



Parks and Recreation Department  
Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at the Parks and Recreation Department Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd.

Board Members Present: Board Chair Linda Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Danette Chimenti, Jeff Francell, Sara Marler, and Jane Rivera.

Board Members Absent: Mark Vane and Marilyn Bostick

Staff Members Present: Sara Hensley, Stuart Strong, Cora Wright, Farhad Madani, Ricardo Soliz, Chris Yanez, and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting called to order

Board Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Board Member Rivera moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Citizen Communication

Fred Schmidt provided an inspirational reading.

Heather Way reported on the Children's Task Force Implementation Team. The task force, created on June 21, 2007, assesses and make recommendations about how the City could better served families of all income levels. It also studs best practices, conducts surveys and obtains input from user groups. Their goal is to adopt a resolution that establishes families and children as a priority in city planning and decision making. They have submitted a report to the Council addressing goals and recommendation in the areas of: 1) planning; 2) housing; 3) parks and cultural amenities; 4) child care; 5) schools and 6) transportation.

Charlie McCabe, Executive Director, Austin Parks Foundation, announced that "It's My Park Day" will be held on March 7, 2009. They are seeking 2,000 volunteers to work on 25 parks projects.

## D. Staff Briefings

### 2. McBeth Recreation Center Advisory Board Presentation;

Randy Rosens, Board President, announced that the goal of the Board is to interpret the needs and interests of disabled individuals in the community, focusing primarily on quality, diversity and meeting the needs of the disabled. Mr. Rosens said the Board also participates in formulating plans, assisting in setting policies and organizing community resources.

#### Update on Nicholas Dawson Park.

Sharon Hamilton, ACWP, reported on the problems that have halted progress on the installation of the wastewater line through Nicholas Dawson Park. She announced that in order to meet the EPA's June 2009 deadline and avoid severe penalties, the project will now have an open-cut line through the park. This recommendation was reached based on input received from stakeholders who collectively have agreed that this is the best way to lessen the negative impact to the park and its users. A certified arborist will be on-site to oversee the pruning, excavation and an additional CID inspector has been added to provide additional support for the project. Board Chair Guerrero requested that photos be taken (before and after of all the impacted trees that have a 20 ft. wide or large, including the double-trunk elm tree).

Additional information was provided by members of the Nicholas Dawson Neighborhood Association.

### 3. Brief on the sustainable events plan.

Heidi Gerbracht, Office of the City Manager, reported on the City of Austin Sustainable Events Plan. The goal of the program is to minimize green house gas emissions, reduce the consumption or degradation of natural resources, and to minimize materials entering the city's solid waste stream. Events can assist in this effort by 1) reducing energy consumption; 2) preserving air quality and 3) reducing waste. The policy applies to any organized event that receives city funding or uses a city facility and has 500 or more participants. Some of the specific requirements of the program include:

- ? At least 40% of the light sources used must be ENERGY STAR qualified or meet minimum efficiency standards.
- ? Alternative fuels should be used in all events vehicle to the extent possible and bike racks or acres for bike parking must be provided for at least two (2) percent of attendees.
- ? Educate the public attending the event about climate protection, air quality and other environmental benefits.
- ? Single use glass containers will be prohibited at outside venues and Styrofoam is prohibited at all events.
- ? Events must provide free water from a sanitary central source.

Ms. Gerbracht indicated that the ordinance would not take effect until January 2010 in order to allow time for event promoters to prepare and for staff to develop a more streamlined process. A brief will be provided to the City Council on March 5, 2009 with possible Council action taken on March 12, 2009.

Dorsey Twidwell, Exchange Club of Austin and the Austin Kite Festival, said that the Sustainable Event Plan requirement may be too stringent and could eliminate the current festival (a not-for-profit event). He cited concerns about the logistics such as where to buy the carbon offsets, who permits and who enforces the event. The club agrees with the concept of the sustainable events plan but requests that more time be given in order to comply.

#### E. New Business and Action Items

##### 4. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the sustainable events plan.

Board Member Chimenti inquired if any accommodations were being considered for non-profit events such as the Kite Festival. Board Member Marler asked if a variance or a sliding scale could be applied for non-profit events as well. Staff stated that 1) a cap could be placed on the amount of money that an event holder would have to pay in order to offset the emissions and 2) there was a likelihood that a sliding scale or variance could apply. Both of these options have not been fully determined.

After additional discussion, Board Member Chimenti moved to support the sustainable events plan with the stipulation that special attention be paid to smaller not-for-profit groups so they are not negatively impacted and will have to close down: The motion also included the following:

For events (subject to this green policy) that do not ticket or charge admission for entrance as described in the adopted Parks and Recreation Department Special Events Policy yet use parkland for all or a portion of their event and register/charge/ or ticket for participation, organizers should pay a **sustainability fee** of 25 cents/person to the Austin Parks Foundation for park specific projects to build a sustainability fund for the impacted park(s).

