Austin

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
***REGULAR* MEETING**
MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2026

The PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD convened in a REGULAR meeting on OCTOBER 26, 2026 at 301 W 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

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

Board Members in Attendance: Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Luai Abou-Emara, Ted Eubanks, Jennifer Franklin, Diane Kearns-Osterweil.
Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Nicole Merritt, Maritza Kelley, Kim Taylor (Left meeting at 9:10 p.m.).
Board Members Absent: Shelby Orme, Pedro Villalobos.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Chris Flores - Removing APR Internal Silos
Richard Brimer – Dog's Head agreement
Gail Rothe – Parking on Zilker Polo Field
Omair Sarwar - Off leash dog park at South Austin Neighborhood Park
Leslie Ivey - Adult Recreation Leagues
Aubrea Rudder - Austin Rowing Club
Alyssa Vargas - It's My Park Day
Santiago Tza Wan - I-35 expansion and boardwalk project
Phil Thomas - Zilker Park concerns

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of September 28, 2026.

   The motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting of September 28, 2026 was approved on Board Member Eubanks' motion, Board Member Abou-Emara's second on a 9-0 vote. Board Member Orme and Villalobos absent.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Presentation, discussion and approve letters of support for Austin Parks and Recreation's Community Recreation staff who worked to create the MLS GO youth soccer program.

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David Crabb, Community Recreation Division Manager and Delano Brown, Recreation District Manager, Austin Parks and Recreation gave a presentation and answered questions on age ranges, including kids with disabilities, and year-over-year enrollment.

The motion to approve letters of support for Austin Parks and Recreation's Community Recreation staff who worked to create the MLS GO youth soccer program was approved on Vice Chair Becker's motion, Board Member Franklin's second on a 9-0 Vote. Board Members Orme and Villalobos absent.

3. Presentation, discussion, and approve a recommendation for City Council to authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Austin Independent School District to support the Literacy First Program and Tutoring Intervention Program for a 12-month term though September 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed $100,000, with four 12-month renewal options in amounts not to exceed $100,000 per renewal option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed $500,000.

David Crabb, Community Recreation Division Manager, Austin Parks and Recreation gave a presentation and answered questions on whether this is a new program, and schools where Literacy First is no longer offered.

The motion to approve a recommendation for City Council to authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Austin Independent School District to support the Literacy First Program and Tutoring Intervention Program for a 12-month term though September 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed $100,000, with four 12-month renewal options in amounts not to exceed $100,000 per renewal option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed $500,000 was approved on Board Member Eubanks' motion, Board Member Franklin's second on a 9-0 vote. Board Members Orme and Villalobos absent.

4. Presentation, discussion and approve a recommendation for City Council to authorize a change in use of dedicated parkland, known as Waller Beach at Town Lake Metro Park (East Avenue,) to permanently use approximately 7,475 sq. ft. and temporarily use approximately 3,590 sq. ft. of parkland in order to construct Austin Water infrastructure and associated improvements, related to the IH-35 CapEx Project. Funding: This item includes a mitigation payment in the amount of $1,055,440 from Austin Water to Austin Parks and Recreation and, as a result, there is no impact to the General Fund.

Zach Somberg, Planner Senior, Austin Parks and Recreation; Mark Stenko, Project Manager, WSP, and; Kevin Koeller, Managing Engineer, Austin Water gave a presentation and answered questions on whether these items are brought to the Board at a time when multiple project which impact parkland are ongoing, the wastewater line, noting on future agendas that these mitigation payments are attached to Chapter 26, and section 106.

The motion to approve a recommendation for City Council to authorize a change in use of dedicated parkland, known as Waller Beach at Town Lake Metro Park (East Avenue,) to permanently use approximately 7,475 sq. ft. and temporarily use approximately 3,590 sq. ft. of parkland in order to construct Austin Water infrastructure and associated improvements, related to the IH-35 CapEx Project. Funding: This item includes a mitigation payment in the amount of $1,055,440 from Austin Water to Austin Parks and Recreation and, as a result, there is no impact to the General Fund was approved on Vice

Chair Becker's motion, Board Member Taylor's second on an 8-1 vote. Those voting aye were Chair Bazan, Vice Chair Becker, Board Members Abou-Emara, Franklin, Kearns-Osterweil, Kelley, Merritt and Taylor. Those voting nay were Board Member Eubanks. Board Members Orme and Villalobos absent.

