



Parks and Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
May 25, 2010

Board Vice-Chair Marler called the board meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Board members in Attendance:

Board Chair Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Sara Marler, Hill Abell, Carol Lee, Jeff Francell, Jerry Perales and Jane Rivera.

Board members absent: None

Staff in Attendance: Sara Hensley, Ricardo Soliz, Chris Yanez, Robert Brennes, Maria Leatherwood, Danny Castro, Charles Vacalvik, Tom Nelson and Tino Garcia.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the regular meeting of 05/25/10 were approved on Board Member Rivera's motion, seconded by Board Member Lee. Motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

2. Citizen Communication – General

Sharon Blythe, Spicewood Springs Tunnel Coalition - expressed concern over safety of PARD owned land on the corner of Spicewood Spring and Old Lampasas Road in Northwest Austin. She requested Board support to stop the hazardous practices of city contractors.

Alan Roddy, requested Board support of the Lake Austin Task Force Resolution and requested that Andrew Harris, (Far View Cove) remove his PVC water pipe from Emma Long Park.

Shannon Zahn, Play Consultant - Regan Recreation invited all to visit the playground at the Mueller Lake Park.

Jennifer Hill Robenalt, Save Liz Carpenter Fountain - informed the Board that their organization desires a permanent, long term solution for the operation and maintenance of the Liz Carpenter Fountain.

Larry Akers, Friends of the Parks in Austin and Town Lake Park stakeholder - informed the Board that he is in favor of the conceptual plan for the plaza and the naming of the pond and walkway to be name the Richard and Annette Bloch Survivor Plaza at Butler Park.

3. Briefings and Possible Action

a. Downtown Plan – Parks and Open Space Master Plan

The brief as presented by Jim Robertson, Planning and Development Review Department. A Power Point presentation and handouts were provided.

Jeff Jack, provided some comments regarding the Down Town Plan.

A motion to recommend approval of the Downtown Plan – Parks and Open Space Master Plan with the caveat that the Parks Department come up with specific strategies to fund the improvements/recommendations suggested in the Master Plan was made by Board Member Hill, seconded by Board Member Francell. Motion carried 6-0.

Vote count: Members voting aye: Board Chair Guerrero, Rivera, Lee, Perales, Hill and Francell.

Members voting nay: None

Members off dias: Board Vice-Chair Marler

b. Update on Project for Public Spaces Design Recommendations for Waterloo Park.

The brief was presented by Ricardo Soliz and Marty Stump, Parks and Recreation Department.

c. Update on the Liz Carpenter Fountain at Butler Park.

The update was provided by Tom Nelson and Charles Vaclavik, Parks and Recreation Department.

4. Director's Report

- Newly hired Assistant Director Kelly Snook from Missouri City, Texas will start her new position on May 26, 2010.
- New low level lighting will be placed along the Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike trail - installed as part of the phase II improvements. The lighting will provide safety for areas that are dark and may be trip hazards.
- The public is invited to participate in the landscaping and design concept of the new Mueller sub-station that will be built on the Morris Williams golf course.

The meeting will be held at the Missionary Baptist Church from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon on Saturday, June 5th.

- In an effort to let Pease Park rest and recoup, the disc golf course at the park will be closed on December 31st. PARD has scheduled meetings with stakeholders to assist in designing the 18 hole disc golf course that will be constructed at the Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park. The meeting will take place at the Senior Activity Center (29th and Lamar) at 6:30 p.m. on June 17th.
- The Department is embarking on a city-wide project regarding community gardens. A single point of contact (SPOC) will be identified to assist communities that are interesting in starting community projects. In addition, the Department is initiating an Invasive Species Management Plan. A Request For Service (RFS) will be let out soon to find a consultant to manage the plan.
- The Pachanga Fest was held last weekend with no reported complaints.
- In response to the City's commitment to an open and transparent budget process, the City Manager requested that all Board and Commissions participate in the budget development process. The Board was provided a copy of the Parks and Recreation department's FY 2010-2011 Proposed Budget presentation for their review. The proposed budget highlighted facility expansion opportunities, staffing numbers, major challenges and unmet needs. Director Hensley reported that Angela Means, Financial Services Manager was in the audience to answer any questions. Board members can meet individually with Ms. Means to forward any suggestions and recommendations they may have.
- Zilker's Great Lawn is being re-sodded and is being irrigated with water drawn from the Lady Bird Lake. The Department has received a permit from the Water Utility Department to water the lawn during the day.
- Deferred Maintenance needs at PARD total 897 million dollars which is second only to the City of Los Angeles. A detailed list of deferred maintenance needs was addressed by Director Hensley.
- The department is looking to obtain software for a Management Information System that will help us take better care of our cemeteries.

5. New Business and Action Items

- a. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Waller Creek Tunnel Master Plan.

