

Minutes of Aldermanic Parks Meeting  
February 11, 1969

The regular monthly meeting of the Aldermanic Parks Committee was held Tuesday, February 11, 1969 at 2:00 P.M. in Committee Room No.2, City Hall. Present were Aldermen Charlie Leftwich, Chairman, Douglas L. Fowlkes, Vice Chairman, and G. Everett Millican. Also present were Messrs. Jack C. Delius, General Manager of Parks and Recreation, J. D. Chamblee, Parks Maintenance Superintendent, A. P. Brindley, Parks Engineer, Edwin Vaughn, Office Manager, Jim Davey, Golf Pro at Bobby Jones Golf Course, and Mr. Henry England, Foreman of Bobby Jones. Miss Virginia Carmichael, Director of Recreation, and Miss Jimmie Mims, Assistant Director of Recreation, were also present.

Chairman Leftwich called the meeting to order and the minutes of the last regular meeting of January 14, 1969, as well as the minutes of a called meeting of February 3, 1969, were approved.

Mr. Gene Hay, Public Links Committeeman for the United States Golf Association, appeared first before the Committee. He made a request on behalf of his organization that the City of Atlanta allow the use of one of the City's golf courses for the purpose of a City Public Links Championship playoff in 1969, with the City Champion from this competition to go to the National Competition, which would be held on June 17, 1969. Mr. Hay told the Committee this would necessitate closing whichever City golf course would be used for two days; one day would be for the Sectional Qualifying Rounds and one day for the Amateur Public Links Championship. Mr. Hay also asked that the greens fees be waived for those participating in the competition. Committee asked Mr. Hay if members of private clubs were eligible for this competition. Mr. Hay replied that they were not eligible and it was also mentioned that private clubs do have their own championships. Since the National Competition is held June 17, it was thought the City Qualifying Rounds and Championship playoff should be held sometime in May or June prior to and well in advance of the National Competition. It was also mentioned that these two days should be weekdays. Mr. Hay was thanked for coming before the Committee and advised that it would be discussed further in Executive Session.

Mr. Frank Cantrell, 4930 Roswell Road, Atlanta, Georgia appeared before the Committee to request permission to put on some rock and roll shows at the building that is presently occupied by Municipal Theater at Chastain Memorial Park. This is the building, it was explained, that Municipal Theater still owes a large balance on. Mr. Delius mentioned that Municipal Theater's General Manager, Mr. Chris Manos, had called his office on January 28, 1969, stating that their original debt had amounted to around \$30,000.00 - that they had paid it down to \$19,000.00 and would like a chance to finish paying this debt. If it developed that the lease with Municipal Theater was not renewed, it was stated that the Parks and Recreation Department had great need of the building. Mr. Chamblee said the Parks Department needs additional storage space at Chastain Memorial Park, and Miss Carmichael stated that the Recreation Division could also make good use of the building if it became available. The Committee explained to Mr. Cantrell that

many groups had requested use of the building but even if Municipal Theater vacates the building, it was not likely that any of these requests would be granted since the City has need of the building. Mr. Cantrell was thanked for appearing before the Committee and told he would be advised if the situation changed.

Next to appear before the Committee was Mr. Carl Flint, of 1346 Peach Valley Road, Atlanta, Georgia. It was explained that he had written to Alderman Leftwich concerning twenty to forty acres in front of his home. Mr. Delius mentioned that this acreage was actually Daniel Johnson Park. Mr. Flint explained that he had written in regard to keeping a horse on the land and that there were very few children of "park age" in the vicinity. He also stated that there was a sewer problem on the acreage, that he had "been killing larvae and skimmers...." Alderman Millican said we would have to check the sewage problem. Chairman Leftwich suggested that Alderman Millican go by and check it and that he would also go by and look at it. Mr. Brindley told the Committee that he believed this land consisted of eight to twelve acres but that the boundaries were vague - that at one time the former Parks Manager, Mr. Simons, had tried to find the boundaries. Chairman Leftwich stated that he would like for the General Manager to check the deed and that we should try to find just where the property lines are and look into reopening the development of this park. He also told Mr. Flint that the Park might be restricted to park use. Mr. Flint was thanked for coming to the meeting.

