



**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on November 27, 2023 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Villalobos called the PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Pedro Villalobos, Kathryn Flowers, Holly Reed, Stephanie Bazan, Nicole Merritt, Lane Becker.

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Julie Hayes, Shelby Orme, Jennifer Franklin.

Board Members Absent: Kim Taylor, Lisa Hugman.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Malcom Yeatts - EROC Contact Team
- Liz Barhydt - Austin Rowing Club
- Chris Flores - Citizen Working Group Barton Springs Pool Rehab Plan and Café
- Diana Prechter - Trail of Lights and Zilker Polo Field Parking
- Joel Manzo - Access to baseball fields and Govalle condition
- Scott Cobb - Barton Springs Bathhouse Renaming
- Adhy Singh - Expedition School
- Adam Shedlosky - Expedition School
- Laura Spraggins - Festival Beach Community Garden
- Grace Gilker - Festival Beach Community Garden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of October 23, 2023.

The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of October 23, 2023 was approved on Board Member Bazan’s motion, Board Member Reed’s second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.

After the meeting, staff discovered that the posted draft minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of October 23, 2023 were incomplete. The minutes will be updated and approved at the January 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Presentation, discussion and possible action on a recommendation to Austin City Council to support a special use senior facility at Gus Garcia Recreation Center.

Martha Langford, Member of the Gus Garcia Senior Community gave a presentation. Board Members discussed the price of a senior activity center and bond funding.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council that they prioritize a Bond election to include a Senior Activity Center serving District 4 and nearby northern districts, to be located north of 183, and that the property where Gus Garcia Recreation Center currently resides be investigated as a high potential possible location. PARB also recommends that improvements to Gus Garcia Recreation Center be prioritized and budgeted for in the interim for FY24-25, with the goal of addressing overcrowding at the earliest possible opportunity was approved on Vice Chair Flowers' motion, Chair Villalobos' second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.

3. Presentation, discussion and possible action on a recommendation to Austin City Council to authorize the negotiation and execution of Facility Use and Maintenance Agreement between the City and Huston-Tillotson University for parkland use at Downs Field located at 2816 East 12th Street (District 1).

Christa McCarthy, Division Manager and Pat Rossett, Business Process Consultant, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions on how many nights can be reserved by one entity, league schedules and community access.

The motion to recommend that the City Council authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement between the City of Austin and Huston-Tillotson University and to waive utility and field use fees; that the agreement include a designated point of contact for the community to contact regarding community usage of Downs Field and that a specific level of customer service and customer response be addressed in the negotiations; that the agreement include the schedule for usage specifically by Huston-Tillotson University, and open Downs Field for community usage at all other times that the field is not being used by Huston-Tillotson University specifically, and; that any sub-contracting agreement by Huston-Tillotson University must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department and Parks and Recreation Board was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.

4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council regarding creation, continuation, termination or status of a concession including issuance of a Request for Proposal for a concession in Town Lake Metropolitan Park for inclusion in the joint report between the Parks and Recreation Board and the Environmental Commission that is provided to the City Council annually.

Denisha Cox, Contract Management Supervisor II and Pat Rossett, Business Process Consultant, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions on whether the Department is considering any cancellation or continuation, and the length of contract extension.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council regarding creation, continuation, termination or status of a concession including issuance of a Request for Proposal for a concession in Town Lake Metropolitan Park for inclusion in the joint report between the Parks and Recreation Board and the Environmental Commission that is provided to the City Council annually was approved on Board Member Becker's motion, Board Member Merritt's second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.

- 5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve The Trail Conservancy’s Annual Programming Plan for the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail at Townlake Metropolitan Park.

Christine Chute Canul, Program Manager II, Parks and Recreation Department and Heidi Anderson, CEO, The Trail Conservancy gave a presentation and answered questions on FY2022 and 2023 programming.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve The Trail Conservancy’s 2024 Annual Programming Plan for portions of Townlake Metropolitan Park was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Bazan’s second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.

- 6. Discussion and possible action on letters of support for PARD Staff and Community Groups that hosted Thanksgiving events.

David Crabb, Community Recreation Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation.

The motion to approve the letters of support for PARD Staff and Community Groups that hosted Thanksgiving events was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Vice Chair Flowers second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.

- 7. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve an ordinance amending City Code Title 8 (Parks and Recreation) to regulate activities that occur on parkland and to create offenses and penalties.

Kimberly McNeeley, Parks and Recreation Department Director gave a presentation and answered questions on a joint Parks and Recreation/Austin Transportation study.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to amend City Code related to regulations that apply to the activities that occur on property managed, maintained or operated by the Parks and Recreation Department or on the Department’s behalf in creating offenses and penalties was approved on Vice Chair Flowers motion, Board Member Franklin’s second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Flowers absent.

- 8. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve an ordinance amending City Code relating to the naming of renaming facilities, features, and properties that are part of the City’s park system.

Kimberly McNeeley, Parks and Recreation Department Director gave a presentation and answered questions on the 50-year threshold.

The motion to recommend that City Council amend City Code relating to the naming or renaming of facilities, features or properties that are part of the City’s park system with the elimination of §14-1-51(F) from the draft as posted in the backup to the Parks and Recreation Board Meeting of November 27, 2023 was approved on Board Member Becker’s motion, Board Member Merritt’s second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Taylor absent.

- 9. Discussion and possible action regarding the creation of a Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Working Group.

The motion to create a Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Working Group to be comprised of Kathryn Flowers, Shelby Orme, Nicole Merritt, Lane Becker and Jennifer Franklin was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Flowers absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

- 10. Staff briefing on Prop B and the conveyance or lease of the parkland property commonly referred to as the Central Maintenance Complex.

Kimberly McNeeley, Parks and Recreation Department Director gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on protected trees on the existing property and the vision for future use of the track.

No action was taken on this item.

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

This item was postponed by the Chair without objection.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

- 12. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (Bazan)

Board Member Bazan gave an update on a recent SCWAB meeting.

- 13. Update from Downtown Commission. (Franklin)

No update.

- 14. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (Bazan, Becker)

Board Member Bazan gave an update on a recent JSC meeting.

- 15. Update from Zilker Shuttle Working Group. (Hugman, Reed, Becker)

Board Member Reed gave an update on a recent Call with Ricardo Soliz regarding shuttle options in Zilker Park. The Working Group expects to bring a recommendation for a transportation study before the Board in January.

- 16. Update from Barton Springs Bathhouse Working Group. (Villalobos, Bazan)

Chair Villalobos gave an update and reviewed the Parks and Recreation Board Barton Springs Bathhouse Working Group Report which identifies several potential names for the Barton Springs Bathhouse. Board Members discussed the in-progress application to rename the Barton Springs Bathhouse. Board Members discussed the coordination between the Working Group, the Parks and Recreation Department and the public in regard to the in-progress application to rename the Barton Springs Bathhouse.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Reed – Nash Hernandez Recommendation.

Chair Villalobos adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the January 22, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Board Member Hugman’s motion, Board Member Villalobos’ second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Orme absent.