



MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 15, 2014

BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting

The Bond Oversight Committee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in City Hall Boards and Commission Room #1101, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas.

Chair Moses Garcia called the Committee Meeting to order at 8:43 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Dave Sullivan (Chair), Moses Garcia (Vice Chair)
Paige Oliverio, Jennifer McPhail

Committee Members Beverly Silas, Tyler Anderson and Karen Friese were not in attendance.

Staff in Attendance:

Mike Trimble, Susan Daniels (Liaison) and staff presenters listed in Agenda item 3 below.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the July 16, 2014 meeting were approved in a 4-0 vote with Committee Members Beverly Silas, Tyler Anderson and Karen Friese absent.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

No one signed up to speak.

3. NEW BUSINESS - BRIEFINGS

A. General Obligation Bond Programs:

- i. **Presentation by the Parks and Recreation Department on related bond propositions and project updates:** Marty Stump, Terry Jungman and Randy Scott, Parks and Recreation Department, presented an overview of the Department's CIP structure and funding sources. In a typical year, GO Bonds make up greater than 50% of their total funding for capital improvements and the department spends approx. \$25-30 million. Fiscal year 2014 did not follow this typical trend, as the department was able to spend just over \$40 million with more than half of the funding coming from sources other than GO Bonds. Presenters highlighted recently completed projects including pools, trails, playscapes, park improvements, cemetery renovations, recreation and other facility improvements. Land acquisition was discussed with information presented on the relationship over time between the City's actual parkland acres per 1000 population vs. the City's standard of 24 acres per 1000 population. Investment in parkland

has not kept pace with projected population growth that may result in a deficit in parkland by as much as 5,000 acres by year 2020. Committee Members were interested in knowing more about the relationship between the Parkland Dedication Fund, population growth and equity. They also discussed need to address trail accessibility and playscape priorities.

- ii. **Presentation by the Public Works Department on related bond propositions and project updates:** Two presentations were given to provide updates on the Neighborhood Partnering Program and the Urban trails Program. (1) Chad Crager, Public Works Department, presented on the City's Urban Trails Program by discussing the nature and purpose of urban trails, the newly adopted Urban Trails Master Plan and Bond funding used on projects stemming from this program. Highlighted projects include the Country Club Creek Trail, the Mopac Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridges, the Violet Crown Trail the YBC Trail and the Shoal Creek restoration Lamar Trail. Discussion included praise from the Committee on the Master Plan effort to seek and incorporate stakeholder input and a concern for the maintenance of the assets once in place. Committee Members were interested in the total cost of ownership and if money was set aside in the City's budget for maintenance. Howard Lazarus, Public Works Department Director, responded that the City continues to review and program ongoing maintenance costs within the city budget to meet needs. He also stated that they anticipate a rise in maintenance in the coming years with the new facilities being put into place. (2) Justin Golbabi, Public Works, presented on the City's Neighborhood Partnering Program by discussing the purpose of providing opportunities for community and neighborhood organizations to affect public improvements by sharing in the costs of those efforts with the City of Austin. He reviewed the criteria for project application and selection and gave highlights of upcoming projects that will be funded through this new program including Tillery Street sidewalks, Cherry Creek Community Garden, Davis Lane Trail Segment, Arroyo Seco Street bicycle facilities, Ramsey Park Pathways and Stage, Barton Hills Mosaic and the Rigelea greenspace and beatification project.
- iii. **Presentation by the Public Works Department on Construction Cost Analysis - Part 2 (follow-up from July 16, 2014 presentation):** Howard Lazarus, Director of the Public Works Department, presented project cost review for the Bond Program as a follow-up from a presentation he gave at the previous Bond Oversight Committee meeting. In his presentation, Mr. Lazarus provided project data on cost performance on a set of representative projects, discussed Public Works Department performance criteria and observations and recommendations for improvement. Discussion and comments from Committee Members included compliance with ADA regulations and improvements to remove barriers and reviewing or addressing problems with improvements if found to be problematic, particularly with ADA curb ramps. Committee Members also wanted to understand performance measures used and any benchmarking that would give an apples-to-apples comparison with other cities for CIP performance.

4. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

No citizens signed up to speak on specific items below.

- A. **Items from Committee Members:** Committee Member Dave Sullivan drafted an op. ed. piece for the Committee to consider regarding the upcoming November 4, 2014 GO Bond Election to educate the public on the existence of the Bond Oversight Committee and role of this City Council-appointed

citizen board. There was adequate support from the Committee to support and refine the language of the letter to be submitted to the Austin American Statesman for publishing. It will be written by Committee Members Sullivan and Oliverio. Committee Member McPhail made a motion to approve the Committee reference in the letter and Committee Member Sullivan seconded the motion. It was approved in a 4-0 vote with Committee Members Silas, Anderson and Friese absent.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A.** Operations and Maintenance impacts of Bond program implementation
- B.** Bond Program impact on the debt service portion of the City's tax rate
- C.** Potential Bond election in November 2014
- D.** Parks and Recreation Bond proposition and project updates
- E.** Health and Human Services Bond proposition and project updates
- F.** Transportation and Mobility Bond proposition and project updates
- G.** Cultural Arts Bond proposition and project updates
- H.** Affordable Housing Bond proposition and project updates, Housing Market Study
- I.** CIVIC phase II updates

6. ADJOURN

- Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m. without objection.