

ZNA ExComm minutes July 6, 2015 at Umlauf Sculpture Gardens

Members in attendance:

Dave Piper, David King, Lorraine Atherton, Gardner Sumner, Bill Neale

Bobby Rigney, Zoning Committee member, also attended.

Old Business:

1. Approved unanimously the minutes from the June 1 Ex Comm meeting.
2. Membership Report – Lorraine
3. Treasurer Report – David King
4. ZNA Watermelon Social – Dave Floyd says that he's working on getting a couple of sponsors.
5. Friends of Little Zilker Park (FLZP) – Report by Lorraine. See appendix A.

Lorraine reported on past, present, and future phases of the FLZP Master Plan. The bulk of project identified in 2007 have been completed. Working to get the plan adopted by PARD, which would include public input. Lorraine moved to appoint Heather Way and Carlene South to FLZP Steering Committee. Second by Dave P. Approved unanimously.

The report (Appendix A) and appointment of Heather and Carlene satisfy the conditions voted on at the June 1 ExComm meeting for the release of \$5,000 into the FLZP account that is managed by the Austin Parks Foundation, and David King will do that.

New Business:

1. July ZNews Newsletter Lineup – Discussed possible subjects for articles..
2. ZNA Committee Reports:
 - o Bylaws – Lorraine presented the Bylaws Committee Report. Lorraine moved to accept items 1-5 of the Bylaws Report and that the ExComm does not purchase liability insurance and that ZNA not change filing status with the IRS. Seconded by Bill Neale and approved unanimously. (See Appendix B.)
 - o Zoning – Bill Neale reported on various issues including the sale of alcohol with regard to zoning districts.
 1. Parks and Environment – Gardner Sumner moved that ZNA make a recommendation to the City urging additional resources to help neighborhoods control oak wilt. Seconded by Lorraine, approved unanimously.
 2. David King moved that ZNA spend \$382 for oak wilt signs to be distributed as needed. Bill seconded, approved unanimously.

- David King moves that ZNA make a recommendation for upholding watershed and tree protections in the new land development code. Bill seconded, approved unanimously.
 1. Transportation and Mobility – David King will notify listserve that public input phase ends July 17 for the South Lamar Corridor Study.
- 1. Treadwell Street-- Neighbors working on RPPs.
- 2. David King reported on the effort to rename Robert E Lee Street. ZNA is not involved.

Appendix A-- FLZP report

Friends of Little Zilker Neighborhood Park

Report to ZNA, July 2015

Attached: Mission Statement, current Austin Parks Foundation account statement, PARC Community-initiated Improvement Project application

FLZP steering committee, ZNA appointees through Sept. 2015

These volunteers have agreed to guide completion of Phase II of the Master Plan as described below and to organize a workday or other work schedule to maintain the trees planted under Phase I (tree wells, mulching, and watering as recommended by PARC staff) over the next three months.

Gina Diehl (chair of the steering committee), Lorraine Atherton, Amy Spiro

Nominees: Heather Way and Carlene South

Status of Little Zilker Neighborhood Park Master Plan

Little Zilker Park Master Plan Phase I

In May 2007 the Zilker Neighborhood Association (ZNA) and Zilker Elementary School PTA conducted a community workshop to create a master plan for Little Zilker Neighborhood Park. The planning exercise was funded by ZNA's portion of a donation from the Rolling Stones concert in October 2006. The resulting draft plan, produced by TBG Partners, included:

- Redesign the running track to move it all onto City property and to bring it up to park standards. It would be a quarter mile and could have exercise stations along the way.
- Irrigate some of the area and add drinking fountains.
- Plant trees around the track, along the south property line, and in other selected locations in the park.
- Add a tennis court backboard.
- Relight the ballfield.

along with numerous other ideas from the forum. The plan identified the area surrounding the ADA ramp on Bluebonnet Lane as a priority for improvement, with an entryway or gateway, shaded seating and picnic tables, and nature- or child-oriented art.

