



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

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on JULY 24, 2023 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Villalobos called the PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Stephanie Bazan, Kathryn Flowers, Jennifer Franklin, Nicole Merritt, Holly Reed, Pedro Villalobos.

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:** Lane Becker, Julie Hayes, Lisa Hugman (left at 7:43 p.m.), Kim Taylor (left at 7:43 p.m.).

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- Chris Flores - Friends of Deep Eddy**
- Dorothy Lopez Barnett - Zilker Park Vision Plan recommendation**
- Aubrea Rudder - Austin Rowing Club**
- Paul Bloom - Cabomba vegetative coverage on Lady Bird Lake**
- Mary Fero - Sheffield NW Park safety issues**
- Kayla Reese - APF, Maintenance funding and land management program**
- Jacqueline David - Barton Springs Pool**
- Robert Corbin - E-bikes on Butler trail, goats**
- Bill Bunch – Land Management Plan, Goats, Parks for Profit book, Waterloo Greenway Conservancy**
- Bertha M. Rendon Delgado - Edward Rendon Park at Festival Beach Master Plan**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of June 26, 2023. The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of June 26, 2023 was approved on Board Member Merritt’s motion, Board Member Reed’s second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

2. Staff briefing on Parks and Recreation Department community engagement events, planning updates, development updates, maintenance updates, program updates and administrative updates.

Kimberly McNeeley gave a briefing on burning restrictions, minimum pay for musicians, the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex, Brodie Oaks PUD, Zilker Shuttle, and the In the Parks video series.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

3. Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to authorize the negotiation and execution of a contract extension with Rowing Dock Inc. to provide watercraft rentals on Lady Bird Lake.

**Board Members discussed this item and the solicitation history.**

**The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to authorize the negotiation and execution of a contract extension with Rowing Dock Inc. to provide watercraft rentals on Lady Bird Lake was approved on Board Member Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Becker’s second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.**

4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the Land Management Strategies and Climate Vulnerability Analysis for Austin Parks and Recreation Department natural areas.

**Matt McCaw, Program Manager, Parks and Recreation gave a presentation and answered questions on the benefits of eliminating certain trees, community engagement and goats.**

**The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Department Climate Vulnerability Analysis and Recommended Management Strategies was approved on Board Member Bazan’s motion, Board Member Becker’s second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.**

5. Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to eliminate parking on the Zilker Park Polo Field and expand the Zilker Park Shuttle.

**Board Members discussed the environmental impact of parking on the Zilker Polo Field, potential traffic improvements, de facto “premium” parking in Zilker Park, and progressive parking.**

**The motion to approve the Zilker Park Polo Field Parking recommendation as posted was motioned by Board Member Reed, seconded by Board Member Hugman.**

**The motion to amend the recommendation to change #11 to “Recommends that PARD consult with the Transportation and Public Works Department to implement a parking payment structure in Zilker Park with the purpose of incentivizing parking at the Butler Gravel Lot, to encourage turnover, and takes into consideration high peak usage days” was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Reed’s second. This was accepted as a friendly amendment by Board Member Reed who made the original motion and Board Member Hugman who seconded the original motion.**

**The motion to amend the recommendation to remove #4 and #5 as posed was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Bazan’s second. This was accepted as a friendly**

**amendment by Board Member Reed who made the original motion and Board Member Hugman who seconded the original motion.**

**The motion to amend the recommendation to change #8 to “Recommends PARD consult with Barton Springs staff to designate no less than 22 staff parking places near Barton Springs Pool” was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion. This was accepted as a friendly amendment by Board Member Reed who made the original motion and Board Member Hugman who seconded the original motion.**

**The motion to amend the recommendation to change #12 to “Recommends that PARD encourage multi-modal forms of transportation to access Zilker Park” was approved on Board Member Franklin’s motion. This was accepted as a friendly amendment by Board Member Reed who made the original motion and Board Member Hugman who seconded the original motion.**

**The motion to amend the recommendation to add “Whereas the Parks and Recreation Board recognizes that parking at Zilker Park needs a long-term parking solution to appropriately address the issue and recognizes that this Recommendation is a short-term solution” was approved on Board Member Villalobos’ motion. This was accepted as a friendly amendment by Board Member Reed who made the original motion and Board Member Hugman who seconded the original motion.**

