



***PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 27, 2023***

**The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on FEBRUARY 27, 2023 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Cottam Sajbel called the PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Laura Cottam Sajbel, Sarah Faust, Kim Taylor, Nancy Barnard, Lisa Hugman, Kathryn Flowers, and Pedro Villalobos.

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:** Patrick Moore.

**The motion to limit item specific public comment to one minute per speaker was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Board Member Hugman's second on a 6-2 vote with two vacancies. Those voting in favor were Chair Cottam Sajbel, Board Members Taylor, Barnard, Hugman, Flowers and Villalobos. Those voting against were Vice Chair Faust and Board Member Moore. Board Member Rinaldi absent.**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

**Mike Cannatti – Parks and Recreation Board purpose  
Robert Corbin – Off leash dog issues  
Mac Ragsdale – Zilker Hillside Theater  
Ralph Webster – Zilker Park Vision Plan  
Karen Brimble – Great Springs Project  
Gail Rothe – Climate related policy for parks  
Joy Casnovsky – Austin Parks Foundation  
Scott Cobb – Barton Springs Lifeguard  
George Cofer – Hill Country Conservancy**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of January 23, 2023. The minutes from the meeting of January 23, 2023, were approved 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.**

**STAFF BRIFINGS**

2. Staff Briefing on the draft Zilker Park Vision Plan.  
**Greg Montes, Program Manager II, Parks and Recreation Department and Claire Hempel, Principal with Design Workshop gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions viable parking around Barton Springs Pool, bike parking, disproportionate input from the 78745 zip code, data collected at po-up events, parking garages and traffic concerns on Barton Springs Road. No action was taken on this item.**
3. Staff Briefing on aquatics operations, aquatics vision plan, pool renovations, maintenance, and staffing needs.  
**Lucas Massie, Assistant Director and Ashley Wells, Aquatics Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on the current status of lifeguard hiring and lifeguard training. No action was taken on this item.**
4. Staff briefing on Parks and Recreation Department community engagement events, planning updates, development updates, maintenance updates, program updates and administrative updates.  
**Kimberly McNeeley, Parks and Recreation Department Director gave a briefing on park cleanup after Winter Storm Mara. No action was taken on this item.**

#### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

5. Discussion and possible action related to the public engagement process of the DRAFT Zilker Park Vision Plan.  
**Board Members discussed operations of the Zilker Train and accountability in the public engagement process.**

**The motion to recommend that the Parks & Recreation Board: 1) Because of the above-referenced concerns about the public engagement process, cannot not support the inclusion of the language in the Draft Zilker Park Vision Plan referring to the Zilker unified (umbrella non-profit); and 2) Recommends that this resolution be presented to all boards and commissions and City Council along with the Draft Zilker Park Vision Plan, until there is a public process of community engagement to discern the type of entity, if any, the public feels is appropriate to have a role in the operation, management, concessions management, advocacy, and fundraising for Zilker Park was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Vice Chair Faust's second on a 6-2 vote with two vacancies. Those Board Members voting aye were: Chair Cottam Sajbel, Vice Chair Faust, Board Members Moore, Hugman, Barnard Taylor. Those Board Members voting nay were: Board Members Villalobos and Flowers. Board Member Rinaldi absent.**

6. 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.

**Maggie Stenz, Contract Management Specialist IV and Suzanne Piper, Chief Administrative Officer, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation.**

**The motion to recommend to Austin City Council for the continuation of Town Lake Metro Park concessions including consideration to recent studies and how that can impact water quality, the environment, safety, wildlife and outdoor recreation. Upon expiration of a contract on Lady Bird Lake that staff consider findings of environmental and capacity studies on Lady Bird Lake and consult experts. Further recommend that staff reevaluate the revenue sharing of that concessions contract and weigh it against recent rates and the public's ability to enjoy the park was approved on Board Member Taylor's motion, Chair Cottam Sajbel's second on an 8-0 vote with two vacancies. Board Member Rinaldi absent.**

7. 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 recommend 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 was approved on Board Member Taylor's motion, Board Member Flowers second on an 8-0 vote with two vacancies. Board Member Rinaldi absent.**

8. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the Pease Park Conservancy's Annual Programming Plan for Kingsbury Commons within Pease Park District.

**Christine Chute Canul and Ethan Reynolds, CEO, Peas Park Conservancy gave a presentation.**

**The motion to recommend to Mayor and Council in support of Pease Park Conservancy's Annual Programming Plan for Kingsbury Commons within Pease District Park was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Board Member Hugman's second on an 8-0 vote with two vacancies. Board Member Rinaldi absent.**

9. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve an amendment to the Parkland Improvement, Donation, and Maintenance Agreement between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Hill Country Conservancy that will allow allocation of City funding for the construction of the Circle C Metropolitan Park segment of the Violet Crown Trail system to be managed by the Hill Country Conservancy. The amendment adds a maximum amount of funding, not to exceed \$2,100,000 (Two Million, One Hundred Thousand and No/100 Dollars) that the Parks and Recreation Department will allocate for construction.

**D'Anne Williams, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation.**

**The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve an amendment to the Parkland Improvement, Donation, and Maintenance Agreement between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Hill Country Conservancy that will allow allocation of City funding for the construction of the Circle C Metropolitan Park segment of the Violet Crown Trail system to be managed by the Hill Country Conservancy. The amendment adds a maximum amount of**

**funding, not to exceed \$2,100,000 (Two Million, One Hundred Thousand and No/100 Dollars) that the Parks and Recreation Department will allocate for construction was approved on Board Member Villalobos motion, Board Member Taylor's second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Rinaldi Absent.**

10. Discussion and possible action regarding an appointment to the Parks and Recreation Board Contracts and Concessions Committee.  
**The motion to appoint Board Member Villalobos to the Parks and Recreation Board Contracts and Concessions Committee was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Board Member Barnard's second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Rinaldi Absent.**

#### **WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES**

11. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (Cottam Sajbel)  
**No update.**
12. Update from Downtown Commission. (Taylor)  
**No update.**
13. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (Vacant)  
**No update.**
14. Update from Zilker Park Vision Plan Working Group. (Faust, Taylor)  
**Vice Chair Faust gave an update that the working group has not met.**
15. Update from the Homelessness Working Group. (Hugman, Flowers)  
**No update.**
16. Update from the Aquatics Working Group (Barnard, Cottam Sajbel)  
**No update.**
17. Update from Crime and Law Enforcement in Parks Working Group (Moore, Barnard)  
**No update.**

#### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

18. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to authorize the execution of a construction contract for Duncan Neighborhood Park with the lowest qualified bidder, and possible inclusion of child-friendly features such as a play scape during a second phase of improvements at the park.  
**Reynaldo Hernandez, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation.**

**The motion to recommend Austin City Council authorizes execution of a construction contract for Duncan Neighborhood Park project, with Muniz Concrete & Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,240,579 plus \$148,000 contingency for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,388,576, and further recommends additional community engagement to explore the**

**inclusion of child-friendly features such as a play scape during a second phase of improvements at the park was approved on Chair Cottam Sajbel's motion, Vice Chair Faust's second on an 8-0 vote with two vacancies. Board Member Rinaldi absent.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**None**

**Chair Cottam Sajbel adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m. without objection.**

**These minutes were approved at the March 27, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Board Member Moore's motion, Board Member Villalobos' second on a 8-0 vote. Board Members Cottam Sajbel, Hugman and Taylor absent.**