Much of this initial plan was completed within a year. From October 2007 ZNews:

"Since our last report (*Z-News*, July 2007) on the master plan for the park next to Zilker Elementary (affectionately known as Little Zilker Park), the steering committee has made great progress. Because we already had a draft master plan to guide us, the committee (made up of ZNA members, PTA and school reps, and other neighbors) was able to apply for a new Public Health grant as soon as the program became available this summer. As a result, new soccer goals should be installed on the playing field behind the school in November, and equipment is being purchased for some of the exercise stations planned along the Little Zilker running track. At the same time, the parks department has committed to a substantial investment in the realignment and resurfacing of the track and scheduled it for completion during the winter break. These generous contributions from city departments, combined with the \$31,500 from last year's Stones concert, will implement more of the master plan more quickly than expected. Of course, much more remains to be done. You can view the complete master plan for the park at the ZNA Web site, main.org/znaweb, or if you are a member of the Zilker Yahoo group, look in the Photo file on the home page."

From the Oct 2008 ZNews:

"The city park next to Zilker Elementary, what many of us call Little Zilker Park, now has a new quarter-mile track, an irrigation system, exercise equipment, and new trees. The ZNA park committee that oversaw the creation of a park master plan last year has been reorganized as the Friends of Zilker Neighborhood Park (FZNP) and formally includes folks from the school's PTA and faculty. Special thanks go to Heather Way, who has guided the group through its formative stages; to Gardner Sumner, ZNA's Parks and Environment chair; and to city parks staff, whose generous assistance has made the original Rolling Stones contribution go much farther than we imagined. The ongoing tree planting effort is being led by Kim McKnight and Gardner. . . .

The FZNP steering committee has lots of great projects planned for our neighborhood and school park this fall and winter. One project will be to come up with a name for the park (we have been calling it Little Zilker). While you are thinking about names, come help us plant 54 trees on November 1 (see the volunteer info to the right). We will also need help to purchase and install picnic tables and benches, purchase and install playground equipment, and create a tile mosaic."

From the April 2009 ZNews:

"More wonderful additions to the park over the past three months include: a new playscape near the basketball courts (thanks to AISD), a chimney swift tower (see the February *ZNews*), a tile mosaic, a set of picnic tables, and benches."

By 2009, more than 100 new trees had been planted in the park and on the school campus, and FLZP had to organize much of its volunteer efforts around establishing those trees through worsening drought conditions.

Those projects can be considered Phase I of the Master Plan implementation.

Little Zilker Park Master Plan Phase II

In April 2008, FLZP conducted the "Zilker Neighborhood Park Gateway and Safety Survey" to gather detailed input from the neighborhood and school community regarding the Bluebonnet Lane entrance to the park. From the survey, FLZP determined that parents and teachers were especially uncomfortable with the long, straight run of the ramp down the length of the playscape to the street. There was a desire for an attractive separation of play areas around the tennis courts and playscape

from the street, without actually fencing off the park and school grounds or obstructing visibility. In response to the survey, the FLZP's Gateway subcommittee proposed and installed a low split-rail fence bordering the trail in front of the tennis courts. The subcommittee also proposed an ambitious plan to reconfigure the ADA ramp and connect the open areas along Bluebonnet Lane; its design stage was included in the FZNP workplan for 2009-10, with \$5000 of Rolling Stones funds tentatively budgeted to the project.

Other projects included in FLZP's 2009-10 workplan (considered Phase II of the Master Plan) were a new drinking fountain near the Ann Arbor playscape, art projects near Bluebonnet, removal of old lights and wires from light poles around the playing field, and a butterfly garden near the library. A 2009 application for an Austin City Limits Music Festival grant for the water fountain, ramp project, and public art was not funded, but FLZP found other funding and volunteer contributions to complete the water fountain, field lights, and garden.