The motion to recommend approval to the City Council regarding the Waller Creek Tunnel Master Plan was made by Board Member Perales, seconded by Board Member Hill. Motion carried 7-0.

Vote count: Members voting aye: Board Chair Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Marler, Perales, Hill, Lee, Rivera and Francell.

Members voting nay: None

b. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding an Ordinance Amending Section 25-8-514 of the City Code and granting a variance to Section 25-8-482 of the City Code to allow construction of temporary access roads and repairs to the Barton Springs Bypass in the Critical Water Quality Zone.

David Johns, Watershed Protection Department - made the presentation.

Dan Crow, said that he could support allowing the construction of the temporary access roads but not the repairs to the bypass.

Robin Cravey, President, Friends of Barton Springs Pool - urged the Board to approve the amendment to allow repairs to the bypass tunnel.

Thomas Weber, Advocacy Director, Friends of Barton Springs Pool - urged approval of the amendment to the ordinance.

Peter Steinhardt, urged the Board to require a complete and detailed plan before giving authority to do the work to the bypass.

The motion to recommend approval to the City Council regarding an ordinance amending section 25-8-514 of the City Code and granting a variance to Section 25-8-482 of the City Code to allow construction of temporary access roads and repairs to the Barton Springs Bypass in the Critical Water Quality Zone was made by Board Member Francell, with the stipulation that Watershed Protection Department return to the Board to seek approval for the overall plan including final construction techniques, seconded by Board Member Perales. Motion carried 7-0.

Vote count: Members voting aye: Board Chair Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Marler, Hill, Perales, Lee, Francell and Rivera.

Members voting nay: None

c. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Bloch Cancer Survivor Plaza.

The presentation was made by Vangie Rich, Executive Director and Earl Broussard, TBG Partners.

Jeff Jack, expressed concern that the process failed to engage the stakeholders.

Ann Graham, requested the Board deny approval of the design concept as well as the naming.

Sandy Kugelman, urged the Board to deny the recommendation to the City Council.

Lynn Osgood, expressed concern that the recommendation would set a bad precedent and urged the Board to deny the request.

Robin Ross, recommended the Board vote against the design and the naming of the park.

The motion to deny the recommendation to the City Council regarding the revised conceptual plan and the naming of the pond and walkway plaza for Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor Plaza was made by Board Member Rivera, seconded by Board Member Hill. Motion carried 5-0-1-1.

Vote count: Members voting aye: Members Hill, Rivera, Francell, Lee and Perales.

Members voting nay: none

Members abstaining: Board Chair Guerrero

Members off dais: Board Vice-Chair Marler.

d. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the construction and management of the future North Austin Recreation Center.

Eleanor Langsdorf, President, North Austin Community Association – urged the Board not to accept the proposal to partner with the YMCA to manage and operate the North Austin Recreation Center.

Lloyd Langsdorf, North Austin Community Association also requested that the Board not approve the partnership with the YMCA.

Doris Williams, North Austin Community Association also requested that the Board reject the partnership with the YMCA.

The motion to recommend approval to support the negotiation of an agreement for the construction and management of the future North Austin Recreation Center was made by Board Member Francell, seconded by Board Member Perales. Motion carried 4-1-1-1.

Vote count: Members voting aye: Board Chair Guerrero, Hill, Perales and Francell.

Members voting nay: Lee

Members abstaining: Rivera

Members off the dais: Board Vice-Chair Marler

e. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Montopolis Reclaimed Water Transmission Main Project.

The motion to recommend approving the permanent and temporary use of parkland at Roy G. Guerrero Park, for the installation of a reclaimed water main. Temporary use not to exceed 180 calendar days for work area and 547 calendar days for staging/access with the mitigation amount of \$91,056,57 was made by Board Vice-Chair Marler, seconded by Board Member Perales.

Vote count: Members voting aye: Board Chair Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Marler, Perales, Hill, Rivera and Francell.

Board members voting nay: None

Board members abstaining: Lee.

f. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding 5205 Tortuga Trail Boat Dock.

The motion to recommend approval of a structure constructed of altered within 10 feet of a side lot line (Section 25-2-1176(D) and shoreline modification (Section 25-7-63) was made by Board Member Francell, seconded by Board Member Perales. Motion carried 5-1-1.

Vote count: Members voting aye: Board Vice-Chair Marler, Francell, Rivera, Perales and Hill.

Members voting nay: Lee

Members abstaining: Board Chair Guerrero

g. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding 8816 Big View Boat Dock.

This item was pulled at the applicant's request.

G. Future Items From Board Members

Board Members Lee, Rivera and Perales will be briefed on the proposed budget by Financial Manager, Angela Means. Board Member Lee requested an update on the boat dock permitting process. The July Parks Board meeting may have to be chaired by someone other than Board Chair Guerrero and Board Vice-Chair Marler who will not be in attendance. Board Member Rivera has been appointed to participate in the Boathouse bidding process.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 p.m.