



***PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2024***

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on October 28, 2024 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas

Chair Villalobos called the PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Jennifer Franklin.

Board Members Absent: Nicole Merritt, Shelby Orme, Kim Taylor.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

**Larry Akers - Hybrid Public Transit for Austin
Cathy Cocco - Hybrid Public Transit for Austin
Jerry Joe Benson - Sand Volleyball Facilities
Laura Esparza - Daugherty Arts Center Rehabilitation Project
Lucky Lemieux - Daugherty Arts Center Rehabilitation Project
Malcom Yeatts - East Riverside Oltorf Combined Contact Team
Ed Miller - East Riverside Oltorf Combined Contact Team
Diana Prechter - Trail of Lights Contracts
Aubrey Rudder - Austin Rowing Club**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of September 23, 2024.

The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of September 23, 2024 was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Merritt, Orme and Taylor absent.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Presentation, discussion and approve letters of support for the Park Ranger Program for their work as ambassadors for Austin's park system that promote responsible recreation, cultivate stewardship, and conserve parks' cultural and natural resources for the benefit of our community.

Amanda Ross, Natural Resources Division Manager, Parks and Recreation gave a presentation and answered questions on Scout the Dog, the number of full time Park Rangers and budgetary needs.

The motion to approve letters of support for the Park Ranger Program for their work as ambassadors for Austin's park system that promote responsible recreation, cultivate stewardship, and conserve parks' cultural and natural resources for the benefit of our community was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Merritt, Orme and Taylor absent.

3. Presentation, discussion and approve a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the permanent use and temporary use, not to exceed 420 days of parkland located at Salt Springs Neighborhood Park, 6401 E. William Cannon Drive, total mitigation fee is \$297,992.

Claudia Corsetti, Project Manager, Capital Delivery Service gave a presentation and answered questions on the number of protected trees which will be removed, the environmental impact study for this project, the current condition of the park and disruptions to neighborhood residents.

The motion to approve a recommendation to Austin City Council to approve the permanent use and temporary use, not to exceed 420 days of parkland located at Salt Springs Neighborhood Park, 6401 E. William Cannon Drive, total mitigation fee is \$297,992 was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Vice Chair Flowers' second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Merritt, Orme and Taylor absent.

4. Presentation, discussion and approve a recommendation to Austin City Council to adopt the Equity-Based Preservation Plan as an element of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

Cara Bertron, Program Manager II, Planning Department gave a presentation and answered questions on whether this plan will be implemented through the Historic Landmark Commission, incentives for preservation and the public contact process.

The motion to approve a recommendation to Austin City Council to adopt the Equity-Based Preservation Plan as an element of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan was approved on Vice Chair Flowers' motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Merritt, Orme and Taylor absent.

5. Discussion and approve a recommendation to Austin City Council to complete an audit of the agreements between the City and external organizations that manage maintenance and access to City-owned baseball and soccer fields.

Board Members discussed the maintenance contracts the City has with youth sports organizations, the length and structure of these contracts, changing community needs, and the intentions of those involved parties,

The motion to approve a recommendation to Austin City Council to complete an audit of the agreements between the City and external organizations that manage maintenance and access to City-owned baseball and soccer fields was approved on Board Member Becker's motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Merritt, Orme and Taylor absent.

6. Discussion and approval of setting the Parks and Recreation Board 2025 regular meeting schedule as the 4th Monday of each month, except May and December; and May 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Board members discussed September 22, 2025 is the first night of Rosh Hashanah.

The motion to move the September 2025 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting to September 29, 2025 was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Bazan's second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Merritt, Orme and Taylor absent.

The motion to set the Parks and Recreation Board 2025 regular meeting schedule as the 4th Monday of each month, except May, September and December; and May 19th and September 29th at 6:00 p.m. was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Reed's second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Merritt, Orme and Taylor absent.

7. Discussion and approval of the creation of a Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Working Group.

Board Members discussed the success of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Working Group.

The motion to create a Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Working Group to be led by Board Member Merritt was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Becker's second on a 7-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Merritt, Orme and Taylor absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

8. Staff briefing on work associated with the Shoal Creek Landslide Area and other Shoal Creek Trail projects.

Lindsey Machamer gave a presentation and answered questions on the size of the connectivity gaps, constructing an additional bridge, and meetings between the City and the community.

No action was taken on this item.

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

Angela Means, Interim Parks and Recreation Director gave a briefing and answered clarifying questions on parkland agreements.

No action was taken on this item.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

10. Update from the City-Owned Baseball Fields Working Group regarding recent and upcoming working group meetings and upcoming recommendation language.

Board Member Becker provided an update on the recent recommendation to City Council and inviting guests to join the working group.

11. Update on the Joint Sustainability Committee regarding natural systems working group budget recommendations.

Board Member Becker gave an update on upcoming budget recommendations and natural systems.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Flowers – Swimming lessons on the East Side and at Bartholomew Pool.

Chair Villalobos adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the November 25, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Board Member Franklin's motion, Board Member Eady's second on a 8-0 vote with one vacancy. Board Members Orme and Villalobos absent.