



***PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 24, 2023***

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on APRIL 24, 2023 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Acting Chair Rinaldi called the PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Nancy Barnard, Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Kathryn Flowers, Lisa Hugman, Nicole Merritt (Arrived at 6:10 p.m.) Holly Reed, Nina Rinaldi, Kim Taylor (Arrived at 6:13 p.m.) and Pedro Villalobos.

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

**Mark May – Zilker Park Vision Plan
Laura Massengale – Zilker Park Boat Rentals
Colleen Kepner – Youth Ultimate Frisbee
Kevin Reinis – Austin Rowing Club
Scott Cobb – Barton Springs Lifeguard
David Weinberg – Zilker Park Vision Plan
Aubrea Rudder – Austin Rowing Club
Kayla Reese – Austin Parks Foundation**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of March 27, 2023.
The minutes from the meeting of March 27, 2023 were approved on Board Member Hugman's motion, Board Member Flowers' second on an 10-0. Board Member Cottam Sajbel absent.

STAFF BRIFINGS

2. Staff Briefing on the Waterloo Greenway Confluence Construction.
Peter Mullan, Architect, Austin Transit Partnership gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on light rail vs. busses, daily ridership calculation methodology, the impacts of flooding caused by climate change, current bus ridership, cost per person per ride to the taxpayer and the impact of elevated rail on parkland. No action was taken on this item

3. Staff briefing on Parks and Recreation Department community engagement events, planning updates, development updates, maintenance updates, program updates and administrative updates.
Kimberly McNeeley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on the solicitation for a concessionaire at Zilker Café and the Barton Springs bathhouse renovation. No action was taken on this item.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Presentation, discussion, regarding the establishment of an intergenerational resource and activity center at the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building.
The Intergenerational Resource Center Advisory Group gave a presentation and answered questions on fundraising timeline, available federal funding, mental health services and the estimated budget. No action was taken on this item.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5. Conduct officer elections for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.
The nomination to elect Pedro Villalobos to the officer position of Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board was approved on Board Member Flowers' motion, Board Member Hugman's second, on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Cottam Sajbel absent.

The nomination to elect Holly Reed to the officer position of Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board failed on Board member Taylor's motion, Board Member Barnard's second on a 5-5. Those voting aye were Board Member Barnard, Hugman, Merritt, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Board Members Bazan, Becker, Flowers, Rinaldi and Villalobos. Board Member Cottam Sajbel absent.

The nomination to elect Kathryn Flowers to the officer position of Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board was approved on Board Member Becker's motion, Board Member Bazan's second on an 8-0 vote. Those voting aye were Board Member Barnard, Bazan, Becker, Flowers, Hugman, Merritt, Rinaldi and Villalobos. Those abstaining were Board Member Reed and Taylor. Board Member Cottam Sajbel absent.
6. Discussion and possible action regarding appointments to the Parks and Recreation Board Contracts and Concessions Committee. Two vacant seats.
The motion to appoint Holly Reed to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board Contracts and Concessions Committee was approved on Board Member Taylor's motion, Board Member Reed's second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Cottam Sajbel absent.

The motion to appoint Lane Becker to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board Contracts and Concessions Committee was approved on Board Member Becker's Motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Cottam Sajbel absent.
7. Discussion and possible action regarding an appointment to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board.

The motion to postpone this item to the May 22, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board agenda was approved on Board Member Flowers' motion, Board Member Villalobos' second, on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Cottam Sajbel absent.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

8. Report of Recommendations by Crime and Law Enforcement in Parks Working Group.
The motion to recommend that City Council form a Parks Safety Task Force that would put much needed resources into this effort and would be tasked with evaluating the following: Funding and reinstatement of a parks police unit, 311 and 911 calls regarding safety concerns in parks, Strategies to address homelessness at parks by working with the Austin Homeless Strategies Office Increased funding to greatly expand our Park Ranger program, Improvements of lighting, signage, security equipment within our park system, Equitable resource distribution across park systems in all parts of the city, and Impact of enforcement based solutions on those who disproportionately experience them was approved on Board Member Barnard's motion, Board Member Taylor's second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Cottam Sajbel absent.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

9. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (VACANT)
No update.
10. Update from Downtown Commission. (Taylor)
No update.
11. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (Bazan, Becker)
Board Members Bazan and Becker are awaiting Council appointment to the Joint Sustainability Committee.
12. Update from Zilker Park Vision Plan Working Group. (Taylor)
No update.
13. Update from the Homelessness Working Group. (Hugman)
Board Member Hugman gave an update on the Mayor's intention to enforce the camping ban, a possible campus to house people, mental health services, sobriety services, and working with the State and other partners.
14. Update from the Aquatics Working Group (Barnard)
Board Member Barnard gave an update that this will be their last Parks and Recreation Board meeting, and either a replacement will need to be made or this working group will need to be dissolved.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Reed – Update on Barton Springs Bathhouse renovation and appointment to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board

Flowers – Monument in Bartholomew Park and update on the Rec Center Gap Analysis

Taylor – ACL Contract

Acting Chair Rinaldi adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the May 22, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Board Member Taylor's motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.