



***PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2024***

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on February 26, 2024 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, Stephanie Bazan, Lisa Hugman, Nicole Merritt, Holly Reed.

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Lane Becker, Jennifer Franklin, Kim Taylor.

Board Members Absent: Julie Hayes, Shelby Orme.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Ted Eubanks - Friends of Wooldridge Square
Claire Krebs - Festival Beach Community Garden
Andrea Hill - Barton Springs Bathhouse Contract
Diana Prechter - Barton Springs Bathhouse
Patricia Bobeck - Donating 3 minutes to Diana Prechter
Liz Barhydt - Austin Rowing Club
Joel Manzo - Austin Youth Baseball. Donated 2 minutes to Jason Williams
Jason Williams - Game time fields owner
Zoey Carlson - Austin Sandlot Baseball Community
Santiago - Incomplete tree inventory near I-35
C Rickner - Austin Sandlot Baseball Community

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meetings of January 22, 2024.

The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meetings of January 22, 2024 was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Merritt's second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Discussion and possible action regarding letters of support for the Parks and Recreation Department Nature Programs Team

Amanda Ross, Natural Resources Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation.

The motion to approve the letters of support for the Parks and Recreation Department Nature Programs Unit was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 9-0. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

3. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve an ordinance to amend Title 25 related to the environmental protections at the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail.

Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Manager, Liz Johnston, Environmental Policy Program Coordinator and Katie Coyne, Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department gave a presentation and answered questions on the width of portions of the trail, erosion, trail paving materials, 2:1 mitigation vs 1:1 mitigation, City Council's authority to authorize the widening of trails, Council Support for this code amendment, proposed drainage techniques to improve water quality, hard surface trails in critical water quality zones, whether the purpose of the code amendment is to accommodate the Statesman PUD, existing capital improvement plans.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve an ordinance to amend Title 25 §25-8-261(B)(3)(c), §25-8-261(B)(3)(f-g) and §25-8-261(C)(2) related to the environmental protections at the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike trail was motioned by Vice Chair Flowers, seconded by Board Member Hugman. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

The motion to amend the recommendation to include the 2:1 mitigation requirement, similar to the version reviewed by the Environmental Commission, “allow the Butler Trail to be located with 50 feet of the shoreline of Lady Bird Lake with restoration for impact with a 2:1 or alternative compliance as approved by the director of the Watershed Protection Department” was approved on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Hagman’s second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

The motion to amend the recommendation with the intended purpose of limiting the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail to a maximum width of 20 feet failed on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Merritt’s second on a 3-4-2 vote. Those voting aye were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Becker and Merritt. Those abstaining were Board Member Bazan and Franklin. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

The motion to amend the recommendation to keep the sections of the trail that are currently natural, pervious, decomposed granite areas of the trail, to make the best effort to perpetuate that to keep those areas of the trail that way as opposed to substituting concrete or asphalt for those areas of the trail failed on Board Member Reed’s motion, Board Member Hugman’s second on a 3-6 vote. Those voting aye were Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin and Merritt. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve an ordinance to amend Title 25 related to the environmental protections at the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail, including an amended §25-8-261(B)(3)(g) to read “located not less than 50 feet from the shoreline of Lady Bird Lake as defined in Section 25-8-92, unless restoration is provided at a minimum ratio of 2:1, with the option that the applicant and the Director collaborate for a minimum 1:1 restoration, where necessary, as determined by a functional assessment of

floodplain health” was approved on Vice Chair Flowers motion, Board Member Hugman’s second on a 6-3 vote. Those voting aye were: Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin and Merritt. Those voting nay were: Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the permanent use of an existing Park and Recreation easement adjacent to the Wildhorse Ranch PUD #10. Total Mitigation is \$6,282.

Bryan Golden, Capital Improvement Program Manager, Transportation and Public Works Department gave a presentation.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve 7,818 square feet for an ASMP required roadway connection through a parkland easement was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Hugman’s second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council related to an application received by the City to rename the Barton Springs Bathhouse to the Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool.

Kimberly McNeeley, Parks and Recreation Director gave a presentation.

The motion to recommend that the Austin City Council rename the Barton Springs Bathhouse to the “Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool” was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Reed’s second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

6. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Waller Creek Boathouse/Austin Rowing Club for the sale of alcohol to bring the site into compliance with the Land Development Code.

Reynaldo Hernandez, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions on the recipient of the CUP, previous CUPs and recent CUPs.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Waller Creek Boathouse/Austin Rowing Club for the sale of alcohol to bring the site into compliance with the Land Development Code was approved on Vice Chair Flowers motion, Chair Villalobos’ second on an 8-0 vote. Board Member Reed abstaining. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

7. 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

8. Update from South Central Waterfront Advisory Board. (Bazan)

Board Member Bazan gave an update on a presentation received from the SCW Combining District and budget recommendations.

9. Update from Downtown Commission. (Franklin)

Board Member Franklin gave an update on a recent Downtown Commission meeting.

10. Update from Joint Sustainability Committee. (Bazan, Becker)

Board Member Bazan gave an update on budget and strategic plan review.

11. Update from Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Working Group. (Flowers, Orme, Merritt, Becker, Franklin)

Vice Chair Flowers gave an update on minutes from the last working group meeting and an upcoming discussion with Suzanne Piper. A written recommendation expected by March Parks Board meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

12. Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve a resolution to establish Austin as a recognized soccer city and direct the City Manager to analyze challenges and needs in soccer field development and soccer programming and to provide recommendations.

The motion to recommend that that the Austin City Council approve a resolution to establish Austin as a recognized soccer city and direct the City Manager to analyze challenges and needs in soccer field development and soccer programming and to provide recommendations was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Bazan's second on an 8-0 vote. Board Member Taylor off the dais. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Reed – Zilker Transportation Recommendation and the Barton Springs Bathhouse Women's Showering Area

The motion to waive the rules and allow the Parks and Recreation Board to meet after 10 p.m. was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers second on an 8-0 vote. Board Member Taylor off the dais. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.

Chair Villalobos adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the March 27, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Vice Chair Flowers' motion, Chair Villalobos' second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Bazan absent.