Beginning in 2011, the Executive Committee of ZNA has dedicated a minimum of \$5000 from ZNA's Rolling Stones funds to the ramp reconfiguration project, based on a rough draft of the project. Since the rebuild of the Bluebonnet playscape has been completed, FLZP volunteers have been refining the design of the ADA ramp. Last month, FLZP submitted a Community-initiated Improvement Project application to PARD for a reconfigured ADA ramp and new seating area adjacent to the Bluebonnet playscape. Gina Diehl and Lorraine Atherton will be meeting with PARD staff this week to determine the best way to complete the ramp project.

At the same time, Heather Way has been guiding a proposal to resurface the tennis courts. PARD has included Little Zilker in a citywide program to upgrade courts, and we expect the project to be completed this year.

The upgrade of the tennis courts and reconfiguration of the ADA ramp, along with the Ann Arbor sidewalk, bikeway on Bluebonnet, and garden and sustainability projects on the school campus, will complete Phase II of the current Master Plan.

Little Zilker Park Master Plan Update

In discussions with PARD staff, it has been suggested that the coming year will be a good time to incorporate all the completed improvements into the Master Plan and present the updated plan to the community for another workshop or charette. (A major feature of the park that still needs to be addressed is the turf, erosion, and maintenance of the open playing field, which has suffered greatly during the drought.) The goal will be to produce a Master Plan that can be formally adopted by PARD and the Parks Board.

(See additional PDF titled "FLZP addendum 1")

Appendix B-- Zilker Neighborhood Association Bylaws Committee Report

April 15, 2015

Committee Members: Chair Elizabeth Yevich (replacing Jacob Scheick, who has resigned), David King, Lorraine Atherton, Sabrena Wright

Present on April 15: Elizabeth Yevich, David King, Lorraine Atherton

The Bylaws Committee does not recommend any bylaws amendments at this time.

We reviewed the following questions:

1. Does the 15-member quorum requirement in Article V, Section 1 of the bylaws apply to the Executive Committee? The Committee has always operated with the understanding that a majority of elected Officers and Committee Chairs is required to conduct business and vote at Committee meetings.

No, the 15 member quorum does not apply to Executive Committee meetings. Article IX designates Roberts Rules of Order Revised as ZNA's parliamentary authority. Roberts Rules clearly states that committees set their own quorum, agenda, and other rules for discussion. They are not subject to the procedural rules of a general meeting.

2. Do the bylaws preclude the Executive Committee from taking action on zoning or other matters that affect members or properties within the boundaries of the Association between meetings of the Committee or the General Membership?

No, the bylaws do not preclude the Executive Committee from taking action between regular meetings. Article VIII Section 1 "Executive Powers" specifically states that the executive committee "shall" conduct business "in the intervals between regular meetings." The bylaws do not limit the number or timing of the meetings of the executive committee. Under Section 2, the committee "shall meet upon the call of the president or upon the call of three committee members."

3. Do the bylaws preclude the Executive Committee from voting by email on a limited basis between meetings?

No, the bylaws do not preclude the Executive Committee from voting by email. Roberts Rules, however, recommends that such votes be limited to questions that have already been thoroughly discussed and essentially resolved. A good example is the email voting procedure we established for building permit appeals that met certain criteria. The bylaws committee recommends that such votes be reported at the next meeting of the executive committee and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

4. Do the bylaws preclude the general membership from voting online?

Yes. See Roberts Rules section on "Absentee Voting": "It is a fundamental principle of parliamentary law that the right to vote is limited to the members of an organization who are actually present at the time the vote is taken in a regular or properly called meeting." Exceptions to that principle must be stated in the bylaws, and ZNA's bylaws contain no such exceptions. ZNA does not meet any of the criteria that would cause an organization to adopt absentee voting (members are not scattered across a wide geographic area, membership is not mandatory, no members are elected to represent particular groups of people or other organizations, membership is not based on shares), and so the Bylaws Committee does not recommend that we consider any form of absentee voting.

5. Should the bylaws be amended to change ZNA's status as an unincorporated nonprofit association?

No. The Bylaws Committee discussed this from the perspective of (I.) liability insurance and (II.) federal tax status.