**The motion to 1. Recommends the Austin City Council approve funding in the City’s 2023-2024 Budget for PARD to lease or purchase internal shuttles for use in Zilker Park. 2. Recommends that the Austin City Council direct the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) to eliminate parking on the Polo Field permanently starting on September 4, 2023 except for use as an overflow parking area during advance-scheduled special events (including Zilker Hillside Theater, Blues on the Green, Zilker Tree Lighting, Trail of Lights, Zilker Kite Festival, Zilker Botanical Gardens Spring Event, and Austin YMBL Sunshine Camps events). 3. Recommends Austin City Council fund at least 2-4 free shuttle busses, to be managed by PARD, to operate continuously between the Butler Gravel Lot and the south side of Zilker Park near Barton Springs Pool during peak use weekends, including Fridays (May through September 4). 4. Recommends Austin City Council fund a high-profile outreach campaign, to be managed by PARD, to city residents and visitors on various methods of transportation to Zilker Park including all changes and new opportunities. 5. Recommends that PARD direct Zilker Park visitors to park at the Butler Gravel Lot, instead of parking at the Polo Field on weekends, beginning May of 2024. 6. Recommends PARD consult with Barton Springs staff to designate no less than 22 staff parking places near Barton Springs Pool. 7. Recommends appropriate restoration of the Polo Field be performed as needed by PARD’s routine maintenance after special events are concluded. 8. Recommends PARD collaborate with Austin Transportation and Public Works Dept. if transportation management such as establishing loading and unloading zones for shuttles, is required. 9. Recommends that PARD consult with the Transportation and Public Works Department to implement a parking payment structure in Zilker Park with the purpose of incentivizing parking at the Butler Gravel Lot, to encourage turnover, and takes into consideration high peak usage days. 10. Recommends that PARD encourage multi-modal forms of transportation to access Zilker Park. 11. Recommends that**

**upon closure of the Polo Field, environmentally suitable parking barriers and a semi-permanent parking enforcement mechanism be positioned around the Polo Fields by PARD to prevent vehicle access to the Polo Field was approved on Board Member Reed's motion, Board Member Hugman's second on a 10-0 vote with one vacancy.**

6. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the Parks and Recreation Board 2023 Annual Internal Review and Report.

**Board Members discussed the content of the report, including the goals and objectives for the upcoming year.**

**The motion to approve the Parks and Recreation Board 2023 Annual Internal Review and Report was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Reed's second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.**

7. Discussion and possible action regarding the creation of a Zilker Shuttle working group.

**Board Members discussed shuttle routes.**

**The motion to create a Zilker Shuttle working group to be comprised of Board Members Hugman, Reed and Villalobos was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Reed's second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.**

8. Discussion and possible action regarding the creation of a Barton Springs Bathhouse working group. The purpose of this working group is to create a recommendation for the naming of the Barton Springs Bathhouse and to make recommendations on how to incorporate educational installations which place the racial history of Barton Springs in an appropriate context.

**Board Members discussed educational installations and naming the bathhouse after someone significant.**

**The motion to create a Barton Springs Bathhouse working group to be comprised of Board Members Bazan and Villalobos was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Bazan's second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.**

9. Discussion and possible action regarding an appointment to the Parks and Recreation Board Contracts and Concessions Committee.

**The motion to appoint Nicole Merritt to the Parks and Recreation Board Contracts and Concessions Committee was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.**

10. Discussion and possible action regarding appointments to the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Committee.

**The motion to appoint Kathryn Flowers, Jennifer Franklin, Nicole Merritt and Holly Reed to the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Committee was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Merritt's second on an 8-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.**

**WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- 11. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (Bazan)  
**No update.**
- 12. Update from Downtown Commission. (Franklin)  
**Board Member Franklin’s appointment to this commission was recently confirmed.**
- 13. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (Bazan, Becker)  
**Board Member Becker provided an update on the goal of this committee, climate focused actions and the climate impact of bringing City employees back into the office.**
- 14. Update from Zilker Park Vision Plan Working Group. (Taylor)  
**No update.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**None**

**Chair Villalobos adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. without objection.**

**These minutes were approved at the August 28, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Board Member Becker’s motion, Board Member Bazan’s second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Vice Chair Flowers and Board Member Taylor absent.**