At this time, Mr. Delius introduced Mr. Edwin Vaughn, new Office Manager for the Parks Department, to the Committee, who wished him good luck in his new job.

The General Manager informed the Committee that the Showmobile will be put to a new use for the public as a voting booth in an area known as Johnson Estates.

Mr. Delius told the Committee that a citizen, Mr. J. M. Ford, III, had complained sometime ago about an incident at the Bobby Jones Golf Course, and that it had been discussed with the Committee before. However, Alderman Cook wanted more details on the incident and so the General Manager had asked the Golf Pro, Mr. Davey, the Foreman, Mr. England, and any other employees they thought necessary, to attend today's meeting in order to discuss the incident. According to our information, Mr. Delius explained, this citizen was apparently told that he could not let his five-year-old son accompany him on the course, but later said he was advised if he would rent an electric golf cart that permission could be granted. The citizen was indignant since he felt that it would be as dangerous for his son to accompany him in a cart as it would be otherwise. Both Messrs. Davey and England reiterated what they had said in October (when the matter was first discussed), that they knew nothing whatsoever about the incident. However, the Golf Starter, who had come to the meeting, stated that he might have said something that was misunderstood. He said that he had told a citizen (who had been accompanied by a child) that he had heard of another golf course near Marietta where apparently children could accompany adults on the course. He explained that he understood this was a semi-private course. Alderman Millican stated that if anyone had talked rudely to the man or if anyone thought

this had happened, that we write a letter of apology. However, the Committee reaffirmed its position on the regulations prohibiting non-players on the golf course. It was mentioned that in the past there had been many citizens who followed golfers, placing bets, etc. The fact that non-players also crowd the course, slowing down the game, as well as the element of danger in being hit with a golf ball, was discussed. The Committee Members asked Mr. Davey, the Golf Pro, if these regulations regarding non-players were posted in a prominent place in the clubhouse and Mr. Davey replied that they were. He also stated that many times a golfer will make all arrangements to play and that the children who accompany them will not appear until the golfer is ready to tee off, apparently having been kept in the golfer's automobile until he is ready to play. Apparently, this has been a problem for the employees at the golf courses who wish to carry out the rules without offending any citizens. It was decided that, if a citizen had been offended, a letter should be written to him apologizing for any rudeness, but that the regulations be adhered to. Committee thanked Messrs. Davey and England for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Delius told the Committee he would like permission to request a resolution authorizing sick leave amounting to ten days over and above accumulated sick time in the instance of two Parks employees: Mr. Roger O. Stroupe, Position Number 282, Equipment Operator I, and Mr. Cooper Landers, Position Number 479, Equipment Operator I. He explained that they had been faithful employees in the Parks Department and each had experienced a siege of sickness that had used all their sick leave. Committee granted request.

The General Manager told the Committee that \$6,000.00 additional funds were needed to solve the heating problem in the Reptile House and that Mr. Fred Shepherd, Building Inspector, had concurred in this. Committee authorized request.

Dale Creek Park was discussed and the fact that there were very few records on it. Committee authorized a resolution for the City Attorney to have a title report made on this property fronting on the north-easterly side of Dale Creek Drive between Forest Ridge Drive and Collier Ridge Drive in order to determine the property lines.

The General Manager told the Committee that the recreation programs the Parks and Recreation Department had attempted to have in the Morningside School area had apparently conflicted with the wishes of residents, including the principal, and that we had been told these citizens didn't want such activities as dances, etc., which would bring about "boy/girl relationships at such an early age," and that after reviewing the complaints with the Recreation staff, had moved the program to Garden Hills where we do have a building. It was thought that if the community should change its opinion, a meeting could be held with all parties involved to work out some type of suitable program.



Mr. Delius informed the Committee that the Parks Engineer, Mr. Brindley, had now designed a historical marker for "The Battle of Ezra Church." Originally it had been planned for either Mozley or Anderson Park, but Mr. Delius said he had been told by Mr. Rembert, a former City Services Coordinator for the Dixie Hills area, that there were very strong feelings among young Negroes in that area against the placing of any Civil War markers in these parks. However, Mr. Delius said that he had been advised by Mr. Beverly DuBose that it might be possible to have a small part of Westview Cemetery for this marker and that it would be appropriate since this area was actually a part of the battle. Mr. Delius was asked to contact the proper people to see if this could be done.

