



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

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on August 26, 2024 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas

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

Board Members in Attendance: Pedro Villalobos, Kathryn Flowers, Holly Reed.

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Cathleen Eady, Jennifer Franklin, Shelby Orme, Nicole Merritt.

Board Members Absent: Kim Taylor.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Liz Barhydt - Austin Rowing Club
Scott Cobb - Barton Springs Lifeguard
Joel Manzo - ATX Towing Issued
Elisa Rendon Montoya - Park maintenance issues
Bertha Rendon Delgado - Town Lake boat races

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of July 22, 2024.

The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of July 22, 2024 was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Reed's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Presentation, discussion and approve letters of support for staff and programming at the Old Bakery and Emporium, Brush Square Museum and the Elisabet Ney Museum.

Herlinda Zamora, Cultural & Arts Education Manager, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation.

The motion to approve letters of support for staff and programming at the Old Bakery and Emporium, Brush Square Museum and the Elisabet Ney Museum was approved on Vice Chair Flowers' motion, Chair Villalobos' second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.

3. Discussion and approve a recommendation related to City Ordinance No. 20191205-070 that authorized, on an expedited basis, a concession for The Expedition School, waiving the requirements of City Code Section 8-1-74 (Review of a Proposal Seeking a Concession) and an amendment to the Holly Shores/ Edward Rendon Sr. Vision Plan.

Board members discussed the intention of the ordinance, the Parks Board's role in reviewing these types of concessions, the Holly Shores/ Edward Rendon Sr. Park Vision Plan, proposed amendments to the vision plan, and the volume of rentals at similar watercraft concessions.

The motion to approve the recommendation as posted in backup was made on Board Member Reed, seconded by Board Member Merritt.

Chair Villalobos made a motion to amend the third Whereas clause to change “conflicts with” to “may conflict with”. This was accepted by Board Members Reed and Merritt as a friendly amendment.

Chair Villalobos made a motion to amend the fourth Whereas clause to read “Whereas Ordinance No. 20191205-070 authorized an amendment to the Holly Shores / Edward Rendon Sr. Park Master Plan without notification to the community and public stakeholders”. This was accepted by Board Members Reed and Merritt as a friendly amendment.

Chair Villalobos made a motion to amend the third clause of the recommendation to read “Direct the Parks and Recreation Dept. to provide a list of alternative locations for The Expedition School Concession taking into consideration the cultural and historical significance of the proposed alternative locations”. This was accepted by Board Members Reed and Merritt as a friendly amendment.

The motion to strike the seventh Whereas clause was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Board Member Becker’s second on an 8-1 vote with one vacancy. Those members voting aye were: Pedro Villalobos, Kathryn Flowers, Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Cathleen Eady, Jennifer Franklin, Nicole Merritt and Shelby Orme. Those members voting nay were: Holly Reed. Board Member Taylor absent.

The motion to strike the fourth, fifth and sixth clauses of the recommendation was approved on Chair Villalobos’ motion, Vice Chair Flowers’ second on a 7-2 vote with one vacancy. Those members voting aye were: Pedro Villalobos, Kathryn Flowers, Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Jennifer Franklin, Nicole Merritt and Shelby Orme. Those members voting nay were: Cathleen Eady and Holly Reed. Board Member Taylor absent.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to (1.) Review Council Ordinance No. 20191205-070 to determine if it is no longer appropriate and/or in violation of Austin’s City Charter and Municipal Code, (2.) Direct the Parks and Recreation Dept. to pause The Expedition School Parkland Improvement Donation Agreement, Concession Agreement and the Amendment to the Holly Shores / Edward Rendon Sr. Master Plan until November 30, 2024. Allow the community to review and comment on these agreements, (3.) Direct the Parks and Recreation Dept. to provide a list of alternative locations for The Expedition School Concession taking into consideration the cultural and historical significance of the proposed alternative locations, (4.) Direct the Parks and Recreation Dept. to examine any legal liability or legal risk that overturning Ordinance No. 20191205-070 poses to the City and request input from City Attorneys for any legal impact to the City, (5.) Determine if the PARD Director and Department reviewed and implemented Code Sections 8-1-14 and 8-1-73 and if so, provide a report with results to the Parks Board since the inception of the Expedition School Concession

Agreement, and (6.) Rescind Council Ordinance No. 20191205-070 if during this time it is determined to be no longer appropriate and/or in violation of City Charter and Municipal Code, and a suitable alternative location for the Expedition School Concession is not provided was approved on Board Member Reed's motion, Board Member Merritt's second, on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.

4. Presentation, discussion and approve a recommendation to Austin City Council to find that the Hays Common Municipal Utility District application is superior with respect to parkland dedication

Thomas Rowlinson, Principal Planner, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions about the parkland being dedicated, park maintenance, annexation plan, trail alignment and conservation easement.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to find that the Hays Common Municipal Utility District application is superior with respect to parkland dedication was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.

5. Discussion and approve appointments to the Parks and Recreation Board seat on the Joint Sustainability Committee.

Board Members discussed the current status of the Parks Board seat on the Joint Sustainability Committee, the JSC meeting schedule, the activity level of the Board and the hybrid nature of the JSC meetings.

The motion to appoint Lane Becker as the Primary and Shelby Orme as the secondary to the Parks and Recreation Board's seat on the Joint Sustainability Committee was approved on Chair Villalobos's motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Member Taylor absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

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

Angela Means, Parks and Recreation Director gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on the search for a permanent Parks and Recreation Director.

No action was taken on this item.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Reed – West Shoal Creek Trail landslide issues.

Chair Villalobos adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the September 23, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Board Member Merritt's motion, Board Reed's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Chair Villalobos absent.