For events that use park land for multiple day events, the organizers shall be charged once per contract/rental period. The motion was seconded by Board Member Francell, and carried 5-0.

5. Make a recommendation to City Council regarding the Boardwalk Trail at Lady Bird Lake.

David Taylor, Public Works Department, again briefed the board on the conceptual plan for the Boardwalk Trail at Lady Bird Lake. He reported on the projects 8 major goals which range from providing safe user experiences and respecting natural settings to offering a variety of experiences, scenic views and integrating with other lake activities. He pointed out the path parameters on the Plan which include routing the trail on land as much as possible, complying with ADA rules, the use multi-use surfaces, periodic rest stops and other enhancements. Mr. Taylor's presentation highlighted the recommended routing paths for each of the six major segments of the trail and concluded with the recommended trail design elements.

Citizen communication:

The following persons spoke or donated time to other speakers in opposition to the proposed conceptual plan for the Boardwalk.

David Tiger	Tim Florer	Jeff Taylor
Felipe Correa	Steve Tittle	Jill Chamberlain
Bucker Hightower	Eric Fisher	Jean Warneke
Fred Schmidt	Lisa Tucker	John Erskine
Vic Hidalgo	Chris Curtis	Steven Neilson
Lindsey Davis	Rich Heibler	Nan Redding
Shelley Meiers		

The following persons spoke in support of the proposed conceptual plan for the Boardwalk.

Griffin Davis	Susan Rankin	Monica Byram
Blake Byram	Robin Stallings (sp)	Chris Reilly

After much discussion, Board Member Marler proposed, with friendly amendments from Board Member Rivera and Board Member Chimenti, the following motion.

The Board recommends that we forward to the City Council the approval of the concept of a Boardwalk that will connect East to the West and that we complete the trail along the South Side of Lady Bird Lake, also that staff and developers should continue to meet with all stakeholders in an attempt to develop viable on-land alternatives in major stretches of the trail; and to explore where significant cost savings can be realized. In addition, the Waterfront Overlay Task Force recommendations be passed prior to the finalization of the plan. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Tarrytown Boat Dock Club.

Board Member Francell clarified the recommendation explaining that the intent is to approve 11 slips and rebuild the existing 6-slip facility. Three slips are already on the property, so the recommendation is to approve the 11 slips plus the rebuilding of 3 - to total 14.

Clint Small, former Navigation Committee Chair, said while he was chair, the committee members tried to rewrite some of the regulations of the Land Development Code due to the ambiguity of the Code. For example, the Code is very ambiguous regarding clusters and marinas. He added that he thought that the Board did not have legal authority to rule on non-conforming structures that were not zoned properly.

Craig A. Dunagan, Attorney for the Tarry Town Boat Club, provided the Board a handout which requested approval for the Tarry Town Boat Club to replace an existing cluster of 12 floating boat slips with a cluster of 12 moored boat slips. The application pertains to Lot 38 in the Tarry Town River Oaks, a 55 year old subdivision in Old West Austin. The handout included language regarding the City of Austin Code section 25-2-1173 which identified three requirements for a building official approval on the construction of the proposed replacement cluster of 12 boat slips on this lot. He provided a pertinent time line of the history of the Tarry Town River Oaks Section Two Subdivision from August 1953 all the way to January 2009.

Peter Phifer, spoke about wanting to bring closure to this issue and hoped that all parties would go back to being friendly neighbors.

Scott Sayers, expressed his concern for the TTBC application and is opposed to the permit. He stated that the application did not address city code issues such as permanent restrooms and on-site parking on any site requiring 10 or more slips. Mr. Sayers requested that the Board not take any action on the application at this meeting, but if action was taken, that the recommendation include addressing the city code issues of permanent restrooms and on-site parking and that no additional future applications for the site be granted.

Amanda Morrow, Land Development Consultant, also addressed the Board and requested denial of the application request. Ms. Morrow thinks that the application, as presented, does not meet the requirement of the Land Development Code. Ms. Morrow also requested no action be taken but if action was indeed taken, that the applicant must adhere to the issues of on-site parking, permanent restrooms and land use issues as well.

Board Member Francell moved to recommend to the Director that the Parks Board approve replacing the current boat dock at the Tarrytown Boat Club with an eleven (11) slip dock. This approval is conditional on the TTBC submitting plans to the City of Austin to erect a restroom on site, accommodations for the increase in parking and compliance with other aspects of the Land Development Code to the maximum extent practical. Furthermore, the Board requests that the TTBC not ask for any new slips or new slip construction on the site from either the Board of Adjustments or the Parks and Recreation Department for at least 15 years. The motion was seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Christopher Boat Dock.

Board Member Francell moved to approve the applicant's request, seconded by Board Member Rivera. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the River Terrace Boat Dock.

Board Member Francell moved to approve the applicant's request, seconded by Board Member Rivera. Motion carried 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.