



***PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 22, 2024***

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on January 22, 2024 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Villalobos called the PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Pedro Villalobos, Lisa Hugman, Holly Reed.

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:** Kathryn Flowers, Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Jennifer Franklin, Julie Hayes, Nicole Merritt, Kim Taylor.

**Board Members Absent:** Shelby Orme.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

Allison Johnson - Pease Park Conservancy  
Diana Prechter - Trail of Lights Admission Fees  
Claire Krebs - Festival Beach Community Garden  
Grace Gilker - I-35 Food Forest sound barrier  
Kayla Reese - Austin Parks Foundation  
Saira Rabbani - Norwood House Restoration  
Aubrea Rudder - Austin Rowing Club  
Santiago - Various topics

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meetings of October 23, 2023 and November 27, 2023.

**The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meetings of October 23, 2023 and November 27, 2023 was approved on Board Member Hugman's motion, Board Member Villalobos' second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Orme absent.**

2. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board Finance Committee meeting of March 23, 2023.

**The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board Finance Committee meeting of March 23, 2023 was approved on Board Member Hugman's motion, Board Member Flower's second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Orme absent.**

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

3. Discussion and possible action on letters of support for PARD Staff and Community Groups that participated in a 50,000 square foot graffiti abatement and park maintenance project at the Heath Eiland and Morgan Moss BMX Skate Park, and for PARD staff that prepared six recreation centers to accept portable generators as a supplemental/alternative power source should electric power be unavailable.

**Sonny Chandler, Parks Grounds Manager and Sarah Talkington, Consulting Engineer, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions.**

**The motion to approve letters of support for Community Groups that participated in a 50,000 square foot graffiti abatement and park maintenance project at the Heath Eiland and Morgan Moss BMX Skate Park, and for PARD staff that prepared six recreation centers to accept portable generators as a supplemental/alternative power source should electric power be unavailable was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Orme absent.**

4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve negotiation and execution of a one-year contract extension with Zilker Park Boat Rentals.

**Board Member Becker made a statement on this item.**

**The motion to recommend that Austin City Council authorize the negotiation and execution of the contract extension with Zilker Park Boat Rentals between February 2024 and February 2025 was approved on Board Member Becker's motion, Board Member Reed's second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Orme absent.**

5. 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.

**This item was postponed to the February 26, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.**

6. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve a Temporary Staging Area, not to exceed 540 Calendar Days on parkland located at Upper Bull Creek Greenbelt (8020 Spicewood Springs Rd). Total Mitigation is \$70,652.

**Henry Price, Supervising Engineer, Watershed Protection Department gave a presentation and answered questions on the fragility of the emergency shaft, the approval process for this project, alternative staging areas.**

**The motion to recommend that Austin City Council approve a Temporary Staging Area, not to exceed 540 Calendar days on parkland located at Upper Bull Creek Greenbelt (8020 Spicewood Springs Rd) Total Mitigation is \$70,652 was approved on Board Member Franklin's motion, Board Member Hayes' second on a 8-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Reed abstaining. Board Member Orme absent.**

7. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the negotiation and execution of a Parkland Improvement and Maintenance Agreement with The Trail Conservancy for the Holly Project. The agreement includes a maximum amount of funding

of \$889,000.00 that the Parks and Recreation Department will allocate to The Trail Conservancy for the construction of the project.

**Christine Chute Canul, Partnership Manager, Parks and Recreation Department and Nick Block, The Trail Conservancy gave a presentation and answered questions on the speculated \$45K boat dock, the fishing pier, breakdown of costs, notification to the neighborhood association.**

**The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve the negotiation and execution of a Parkland Improvement and Maintenance Agreement with The Trail Conservancy for the Holly Project was approved on Board Member Merritt's motion, Board Member Hayes' second on an 8-0 vote. Board Members Hugman and Reed abstaining. Board Member Orme absent.**

8. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the renewal of the Local Standards of Care for the City Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Recreation Programs (20230413-055).

**Christa McCarthy, Centralized Programming Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions on any changes to ordinance language and the number of programs that are covered by Local Standards of Care.**

**The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve the renewal of the Local Standards of Care for the City Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Recreation Programs (20230413-055) was approved on Board Member Bazan's motion, Board Member Taylor's second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Orme absent.**

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

**Kimberly McNeeley, Parks and Recreation Director gave a presentation and answered questions on the 90-day requirement for community engagement, typical notification process, definition of a public recreation area, the 25 year limitation on renaming and the timeline of this ordinance.**

**The motion to postpone this item to the February 2024 Parks and Recreation Board agenda was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Hugman's second on a 10-0 vote. Board Member Orme absent.**

10. Approve a recommendation from the Zilker Shuttle Working Group regarding a Transportation Impact Analysis and a Transportation Demand Management / Mobility study for the Zilker Park vicinity.

**Board Member Becker removed himself as a co-sponsor of this item.**

**Board Members discussed the draft recommendation, existing City Council support, the duration of the proposed studies, funding sources and a possible budget recommendation.**

**The motion to recommend to Austin City Council (1) Austin City Council direct the Transportation and Public Works Department to conduct a TIA (Transportation Impact Analysis) and a Transportation Demand Management / Mobility study for the Zilker Park**

vicinity and that the studies begin as soon as possible to allow early implementation of TPW recommendations for 2024, and extend sufficiently past the Bathhouse Rehabilitation to allow TPW to capture realistic transportation data in order to make iterative adjustments as necessary; (2) Austin City Council request a budget allocation for the transportation-related studies for Zilker Park; and, (3) Austin City Council direct TPW to implement an interim transit shuttle system (during the TIA and Transportation Demand Management/Mobility study) that allows visitors to park and have internal shuttle service from multiple parking lots throughout Zilker Park, and that Council fund the proposed transit program fully as it addresses the unusual demands of the summer of 2024 failed on Board Member Reed's motion, Board Member Hugman's second on a 5-1 vote. Those voting aye were: Board Members Taylor, Hayes, Merritt, Hugman and Reed. Those voting nay were: Vice Chair Flowers. Those abstaining were: Chair Villalobos, and Board Members Bazan, Becker, and Franklin. Board Member Orme absent.

The motion to refer this item to the Parks and Recreation Board Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Working Group was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Hayes' second on a 7-0 vote. Board Members Hugman, Reed and Taylor Abstaining. Board Member Orme absent.

### **STAFF BRIEFINGS**

11. Staff Briefing on the installation of a sound barrier along I-35 near Festival Beach Food Forrest.

**Justin Stewart, Planner Sr, Parks and Recreation Department gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on community requested amenities, feasibility and soil sampling. No action was taken on this item.**

12. 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**

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

**Board Member Bazan gave an update a recent staff presentation on the Density bonus program. That presentation is available online in the backup from the January 18, 2024 meeting.**

14. Update from Downtown Commission. (Franklin)

**Board Member Franklin gave an update on recent presentation on the Palm District Plan and the Seaholm District.**

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

**No update.**

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

**Vice Chair Flowers on public minutes from this Working Group, general timeline and goals for the working group, strategy for budget requests, and goals for the next meeting.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Bazan – Dittmar Recreation Center participation rate.**

**At 9:59 p.m., The motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 8-2 vote. Those voting aye were: Chair Villalobos, Vice Chair Flowers and Board Members Bazan, Becker, Franklin, Hayes, Merritt, Taylor. Those voting nay were: Board Members Hugman and Reed. Board Member Orme absent.**

**Chair Villalobos adjourned the meeting at 10:02 p.m. without objection.**

**These minutes were approved at the February 26, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Merritt's second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.**