Mr. Delius presented a letter from Thompson and Hancock Architects regarding the proposed Cyclorama building. The letter stated that both architectural groups that had been selected to work on this project were now in agreement as to just how they would proceed and who would be in charge of the various phases. The letter stated that Mr. R. H. Thompson, of Thompson and Hancock, would be the Project Manager, while Mr. Bill Finch, of Finch, Alexander, Barnes, Rothchild, and Paschal Architects, would be the Project Architect. The letter stated that the work would be performed at 3033 Maple Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, and that the City would shortly receive another letter with further details. Committee asked Mr. Delius to request a similar letter from the firm of Finch, Alexander, Barnes, Rothchild, and Paschal Architects stating the same agreements as are stated in the letter from Thompson and Hancock. They also instructed Mr. Delius to ask Mr. Weis Snell, who at the present time is cleaning and restoring the foreground of the Cyclorama, to head up the moving of this ground work whenever the project is far enough along for this to be done.

Committee discussed the White Alms House at Chastain Memorial Park and the fact that ballet is still being practiced there despite the condemnation of the building by the City Building Inspector. The General Manager was instructed to write a letter to the Fulton County Manager with copy to go to Mr. Bill Wofford, City Building Inspector, reminding him that the City has condemned the building as being unsafe for such activity, and restating our position that it should be repaired or demolished. Also go on record that the City assumes no responsibility for any injuries that may be sustained due to such program. It was thought that the City could be placed in a very embarrassing position if someone should be injured here after the City has condemned the building.

The General Manager told the Committee he had received a request from Mr. Charles D. Hurt, Jr., a member of the Junior League of Atlanta, that the City consider converting the old Cyclorama building into a Children's Museum when the new building is finished to house the painting. A possible museum was discussed. The General Manager said he would like to see a new museum along with the new building for the display of Civil War items appropriate to the painting. Alderman Fowlkes said it would depend on the cost and that we would know more whenever the architects are able to give us an idea of what it will cost. Committee was of the opinion that it is too early to know what disposition will be made of the old building.

The Adamsville Health Center was discussed briefly. It was suggested that the General Manager might write to the County officials, telling them "the twenty years is up and the City could use the building".

The General Manager told the Committee he was very pleased with the new City Arborist, Mr. C. M. Alexander, and that the Arborist seems to be very tactful in approaching citizens and yet is protective of the trees as well. He stated that we now have the capacity to maintain trees that are planted for downtown beautification and would like to write to the Women's Chamber of Commerce regarding this. Committee was agreeable.

Committee again discussed the building erected at Chastain Memorial Park by Municipal Theater. The General Manager was asked to determine the exact amount of indebtedness owed on the building by Municipal Theater - the original amount of the debt and how much has been paid. The Aldermen agreed that since Mr. Manos had expressed a strong wish to stay and pay off this debt, that this would probably be the right thing to do. But they voiced very strong opinions to the effect that if Municipal Theater were allowed to stay on in the building, a definite time limit should be set on when they would liquidate this indebtedness. They felt this should be one of the conditions - that perhaps a time limit of no more than five years be stipulated. Mr. Delius informed the Committee that in the meantime, the City Attorney had given the Department of Parks instructions not to allow anyone to do anything at all to the building, even to drive a nail, until this is settled.

Mr. Delius mentioned an article that should be framed and put in the new Cyclorama Museum. He explained that this is an untitled piece of poetry written during the Civil War on the back of a Confederate bill. It was suggested that it be sealed with a water proof plastic or finish by perhaps the Perma-Seal Plaque Company to preserve it. Committee agreed.

The Committee went into Executive Session and the golf competition was discussed. Committee agreed to waive the greens fees for the entrants in this event. Mr. Delius told the Committee that Mr. Gene Hay had returned a check in the amount of \$277.63 made payable to the City of Atlanta, which represented a refund from the grant of \$800.00 made by the Citizens Park Advisory Committee for the Atlanta Golf Team participating in the National Amateur Public Links Championship. He requested permission to deposit this back into City funds. Committee had no objection to this.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.