



***PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024***

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on September 23, 2024 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas

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

Board Members in Attendance: Kathryn Flowers, Cathleen Eady, Nicole Merritt.

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Jennifer Franklin, Shelby Orme, Holly Reed, Kim Taylor.

Board Members Absent: Pedro Villalobos.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Diana Prechter – The Trail Conservancy Parkland Operation and Maintenance Agreement

Liz Barhydt - Austin Rowing Club

Laura Esparza - A3 Art Alliance Austin

Phillip Thomas - The Expedition School Rowing Dock

Bertha Rendon Delgado - The Expedition School Rowing Dock

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of August 26, 2024.

The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of August 26, 2024 was approved on Board Member Merritt's motion, Board Member Reed's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Chair Villalobos absent.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Presentation, discussion and approve letters of support for the PARD Youth Development Program, including Totally Cool Totally ART, Roving Leaders Youth Outreach, and Teens in Leadership Training.

Davin Bjornaas, Recreation Program Manager, Kelly Hasandras, Recreation Program Specialist, Brolyn Burrows, Recreation Program Specialist, and Demetrius Perry, Program Coordinator Gave a presentation and answered questions on opportunities for expanding and scaling these programs.

The motion to approve letters of support for the PARD Youth Development Program, including Totally Cool Totally ART, Roving Leaders Youth Outreach, and Teens in Leadership Training was approved on Board Member Eady's motion, Board Member Taylor's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Chair Villalobos absent.

3. Presentation, discussion and approve a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve adoption of the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum Historic, Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan.

Kim McKnight, Program Manager III, Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation and answered questions on the number of unique attendees that attended information sessions, opportunities for cyclists to visit the UMLAUF, amount of PARD funding and tree impacts.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve adoption of the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum Historic Preservation, Expansion and Unification Plan was approved on Vice Chair Flowers' motion, Board Member Merritt's second on a 9-0 vote with one Vacancy. Chair Villalobos absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

4. Staff briefing on the Palm Park community engagement process and results.

Lana Denkler, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, John Rigdon, Waterloo Greenway Conservancy, and Laura Cortez, Cortez Consulting gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on percentage of total contacts that came from the Creek Show, research on the demographics of the projected park users, and engagement with historic community members.

5. 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 on the passing of William Miller, Barton Springs Pool reopening, The Expedition School concession location and answered clarifying questions on The Expedition School construction project being put on hold.

No action was taken on this item.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

6. Presentation, discussion and approve a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the inter local agreement between AISD and the City of Austin to provide culture and language revitalization programs.

Board Members discussed the value of this program, the length of the agreement, and the discussion had among the Contracts and Concessions Committee.

The motion to recommend to Austin City Council to approve the inter local agreement between AISD and the City of Austin to provide culture and language revitalization programs was approved on Board Member Bazan's motion, Board Member Merritt's second on a 9-0 vote with one vacancy. Chair Villalobos absent.

7. Discussion and approve a recommendation on the recruitment of and the preferred qualifications for the next Parks and Recreation Department Director.

Board Members discussed input from parks partners and members of the public, the nature of the specific feedback that the Board received on this topic, the Board's ability to make recommendations to the Human Resources Department, the meaning of "preferred qualifications", the formatting of the recommendation, public trust, a broader for community input, and the available information based on existing public input.

The motion to approve the recommendation as posted in backup failed on Board Member Reed's motion, Board Member Taylor's second on a 2-6 vote with one vacancy. Those voting aye were Board Member Reed and Taylor. Those voting nay were Vice Chair Flowers, Board Members Bazan, Becker, Eady, Franklin and Merritt. Board Member Orme abstaining. Chair Villalobos absent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Merritt – Formation of a Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Working Group.

Reed – Shoal Creek Landslide Issues.

Vice Chair Flowers adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the October 28, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Merritt, Orme and Taylor absent.