of an existing concessioner in Town Lake Metropolitan Park, including Butler Pitch & Putt, EpicSUP, Expedition School, Lone Star Riverboat Cruises, Rowing Dock, Texas Rowing Center, Waller Creek Boathouse, Zilker Cafe, Zilker Eagle Railroad, and Zilker Park Boat Rentals, for inclusion in the joint report between the Parks and Recreation Board and the Environmental Commission that is provided to the City Council annually.
The motion to refer this item to the Parks and Recreation Board Contracts and Concessions Committee was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Board Member Hugman's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.

5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to authorize an amendment to extend the term of the contract with Austin Rowing Club for the management and operation of Waller Creek Boathouse for a period of up to 36 months.
The motion to table this item for a Special Called Parks and Recreation Board meeting to be held in February 2023 was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Board Member Barnard's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.
6. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to authorize the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Austin Community College to provide heating, ventilation and air conditioning training course instruction at Turner Roberts Recreation Center.
The motion to table this item until the February 27, 2023 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Board Member Barnard's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

7. Staff Briefing on aquatics operations, aquatics vision plan, pool renovations, maintenance, and staffing needs.
The motion to table this item until the February 27, 2023 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Board Member Barnard's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.
8. Staff briefing on Parks and Recreation Department community engagement events, planning updates, development updates, maintenance updates, program updates and administrative updates.
No action was taken on this item.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

9. Report of recommendations by Crime and Law Enforcement in Parks Working Group.
No action was taken on this item.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

10. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (Cottam Sajbel)
No update.
11. Update from Downtown Commission. (Taylor)
No update.
12. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (DePalma)
No update.
13. Update from Zilker Park Vision Plan Working Group. (Lewis, DePalma, Faust, Taylor)
No update.

14. Update from Crime and Law Enforcement in Parks Working Group. (Lewis, Moore, Barnard)
No update.
15. Update from the Homelessness Working Group. (Hugman, DePalma, Flowers)
No update.
16. Update from the Aquatics Working Group (Barnard, Cottam Sajbel)
No update.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Chair Cottam Sajbel adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the February 27, 2023 meeting on Vice Chair Faust's motion, Board Member Barnard's second on a 7-0 vote with two vacancies. Board Member Villalobos abstaining. Board Member Rinaldi absent.