

MINUTES
CITY OF BROOKINGS
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
November 3, 1971

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ettinger. Those attending were Marshall Hoppin, Ron Westernen, Dellis Oliver, Lee Hansen, Elmer Lee and Mayor Williams.

Minutes of special meeting October 25, 1971 were read.

Lower area off Easy is to be picnic area with tables and benches. Upper area to be fenced. If lumber can be acquired, the school shop likely will build tables and benches as a shop project.

Elmer Lee will check prices on fencing from several companies.

Possibly six 8 foot tables will be needed for the one area - three for the other.

Barrels and liners for litter was discussed, probably five needed.

Ron Westernen will check on lumber, garbage barrels and shop at school for building tables.

Lee Hansen will check steel pipes for playground equipment. Mayor to check with contractors for fill.

Lee Hansen MOVED and Dellis Oliver seconded Motion to meet at 7:30 p.m. Motion was approved.

MOTION made by Marshall Hoppin, seconded by Lee Hansen that meetings be first Wednesday of month from now on.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Arlean Ettinger
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Lottie Clark
SECRETARY

Earth Watch

Worldwide Environment Notes

Instant Playgrounds

NEW YORK.

A PORTABLE playground composed of ten colorful, unconventionally shaped units that can be set up in half an hour was tried out this summer on city play streets by the Police Athletic League, a local group that runs a recreational program for underprivileged children.

Made of strong synthetic materials, some components are flexible, some rigid. Flexible units, filled with plastic foam or air, stretch, squash, and twist when yanked, climbed, pummeled, and jumped on. Rigid units serve as construction elements and playhouses. Some components are washable and can be painted on. One element, containing a sound device, emits duck and goose calls when stepped on.

The complete playground occupies 2,500 square feet when assembled and accommodates up to 125 children at one time. When not in use, the units fit into a storage space six feet high and ten feet square.

The equipment was designed as a portable environment by Sheila Berkley, a young artist who has worked with inflatable sculpture. She interested the New York State Urban Development Corporation in financing the prototype model to test its usefulness for inner-city areas where permanent recreation space is at a premium. The State Council on the Arts, which saw in the units a means of fostering "participatory art," exhibited some components in up-state museums.

Now in commercial production, the equipment is being distributed by Portable Playgrounds/Sheila Berkley, Inc., 11 West 42nd Street, New York City.

Environmental Impact on TV Ads

WASHINGTON.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, a national organization dedicated to preservation of the environment, has won a court ruling that television commercials for large-engine automobiles and leaded high-test gasoline must be balanced by messages informing the public that by polluting the air those products pose a threat to health.

The decision, handed down by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, overturned by a 2-to-1 vote a ruling of the Federal Communications Commission.

The crucial question in the case was the scope of the Commission's "fairness doctrine," which requires broadcasters to present contrasting points of view on "controversial issues of public importance."

Friends of the Earth argued that powerful cars and high-test gasoline should be considered health hazards comparable to cigarettes, previously ruled within the reach of the fairness doctrine.

Among its counter-arguments, the FCC affirmed that cigarettes "are a unique product" and that extending the cigarette ruling "generally to the field of product advertising" would "undermine the present [broadcast] system,

which is based on product commercials, many of which have some adverse ecological effects."

In finding for Friends of the Earth, the majority judges held that "Commercials which continue to insinuate that the human personality finds greater fulfillment in the large car with the quick getaway do, it seems to us, ventilate a point of view which not only has become controversial but involves an issue of public importance.

"When there is undisputed evidence, as there is here," the opinion continued, "that the hazards to health implicit in air pollution are enlarged and aggravated by such products, then the parallel with cigarette advertising is exact. . . ."

Two courses of action are now open to the FCC. It can implement the mandate of the appeals court that broadcasters inform the public of the polluting effects of big cars and high-test gasoline, or it can seek review by the United States Supreme Court.

Bank Beautifies City

HOUSTON.

TREES ARE more beautiful than billboard ads. That is the verdict of the Fannin Bank here, which has diverted \$25,000 previously earmarked for routine billboard advertising to a tree- and shrub-planting program designed to enhance a twenty-block stretch of Main Street extending well beyond its own site.

At the bank's request, the Houston Parks Department prepared a master plan. It involves planting about 200 trees, mostly oak, ash, and elm, and 1,200 shrubs, including juniper, eucalyptus, and crepe myrtle. Some 100 trees and bushes are already in place.

When the planting is completed, the city will take title to the trees and shrubs and assume responsibility for their care.

The bank has no plans to resume billboard advertising in the future. Instead, it will use magazines, newspapers, radio, and television.

Crackdown on Visible Fumes

PHILADELPHIA.

"No motor vehicles shall emit visible fumes, gases, mists, smokes, or vapors, other than water in any form while stationary or while in motion, except for the first 100 yards after starting." So reads one section of the regulations of the Air Pollution Control Board of the Philadelphia Department of Health, adopted in 1956. The penalty for violation of the regulation is a fine of not less than \$25 and not more than \$30, plus court costs, usually \$6.

Thousands of motorists have violated that regulation during the fifteen



—Richard Penney



—Wagner International Photos

Inner-city children enjoy portable playground. Punch bags, at left, double as swings. "Swiss cheese" wall, at right, can be climbed.