5. Presentation, discussion and approve a recommendation for City Council to approve the Operations and Maintenance Phase Plan for Pease District Park.

Christine Chute-Canul, PARKnership Program Coordinator, Austin Parks and Recreation and Nicole Netherton, CEO, Pease Park Conservancy gave a presentation and answered questions on the annual maintenance plan, the landslide blocking the Shoal Creek Trail, fencing, and issues concerning reporting and POMAs.

The motion to recommend for City Council to approve the Operations and Maintenance Phase Plan for Pease District Park was approved on Chair Bazan's motion, Board Member Eubanks' second on an 8-0 vote. Board Members Orme, Talor and Villal0bos absent.

6. Discussion and approve setting the Parks and Recreation Board 2027 regular meeting schedule as the 4th Monday of each month, except December, at 6:00 p.m.

The motion to approve setting the Parks and Recreation Board 2027 regular meeting schedule as the 4th Monday of each month, except December, at 6:00 p.m. was approved on Board Member Eubanks' motion, Board Member Kearns-Osterweil's second on an 8-0 vote. Board Members Orme, Taylor and Villalobos absent.

7. Discussion and create a working group to partner with the Givens community on developing a feasibility plan for a commercial kitchen at the Givens Recreation Center.

Board Members discussed the difference between a commercial kitchen and community kitchen.

The motion to create a working group to partner with the Givens community on developing a feasibility plan for a commercial kitchen at the Givens Recreation Center to include Board Members Eubanks, Kelley, Orme and Franklin was approved on Board Member Eubanks' motion, Vice Chair Becker's second on an 8-0 vote. Board Members Orme, Taylor and Villalobos absent.

8. Discussion and create a working group related to the preservation, conservation, restoration and sustainability of Zilker Park.

Board Member Eubanks gave a presentation and Board Members discussed the structure of the working group, quorum requirements, TOMA, public engagement, public representation, the scope of this working group, inclusion, The Zilker Park Vision Plan, spirit and intent, park condition, and existing avenues for members of the public to share their opinions.

There was a motion by Board Member Eubanks, seconded by Board Member Abou-Emara to create a working group related to the preservation, conservation, restoration and sustainability of Zilker Park.

There was superseding motion by Chair Bazan to table the item until later in the meeting that was then withdrawn without a second.

The motion to create a working group with the following friendly amendment was made by Board Member Eubanks', seconded by Board Member Abou-Emara, and approved on a 6-0 vote. Chair Bazan and Board Member Merritt abstaining. Board Member Kelley off dais due to technical issues. Board Members Orme and Villalobos absent. The friendly amendment from Board Member Eubanks was to change the purpose of the working group to: "develop a report informed by public input on ensuring a sustainable future for Zilker Park, examples of topics to address include but are not limited to issues of historical preservation, erosion, land use, park condition and public access" which was accepted as friendly by Board Member Abou-Emara who seconded the original motion.

9. Discussion and approve an appointment to the Parks and Recreation Board's seat on the Joint Sustainability Committee.

Board Members discussed that Board Member Orme is the alternate for the Parks and Recreation Board's seat on the Joint Sustainability Committee, and whether Board Member Orme is interested in serving as primary.

The motion to appoint Board Member Ted Eubanks to the Parks and Recreation Board's seat on the Joint Sustainability Committee was approved on Chair Bazan's motion, Board Member Abou-Emara's second on an 8-0 vote. Board Members Orme, Taylor and Villalobos absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Discussion on adult athletic leagues.

Board Members discussed the need for a comprehensive approach, identifying a clear path, unhappiness regarding this change, the Boards options to act, adding this to the next budget recommendation, and the need for a recommendation to come back to the full Board.

No action was taken on this item.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

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

Jesús Aguirre, Austin Parks and Recreation Director gave a presentation and answered clarifying questions on the Kaboom grant.

No action was taken on this item.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Kelley – Skate parks.

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Eubanks – Environmental Commission's recommendation on Dog's Head that specifically relates to parks.

The motion to waive the rules and allow the Parks and Recreation Board to meet after 10:00 p.m. was approved on Chair Bazan's motion, Vice Chair Becker's second on an 8-0 vote. Board Member Orme, Taylor and Villalobos absent.

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

These minutes were approved at the DATE Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Board Member NAME motion, Board Member NAME second on a VOTE.

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