



***PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 28, 2023***

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on AUGUST 28, 2023 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

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

**Board Members in Attendance:** Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Jennifer Franklin, Pedro Villalobos.

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:** Julie Hayes, Nicole Merritt (arrived at 6:06 p.m.), Lisa Hugman, Holly Reed.

**Board Members Absent:** Kathryn Flowers, Kim Taylor.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- Diana Prechter - Statistically valid surveys in Zilker Park Vision Plan
- Liz Hundley - Austin Rowing Club
- Andrea Hill - Barton Springs pecan tree, shuttle service signage, routes, concessions
- Tanya Payne - Rewild Zilker
- Gail Rothe - Rewild Zilker
- Morgan Witthoft - Zilker Park Vision Plan
- Roy Waley - Austin Sierra Club, public communication, Zilker shuttle
- Scott Cobb - Rename the Barton Springs Bathhouse after Joan Means Khabele
- Terry Adams - Zilker Park Vision Plan

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of July 24, 2023.  
**The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of July 24, 2023 was approved on Board Member Becker’s motion, Board Member Bazan’s second on a 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Flowers and Taylor absent.**

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

2. Staff briefing on status of the Barton Springs Pool Pecan Tree.  
**Kimberly McNeeley, Director and Joshua Erickson, Forestry Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a briefing and answered question on the process of selecting**

**independent arborists, the average lifespan of a pecan tree, filling the tree with concrete, the need for a public hearing.**

**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 McNeely, Director, Parks and Recreation Department gave a briefing on special event applications, O Henry and Brush Square Implementation Ribbon Cutting, Oakwood Cemetery virtual community event and answered clarifying questions on AISD modernization.**

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

- 4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to authorize an amendment to a contract for continued interment and burial services with Internment Services Inc, for an increase in the amount of \$1,750,000 and to extend the term for two years for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$10,696,000.  
**Jason Walker, Interim Division Manager and Pat Rossett, Business Process Consultant, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions on remaining extension years on this contract, timeline for resolving the hiring issue, supply chain issues, decision to have PARD staff take over these responsibilities, rationale for the two year extension.**

**The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to authorize the negotiation and execution of an amendment to an existing contract with Interment Services, Inc. for continued interment services at city cemeteries and to extend the term by two years was approved on Board Member Franklin’s motion, Board Member Hayes’ second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Vice Chair Flowers and Board Member Taylor absent.**

- 5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council that the Wildhorse Planned Unit Development amendment application maintains superiority with respect to parkland dedication.  
**The motion to postpone this item to a future meeting was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion without objection.**

**WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- 6. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (Bazan)  
**Board Member Bazan gave an update that the Board received and update on Project Connect.**
- 7. Update from Downtown Commission. (Franklin)  
**Board Member Franklin gave an update that this month’s meeting of the Downton Commission was cancelled but that it will pick up again in September.**
- 8. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (Bazan, Becker)  
**Board Member Bazan gave an update that the Commission discussed working group drafts on priority policy and program recommendations for the Austin Climate Equity Plan**

**implementation and passed a recommendation to Council on composting/recycling services at multi-residential properties.**

9. Update from Zilker Park Vision Plan Working Group. (Taylor)  
**No update.**

**The motion to dissolve the Zilker Park Vision Plan Working Group was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Hayes’ second on an 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Vice Chair Flowers and Board Member Taylor absent.**

10. Update from Zilker Shuttle Working Group. (Villalobos, Reed, Hugman)  
**Board Member Reed gave an update that she has received the staff update on centralized parking system resolution and has a follow up meeting with the Parking Enterprise Manager. The working group hopes to schedule meetings with Cap Metro and the Transportation and Public Works Department soon. The group is not sure if City Council has considered the Parks and Recreation Board’s recommendation on the shuttle.**

11. Update from Barton Springs Bathhouse Working Group. (Villalobos, Bazan)  
**Chair Villalobos and Board Member Bazan gave an update that UT Professor Dr. Ted Gordon has been recruited to the Working Group, potential names for the bathhouse, modern conventions of naming public facilities, representation of indigenous people in the naming of the bathhouse, storytelling, federal requirements for the educational content of the welcome center.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Villalobos – Create Zilker Park Vision Plan Working Group**

**Reed – Update on the Barton Springs Pecan Tree  
FY24 Budget Breakdown  
Recommendation to expedite the audit of Zilker Park Vision Plan survey 6**

**Becker – Update on Recreation Management System**

**Chair Villalobos adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. without objection.**

**These minutes were approved at the September 25, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Board Member Reed’ motion, Board Member Becker’s second on a 7-0 vote. Board Members Bazan, Franklin, Hayes and Merritt absent.**