



**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on September 25, 2023 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

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

Board Members in Attendance: Pedro Villalobos, Kathryn Flowers, Shelby Orme, Lane Becker, Holly Reed.

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Lisa Hugman, Kim Taylor.

Board Members Absent: Nicole Merritt, Stephanie Bazan, Julie Hayes, Jennifer Franklin.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Diana Prechter – Zilker Park visitors, access and parking**
- Elizabeth Barhydt – Austin Rowing Club**
- Phil Thomas – Holly Shores Vision Plan and Nash Hernandez Building**
- Bertha Rendon Delgado – East Town Lake Neighborhood Association**
- Sharon Blythe – Trees in Austin Memorial Park**
- Mike Cannatti – Barton Springs Conservancy**
- Karen Krepps – Barton Springs Pool Swimmer**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of August 28, 2023.
The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of August 28, 2023 was approved on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Becker’s second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Bazan, Franklin, Hayes and Merritt absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Presentation and discussion on the Barton Springs Pool Pecan Tree known as “Flo”.
Kimberly McNeeley, Director and Joshua Erickson, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions on new structural supports, the risk of failure of the tree, complaints from Park visitors, ADA access, European tree preservation practices, the impact that climate change and extreme heat may have had on this tree, and the cost of removing the tree.

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 authorize the negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with Travis County regarding coordination of the Spicewood Springs Road Low Water Crossing #1.
The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to authorize the negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with Travis County regarding coordination of the Spicewood Springs Road Low Water Crossing #1 was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Vice Chair Flowers’ second on a 7-0 vote. Board Members Bazan, Franklin, Hayes and Merritt absent.

4. 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.
Justin Stewart, Planner Sr. Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions on the location of the replacement dedication and the removal of the amenity center.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council that the Wildhorse Planned Unit Development amendment application maintains superiority with respect to parkland dedication was approved on Board Member Becker’s motion, Board Member Taylor’s second on a 7-0 vote. Board Members Bazan, Franklin, Hayes and Merritt absent.

5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council that the 311 South Congress Planned Unit Development application is superior with respect to Parkland Dedication.
Thomas Rowlinson, Planner Principal, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions about special zoning, the vision framework and location of land.

The motion to recommend that the 311 South Congress Planned Unit Development application is superior with respect to Parkland Dedication failed on a 4-2 vote. Those voting aye were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Becker and Hugman. Those voting nay were Board Members Reed and Taylor. Board Member Orme abstaining. Board Members Bazan, Franklin, Hayes and Merritt absent.

6. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council on whether the George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center gymnasium at Dove Springs District Park should be named in honor of D’Wayne Anderson.
This item was postponed to the October Parks and Recreation Board meeting by the Chair.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to allow for public comment prior to approval of the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation project; to develop a Transportation Plan for visitors to Barton Springs during the Bathhouse Rehabilitation Construction; to develop a transportation plan within Zilker Park utilizing shuttles, and; to increase public transit to Barton Springs Pool during weekends in the Summer. (Sponsors: Reed, Hugman)

Board Members discussed this item.

The motion to 1) Recommends that the Austin City Council direct the Transportation and Public Works Dept. to develop a Transportation Plan for visitors to Barton Springs during the Bathhouse Rehab. Construction; 2) Recommends that the proposed 2024 Transportation Plan and parking solution consider there are 500-800 visitors per hours during peak hours on summer weekend days, and plan accordingly passed on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Hugman’s second on a 7-0 vote. Board Members Bazan, Franklin, Hayes and Merritt absent.

- 8. Discussion and possible action to set the Parks and Recreation Board 2024 regular meeting schedule as the fourth Monday of each month, except May and December; and May 20th at 6:00 p.m.
The motion to set the Parks and Recreation Board 2024 regular meeting schedule as the fourth Monday of each month, except May and December; and May 20th at 6:00 p.m. was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Reed’s second on a 7-0 vote. Board Members Bazan, Franklin, Hayes and Merritt absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

- 9. Staff briefing on Texas House Bill 1526 and its impact on Parkland Dedication in Austin.
Robynne Heymans, Principal Planner, Parks and Recreation Department gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on site plans presented prior to the new law going into effect, and alignment with the Austin Climate Equity Plan.
- 10. Staff briefing on the Parks and Recreation Department’s Fiscal Year 2024 operating and Capital Improvement Project budget.
Vanorda Richardson, Financial Services Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on the City receiving fewer bids to solicitations, prioritization of CIP budget spending, and funds budgeted to save Lou Neff point.
- 11. 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.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

- 12. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (Bazan)
No update.
- 13. Update from Downtown Commission. (Franklin)
No update.
- 14. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (Bazan, Becker)
No update.
- 15. Update from Zilker Shuttle Working Group. (Hugman, Reed, Becker)
Board Member Reed gave an update on upcoming meetings to discuss transportation and planning in Zilker Park.
- 16. Update from Barton Springs Bathhouse Working Group. (Villalobos, Bazan)

Chair Villalobos gave an update on some upcoming recommendations from this working group.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Taylor – Creating a Zilker Park Working Group, update on the Zilker Eagle train, the Zilker Clubhouse.

Chair Villalobos adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the October 23, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Board Member Franklin’s motion, Board Member Hugman’s second on an 11-0 vote.