



***PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 22, 2023***

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on MAY 22, 2023 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Villalobos called the PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Kathryn Flowers, Jennifer Franklin, Lisa Hugman, Nicole Merritt, Holly Reed, Nina Rinaldi, Kim Taylor, Pedro Villalobos.

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: None

The motion to limit speaking time to 60 seconds for agenda specific public comments was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on an 8-2 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Hugman, Merritt, and Rinaldi. Those voting nay were Board Member Taylor and Reed.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Scott Cobb – Barton Springs Lifeguard
Martha Langford – District 4 senior programming
Jim Ruddy – Austin Rowing Club
Megan Meisenbach – Downtown Pocket Park
Roy Waley – Austin Sierra Club
Mary Fero – Use of consultants in public engagement

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of April 24, 2023. The minutes from the meeting of April 24, 2023 were approved on Board Member Taylor's motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

The motion to allow speakers to accept time donations of up to three minutes during public comment was approved on Board Member Taylor's motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 7-3 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Hugman, Merritt, Reed, and Taylor. Those voting nay were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, and Board Member Rinaldi.

At 8:32 p.m., the motion to recess for five minutes was approved on Board Member Rinaldi's motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy. The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

At 9:53 p.m., the motion to extend the meeting end time to 11:00 p.m. was approved on Vice Chair Flowers motion, Board Member Becker's second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

At 10:09 p.m., the motion to recess for five minutes was approved on Board Member Bazan's motion, Board Member Merritt's second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy. The meeting reconvened at 10:17 p.m.

2. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to adopt the Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan

Greg Montes, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department and Claire Hempel, Principal, Design Workshop gave a presentation and answered questions on parking garages and their lack of illustration in the plan, informal parking, event staging, mobility and transit issues, and playground access.

At 10:51 p.m., the motion to extend the meeting end time to 12:00 a.m. was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Rinaldi's second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

The motion to move to debate was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Rinaldi's second on a 7-3 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi. Those voting nay were Board Member Hugman, Reed and Taylor.

Board Member Bazan motion to approve the Zilker Park Vision Plan Recommendation as posted. Board Member Becker seconded.

The motion to ask Board Member Rinaldi to recuse herself from the vote on the Zilker Park Vision Plan Recommendation failed on Board Member Taylor's motion, Board Member Reed's second on a 3-6-1 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi. Board Member Bazan abstained.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add recommendation #4 "Recommends removal of the proposed parking garages from the plan and recommends the creation of an in-depth multimodal transportation and parking strategy that includes research on every day vs. peak parking needs and is annually reviewed including the possibility of green days at Zilker when no cars are allowed at all" failed on Board Member Reed's motion, Board Member Taylor's second on a 4-6 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Board Members Hugman, Merritt, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin and Rinaldi.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add recommendation #8 "recommends removal of the recommendation for a unified non-profit organization and asking City Council to create

an advisory group to review and recommend an appropriate governance structure at Zilker regarding implementation of the vision plan, financing, concessions, operations and maintenance, and management roles for PARD, non-profits, private entities and volunteer organizations” failed on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Hugman’s second on a 3-7 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add “Any City Council approved unified non-profit board contain five members of the public appointed by the City Council with no relationship to any other member of the board of the unified non-profit or organization or business associated with the non-profit” was motioned by Board Member Taylor and seconded by Board Member Hugman. The motion failed with the following friendly amendments on a 4-3 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Franklin and Rinaldi. Those abstaining were Board Members Bazan, Becker and Merritt. The friendly amendment from Board Member Reed was to remove the word “five” from the original motion. This was accepted by the maker of the motion and Board Member Hugman who seconded the motion.

At 11:54 p.m., the motion to extend the meeting end time to 12:30 a.m. was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Taylor’s second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

The motion to amend the recommendation to change recommendation #3 to “Recommends that both traffic and parking studies be undertaken in the planning phase to determine whether the suggested Vision Plan improvements (including reducing Barton Springs Road to one lane) are anticipated to provide sufficient multimodal and public transportation access and passage to and through Zilker Park” was approved on Board Member Franklin’s Motion, Board Member Rinaldi’s second on a 7-3 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi. Those voting nay were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add recommendation #4 “Recommends promoting close coordination and collaborative efforts of the Vision Plan with CapMetro during the Project Connect design to help maximize opportunities for effective public transit options” was approved on Board Member Franklin’s Motion, Board Member Merritt’s second on a 8-2 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt, Rinaldi and Taylor. Those voting nay were Board Members Hugman and Reed.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add “Whereas enjoyment of nature and the quality of that natural experience are critical components of the Zilker Park user experience” and to add recommendation #7 “Recommends that access, drainage, and ecological enhancements along shoreline restoration areas should maintain a naturalistic design where possible for aesthetic benefit” was approved on Board Member Franklin’s motion, Board Member Rinaldi’s second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair

Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Hugman, Merritt, Reed, and Rinaldi. Those abstaining were Board Member Taylor.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add recommendation #9 “Recommends an annual summary update of progress toward identified Vision Plan goals be shared publicly to help promote understanding and accountability” was approved on Board Member Franklin’s motion, Board Member Becker’s second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

The motion to amend the recommendation to change recommendation #3 to “Recommend removal of reducing lanes on Barton Springs Road from the vision plan” failed on Board Member Hugman’s motion, Board Member Taylor’s second on 3-7 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi.

