



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

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on MARCH 27, 2023 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

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

Board Members in Attendance: Nancy Barnard, Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Kathryn Flowers, Patrick Moore, Holly Reed, Nina Rinaldi and Pedro Villalobos (off dais from 7:52 p.m. to 8:05 p.m.).

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: None.

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
Mary Fero – Friends of Northwest Park
Kevin Reinis – Austin Rowing Club

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of February 27, 2023. The minutes from the meeting of February 27, 2023 were approved on Board Member Moore's motion, Board Member Villalobos' second on an 8-0 vote. Board Members Cottam Sajbel, Hugman and Taylor absent.

STAFF BRIFINGS

2. Staff Briefing on the Waterloo Greenway Confluence Construction.
Lana Denkeler, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department; Diana Wang, Project Manager, Watershed Protection Department; Joel Lewis, Project Manager, Public Works

Department; and John Rigdon, Interim Project Manager, Waterloo Greenway Conservancy gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on collaboration with the Palm School and Mexican American Cultural Center. No action was taken on this item.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the Arts and Culture on the Trail Plan for the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail at Town Lake Metropolitan Park.

Christine Chute Canul, Program Manager II, Parks and Recreation Department and Heidi Anderson, CEO, The Trail Conservancy gave a presentation and answered questions on the duration of the program, disbursement of art on the trail, community engagement park history that can be supported by art.

The motion to recommend to Mayor and City Council to support The Trail Conservancy's Art and Culture Plan for Butler Trail for portions of Town Lake Metropolitan Park was approved on Board Member Villalobos' motion, Board Member Flowers' second on an 8-0 vote. Board Member Cottam Sajbel, Hugman and Taylor absent.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council on Austin Parks and Recreation Department's Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

Board Members discussed increasing the number of lifeguards through incentives and support for the City's Land Management program.

The motion to recommend to the Austin City Council: 1) The approval of the PARD FY 2024 Operating Budget as presented in the FY 2024 Budget Forecast; 2) The allocation of additional funding on top of the proposed PARD FY 2024 Budget Forecast in such an amount as to fully fund the attached Under Resourced Service Expectations; and 3) The allocation of sufficient additional funding on top of the proposed PARD FY 2024 Budget Forecast to fully fund a study, estimated at \$250,000, regarding parkland visitation and best practices with the goal of recommending specific methods for parkland visitation tracking in the City of Austin, along with estimated cost figures was approved on Board Member Flowers' motion, Board Member Villalobos' second on a 8-0 vote with Board Members Cottam-Sajbel, Taylor and Hugman absent.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of both a primary and alternate representative to the Joint Sustainability Committee

The motion to appoint Stephanie Bazan as the Parks and Recreation Board's primary representative to the Joint Sustainability Committee was approved on Board Member Moore's motion, Board Member Becker's second on a 7-0 vote. Board Member Villalobos off dais. Board Members Cottam-Sajbel, Taylor and Hugman absent.

The motion to appoint Lane Becker as the Parks and Recreation Board's alternate representative to the Joint Sustainability Committee was approved on Board Member Becker's motion, Board Member Reed's second on a 7-0 vote. Board Member Villalobos off dais. Board Members Cottam-Sajbel, Taylor and Hugman absent.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

6. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (Cottam Sajbel)
No update.
7. Update from Downtown Commission. (Taylor)
No update.
8. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (Vacant)
No update.
9. Update from Zilker Park Vision Plan Working Group. (Faust, Taylor)
No update
10. Update from the Homelessness Working Group. (Hugman, Flowers)
No update.
11. Update from the Aquatics Working Group (Barnard, Cottam Sajbel)
No update.
12. Update from Crime and Law Enforcement in Parks Working Group (Moore, Barnard)
Board Member Barnard gave an update that this working group expects to bring a recommendation before the Parks and Recreation Board at the April 2023 board meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

13. Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to: 1) direct the City Manager, Legal Department, and the Parks & Recreation Department to ensure that any future contracts with SXSW guarantee fair pay for domestic and international artists performing at City of Austin parks, park facilities, and city owned property; 2) direct the City Manager, Legal Department, and the Parks & Recreation Department to ensure that any future contracts with SXSW guarantee fair pay for all domestic and international artists; 3) require changes to artist pay and compensation by SXSW before waiving any future fees at Vic Mathias Shores, or at other parks, park facilities, or city owned facilities; and 4) Recommends that this resolution be presented to Austin City Council, Arts Commission, Commission on Immigrant Affairs, Music Commission, Tourism Commission, and any other relevant commissions which oversee SXSW activity.
Board Members discussed fair pay, accountability and affecting change that align with the vision and values of the City.

The motion to postpone this item to the June 26, 2023 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to allow the Board time to share its concerns with SXSW was approved on Board Member Villalobos' motion, Board Member Flowers's second on an 8-0 vote. Board Member Cottam Sajbel, Hugman and Taylor absent.

14. Discussion and possible action regarding an amendment to the Parks and Recreation Board by-laws to remove the Financial Committee.

Board Members discussed overseeing finance items of the Parks and Recreation Board, the budget planning process, administrative requirements of a committee and the benefits of forming an annual working group to address budget recommendations.

The motion to amend the by-laws of the Parks and Recreation Board to remove the Financial Committee was approved on Board Member Moore's motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 7-0 vote. Board Member Villalobos off dais. Board Members Cottam-Sajbel, Taylor and Hugman absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

15. Staff briefing on Parks and Recreation Department community engagement events, planning updates, development updates, maintenance updates, program updates and administrative updates.
Lucas Massie, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department gave a briefing on the Dove Springs basketball court resurfacing and lighting, Zilker Kite Festival, Spring Break Camps and Summer Camps. No action was taken on this item.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Barnard – Recommendation from the Crime and Law Enforcement in Parks Working Group.

Flowers – Follow up on the monument in Bartholomew Park.

Bazan – More information on Summer Camp registration.

Acting Chair Rinaldi adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the DATE Parks and Recreation Board meeting on NAME motion, NAME second on VOTE.