



**Parks and Recreation Department Board Minutes  
Tuesday, May 23, 2006  
Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Room 1101.

**Board Members present:** Board Chair Linda Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Jeb Boyt, Secretary/Parliamentarian Mark Vane, Jeff Francell, Hector Ortiz, and Clint Small.

**Board Members absent:** Marilyn Bostick, Rosemary Castleberry and Leonard Lyons.

**Staff Members present:** Warren Struss, Cora Wright, Ricardo Soliz, Randy Scott and Tino Garcia.

**A. Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Linda Guerrero at 6:39 p.m.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

Board Vice-Chair Boyt moved to approve the minutes seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion carried with Board Member Small abstaining.

**C. Citizen Communication**

Mary Ellen Borgett, member of the Elisabet Ney Museum Restoration Campaign Committee, expressed the importance of Parks Board support of the \$500,000 request to be included in the 2006 bond package. She provided a handout outlining the Ney's two million dollar restoration campaign. She indicated that repairs to the museum are beyond the expertise of our department personnel and expressed concern over possibly losing approximately \$350,000 in matching federal funds. Board Member Boyt stated that some proposals may be paid by cash out of the 2007 operating budget and to contact council members for further information. Director Struss indicated that the restoration of the Ney had been initially included in the needs assessment but currently was not. He said there are other funds to address infrastructure needs in the bond package and the intent is to use some of those funds for the repairs at the museum.

Charlie McCabe, Executive Director of the Austin Parks Foundation, provided an update of the Foundation's events to date. He also referred to the bond campaign and the Foundation's intention to assist in driving the package forward. He highlighted events and projects that they have been involved in and specifically thanked the Operations Staff for their assistance with the numerous workdays. He announced that 1200 volunteers participated in the annual It's My Park Day logging in over 4000 volunteer hours.

#### D. Other Business

John Denisi, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Heritage Society of Austin, shared information on the Heritage Society, specifically their commitment to alliances. To date, more than 300 structures have been repaired by the Heritage Society, including our former Pioneer Farm. He provided a summary of the Society's education goals and restoration projects. Their goal is to partner with various organizations to promote and preserve historic Austin. Among the alliances that they have developed are the Downtown Austin Alliance, Austin Board of Realtors and the Austin History Center Association. He expressed that the Society is interested in developing an inventory of the Parks and Recreation Department structures in need of repair and to prioritize them accordingly. Board Members Vane, Boyt and Board Chair Guerrero each thanked Mr. Denisi for extending an invitation to partner with the department to address our restoration needs.

#### E. Discussion and Action Items

1. Consider approval of a concession contract with Sea Tow Central Texas to provide Boat Towing Services on Lake Austin.

Jay Stone, Division Manager, Financial Services, reported on boat towing bids for Lake Austin. Bids were let and Sea Tow Central Texas was the lone bidder. Sea Tow is a national organization similar to AAA. Their function is to rescue boaters in need of assistance. Mr. Stone requested that the Board approve a city contract with Sea Tow. They will pay 5% of the referred towing from lake patrol and 311 calls. Board Member Francell explained that this should be a contract instead of a concession. The current towing rate is \$50.00 per tow. Board Member Francell moved to approve the concession contract with Sea Tow, seconded by Board Member Vane. Motion carried.

2. Recommendation to the City Council regarding the Use Agreement for the Lance Armstrong Bikeway on Town Lake Park land.

Coley Crider, Pedestrian Coordinator, presented additional information to the Board specifically addressing the question of providing limited access to pedestrians from getting on the Lance Armstrong bikeway. He indicated that "no pedestrians allowed" signs could be put up. Signs can be manufactured and placed on specific areas. Additionally, he addressed the issue regarding the number of citations to bikers – a handout was handed out detailing the number of citations. Board Member Boyt reported that some members of the biking community had attended the Land and Facilities subcommittee and expressed support for bikers on Town Lake. Board Member Vane had questions about pedestrians walking on the bikeway and Board Member Small asked

about the timeframe for construction and completion of the bikeway. Mr. Crider responded by July 07. Board Member Boyt explained that the reason in having "no pedestrian" signs placed along the bikeway was for the safety of the pedestrians. Board Member Francell questioned whether bikes would still be allowed on Cesar Chavez, even after the construction of the bikeway. Mr. Crider responded that they could but could be ticketed if they committed a violation. Board Member Small suggested that perhaps a public hearing could be held after the completion of the bikeway. It was also suggested that a trial period be established to 1) restrict bikes on the hike and bike trail, 2) restrict pedestrians on the bikeway and 3) to look at areas that have multi-use of parallel tracks and to restrict them as well. Director Struss recommended a survey of trail use be completed prior to legislating policies or restrictions on the trail. Board Member Small moved to approve the use agreement for the bikeway with the stipulation that staff present to the board in the fall of 2007 a brief regarding 1) users and 2) specific recommendations and requests for Town Lake and the Lance Armstrong bikeway use. Board Member Ortiz seconded. Motion carried 6-0. Board Member Vane requested Park Police recommendations be included in the presentation to the Board in the fall. Director Struss concurred.

### 3. Consider approval of Phyrri Boat Dock.

Board Member Small reported that in the past the Board had not approved the requests by this owner but since have met and he has agreed to reduce the size of the boat dock and reduce the t-heads which will reduce the size to a more acceptable 24%. Board Member Francell indicated that the new request is now in compliance with the Code. Board Member Francell moved to approve, seconded by Board Member Boyt. Motion carried 6-0. Afterwards, Board Chair Guerrero asked that staff provide figures on the number of boat dock requests that exceed the recommended 20% number under the Code.

## B. Other Business

### 1. Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) Brief

Cora Wright, Assistant Director, announced that staff would be providing an update of the Department's summer programs and reported that Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Program Coordinator, would provide an update on Town Lake Park. Maria Ciccirelli, indicated that the DAC is gearing up for the summer programs and summarized the year long programs that the Arts Center provided. They will have approximately 800 participants throughout the summer. Chuck Lesniak reported on the recent discovery of an old landfill adjacent to the DAC. The landfill was found on the east side of the DAC, which includes the playground area. He reported that the City's investigation and evaluation team, which included staff from Health and Human Services and Watershed Protection and Development Review determined that there is no exposure risk to the users of the DAC. The discovery was identified during the initial construction of Town Lake Park. The City will continue its investigation of the site and will take steps to ensure the continued safety of the children using the playground site and building occupants. The City expects to complete the investigation in the next 60-90 days.

## **2. Director's Report:**

**Director Struss reported on the following:**

- **Turner Roberts Groundbreaking ceremonies.**
- **Staff will provide a briefing regarding Turkey Creek**
- **Parks Bond Program: Renovations and Improvements.** (handouts were provided detailing the individual projects and the cost projection estimates) **Note: Chair Guerrero requested that specific items that were cut be emailed to all Board Members for their review.**
- **The National Agenda for Urban Parks and Recreation in America.** It's guiding principles are 1) promoting health and wellness, 2) stimulating community and economic development, 3) protecting the environment and 4) educating, protecting and enriching America's young people.

## **3. Items from Board Members**

**Land and Facilities - items discussed at tonight's meeting**

**Navigation – will look into the Land Development Code's revisions**

**Programs – Board Chair Guerrero reported on the Summer Playground program and that the Teen Program has been reinstated.**

**With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.**