The motion to amend the recommendation to change recommendation #2 to “recommend undertaking an environmental, safety and equity study regarding the current impact and the potential impact of removing the existing surface parking lots, Lou Neff Rd and other circular roads in Zilker Park” was motioned by Board Member Hugman and seconded by Board Member Reed. The motion was approved with the following friendly amendments on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy. The friendly amendment from Board Member Franklin was to replace the original motion and add “safety” and “equity” to recommendation #2. This was accepted by the maker of the motion and Board Member Reed who seconded the motion.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add “recommend removing the amphitheater from the Great Lawn and upgrading the terracing and facilities of the existing Hillside Theater location” failed on Board member Hugman’s motion, Board Member Reed’s second on a 3-7 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi.

At 12:26 p.m., the motion to extend the meeting end time to 12:45 a.m. was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Reed’s second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add “recommend the Zilker Park Vision Plan comply with the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, the Austin Community Climate Plan, the Austin Climate Equity Plan and supports Resolution No. 20150604-048 by the Chief Sustainability Officer date October 4th, 2017 advocating the use of a carbon impact statement as a strategy to meet the Council adopted goal of net-zero community wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050” failed on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Hugman’s second on a 5-2 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Board Member Franklin, Hugman, Merritt, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Vice Chair Flowers and Board Member Rinaldi. Those abstaining were Chair Villalobos, Board Members Bazan and Becker.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add recommendation #10 “Recommends the Zilker Park Vision Plan implement a study to determine the historic under-use of Zilker Park

by historically disadvantaged City of Austin residents and how this may be corrected” was approved on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Taylor’s second on a 9-1 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Member Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Hugman Merritt, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Board Member Rinaldi.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add recommendation #11 “Recommends retaining the historic concessions in Zilker Park (Zilker Boat Rental, Zilker Eagle Train, and Zilker Café) as they are part of the history and culture” was approved on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Taylor’s second on a 9-1 vote. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Member Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Hugman Merritt, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Board Member Rinaldi.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add “ recommend removing the recommendation to encourage more temporary and permanent concessions in the park” failed on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Hugman’s second on a 3-7 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi.

The motion to amend the recommendation to remove “recommends that this recommendation be presented to all Boards and Commissions” was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Merritt’s second on a 7-3 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi. Those voting nay were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add “whereas the current Hillside Theater is insufficient to accommodate programming, in need of repairs, unable to meet visitor demands, and will need to be possibly relocated in order to better serve Zilker Park visitors and program attendees” was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Rinaldi’s second on a 7-3 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi. Those voting nay were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor.

The motion to amend the recommendation to add recommendation #12 “Affirms that this Recommendation shall supersede and replace Parks and Recreation Board Recommendation 20230227-5” was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Vice Chair Flowers second on a 6-3 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Merritt and Rinaldi. Those voting nay were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Those abstaining were Board Member Franklin.

At 12:43 p.m., the motion to extend the meeting end time to 12:55 a.m. and to postpone all remaining agenda items to the June 26, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Vice Chair Flowers’ second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

The amended motion to recommend to Austin City Council to: 1) Recommends that the Austin City Council approve the Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan; 2) Recommends that appropriate environmental, financial, safety, equity, design, and traffic studies be undertaken before the implementation of any project or phase of the Vision Plan in order to encourage advancement of the Vision Plan; 3) Recommends that both traffic and parking studies be undertaken in the planning phase to determine whether the suggested Vision Plan improvements (including reducing Barton Springs Road to one lane) are anticipated to provide sufficient multimodal and public transportation access and passage to and through Zilker Park; 4) Recommends promoting close coordination and collaborative efforts of the Vision Plan with CapMetro during the Project Connect design to help maximize opportunities for effective public transit options; 5) Recommends that an environmental study be undertaken regarding the current impact and the potential impact of removing the existing surface parking lots, as well as the impact on the local environment of adding the proposed parking garages; 6) Recommends further evaluation of the placement of the Hillside Theater, including consideration of alternate locations other than the proposed location; 7) Recommends that access, drainage, and ecological enhancements along shoreline restoration areas should maintain a naturalistic design where possible for aesthetic benefit; 8) Recommends that the agreement governing the relationship between PARD and the Non-Profit ensures a high degree of transparency into the financial and contractual obligations of the Non-Profit in order to allow PARD to vet the partnership in accordance with PARD's adopted partnership policies; 9) Recommends an annual summary update of progress toward identified Vision Plan goals be shared publicly to help promote understanding and accountability; 10) Recommends the Zilker Park Vision Plan implement a study to determine the historic under-use of Zilker Park by historically disadvantaged City of Austin residents and how this may be corrected; 11) Recommends retaining the historic concessions in Zilker Park (Zilker Boat Rental, Zilker Eagle Train, and Zilker Café) as they are part of the history and culture; and 12) Affirms that this Recommendation shall supersede and replace Parks and Recreation Board Recommendation 20230227-5 was approved on Board Member Bazan's motion, Board Member Becker's second on a 7-3 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Merritt and Rinaldi. Those voting nay were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding an appointment to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board.
The motion to postpone this item to the June 26, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.
4. Discussion and possible action regarding an appointment to the Downtown Commission.
The motion to postpone this item to the June 26, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

5. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (VACANT)

- The motion to postpone this item to the June 26, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.**
6. Update from Downtown Commission. (Taylor)
The motion to postpone this item to the June 26, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.
 7. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (Bazan, Becker)
The motion to postpone this item to the June 26, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.
 8. Update from Zilker Park Vision Plan Working Group. (Taylor)
The motion to postpone this item to the June 26, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.
 9. Update from the Homelessness Working Group. (Hugman)
The motion to postpone this item to the June 26, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.
 10. Update from the Aquatics Working Group (Barnard)
The motion to postpone this item to the June 26, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Villalobos adjourned the meeting at 12:45 a.m. without objection.

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