



Parks and Recreation Department  
Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Meeting

Board Members Present: Board Chair Linda Guerrero, Vice-Chair Jeb Boyd, Secretary/Parliamentarian Mark Vane, Jeff Francell, Hector Ortiz, Danette Chimenti, Stephen Shang, Clint Small and Marilyn Bostick.

Staff Members Present: Warren Struss, Stuart Strong, Cora Wright, Ricardo Soliz, Randy Scott, Butch Smith, Tony Arnold and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Guerrero at 6:06 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board member Chimenti moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion passed.

C. Citizen Communications

Charlie McCabe, Executive Director, Austin Parks Foundation, reported on the Foundation's position on the Waterfront Overlay and also on It's My Park Day.

Robin Stallings, Executive Director, Texas Bicycle Coalition, addressed the Board and announced his support of the Boardwalk.

D. Discussion Items

1. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Austin Clean Water Program's Wastewater Improvement.

The Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP) is proposing to use a portion of the southwest corner of the Hancock Golf Course as a temporary staging and storage area for the ACWP Govalle 4-UT/West 40<sup>th</sup> Street Wastewater Improvements project. The temporary staging area is proposed to be 100 foot wide by 100 foot long located at the corner of West 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Peck Street. The project entails installing approximately 11,550 linear feet of new 8-inch wastewater pipe, the majority of which will be installed in the Hyde Park neighborhood adjacent to the golf course. The project is scheduled to begin in November 2007 and be completed by November 2008. The proposed mitigation includes returning the site to existing or better conditions after construction and posting of a sign on the golf course site. Board Member Boyd moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion passed 8-0.

2. Make recommendation to the Director regarding the Sand Beach Reserve (Gables Development) Park Design concept on parkland.

Will Wither, Gables Residential, presented slides on the design concept related to the Sand Beach Reserve Park. He indicated that 1) the oval of flowering trees is 25% smaller than previously shown; 2) the southern-most trees in the park have been moved farther south to straddle the Lance Armstrong bikeway; and 3) there is a 50 ft. zone adjacent to the Up Railroad trestle that needs to remain clear of vegetation for maintenance and repair of the track and trestle. The Board thanked Mr. Wither for continuing to come back to the Board with new design concepts that they would be happy with. Board Member Vane moved to approve the new design concept for Sand Beach Reserve, seconded by Board Member Francell. Motion passed 8-0.

E. Other Business

3. Briefing on the Vision for Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail.

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manger, brief the Board on a Town Lake Boardwalk Vision which bridges the gap for a continuous trail around Town Lake. He provided a list of objectives which included: 1) accepting easements from private property owners; 2) seeking public funding and non-profit fundraising; 3) obtaining community support; 4) enter into park improvement agreements; 5) collaboration between department, and 6) construction of the boardwalk. He proceeded by highlighting the 7 different sections along Town Lake that identifies the challenges and difficulties in making the elevation changes when dealing with individual property owners.

Butch Smith, Park Planner, indicated that the projected use of the Boardwalk would be 1.5 million visits per year. The projected benefits include: safety, linkage, reducing trail crowding, reducing auto congestion, enhancing business opportunities along the trail, and appreciating the riparian edge of Town Lake's environment. Project characteristics and the need for public support were also discussed.

Tony Arnold, Project Manager, indicated that the length of the trail would be 7,600 linear feet, approximately 14 ft wide, and would have 5 observation points. The estimated project cost for the Boardwalk would be \$8.2 million.

Susan Rankin, Executive Director, Town Lake Trail Foundation, along with Bill Kerr and Griffin Davis reported on the investment study and plan for completion of the Boardwalk. They indicated that there is a need for a comprehensive information resource for all stakeholders and the need to raise awareness of the purpose and need for the boardwalk.

4. Briefing on 222 and 300 Riverside Drive Project variance request. Richard Suttle, LLP, agent for CWS Capital Partner, L.L.P.

Richard Suttle, briefed the Board on the request to have a variance request approved to the primary and secondary setbacks in the South Shore Central Waterfront Overlay District. He provided plans on the redevelopment projected and requested guidance from the Board indicating that the Board, 1) vote on the current proposal or 2) provide other direction on the project. Discussion followed on the different variances within the current Waterfront Overlay, zoning and height requirements and whether there was any room for negotiations. It was made clear that the SSRC Association's position is to comply with the setback requirements. Other discussion items pointed out the concern with the number of units proposed on the original application and the number of units on the current site plan. Board Member Chimenti indicated that she was not willing to vote on the proposal until and new site plan is proposed and presented both to the Board and the neighborhood. Board Member Vane's position was not to vote on the current proposal and pushed for dialogue in the upcoming month to see if a new proposal could be agreed upon. Mr. Suttle suggested a 3<sup>rd</sup> party be brought in to oversee discussions between the department, the neighborhood and the client.

Citizen Communication: Board Chair Guerrero announced a one-minute time limit due to the number of speakers requesting to speak. The following spoke-all opposed to granting the variance. Note: Scott Hendler, President, savetownlake.org, provided a petition with the signatures of 1,650 citizens all objecting to any variances being granted to the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance.

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|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Scott Hendler    | 7. Sarah Campbell    |
| 2. Wendy Todd       | 8. Andrew Martin     |
| 3. Kenny Hilbig     | 9. Bill Oliver       |
| 4. Kathryn Kenefick | 10. Dave Wight       |
| 5. Fred Schmidt     | 11. Heather Bailey   |
| 6. Cory Walton      | 12. Helen Day Valdez |
|                     | 13. Tom Cook         |

The following speakers chose not to speak but also voiced their objection to the granting of any variances.

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| 1. Glee Ingram       | 13. Gardner Sumner  | 25. Linda Watkins    |
| 2. Bryan King        | 14. Merri Hieger    | 26. Katie Tovo       |
| 3. Jan Adler         | 15. Mary Arnold     | 27. Allan Weinberger |
| 4. Scott Johnson     | 16. Claudette Lowe  |                      |
| 5. Lauri Wright      | 17. Oscar Lipchak   |                      |
| 6. Jean Mather       | 18. Carol Gibbs     |                      |
| 7. Toni House        | 19. David Coufal    |                      |
| 8. Gayle Goff        | 20. Jeff Jack       |                      |
| 9. Deda Dwine        | 21. Sara Strandtman |                      |
| 10. Alex Bruxkemper  | 22. Elloa Mathews   |                      |
| 11. Elizabeth Yevlch | 23. Dawn Cizmar     |                      |
| 12. Garry Brown      | 24. Ellen Ward      |                      |

#### F. Director's Report

Director Struss reported on a very successful event regarding Senator Barack Obama's visit to Auditorium Shores.

#### G. Items from Board Members

Land and Facilities Committee- Board Member Boyt reported that the Downtown Commission has been instructed by the City Council to conduct a study of the Capital View Corridor. A report is expected next month.

Navigation Committee- Board Member Small indicated that they have been meeting with Raul Calderon, Legal Department, regarding the Boat Dock and Marina Ordinance. A follow-up is also forthcoming.

Programs Committee – Board Chair Guerrero requested information on the status of the Parkland Dedication Ordinance. Staff indicated that meetings have been held with various boards and commissions to gather their input. Ricardo Soliz, reported that he has attended several of the meetings and has been asked to attend a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. A report hopefully will be completed by the end of April 2007. Board Member Chimenti asked staff how the Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force recommendations will affect the Department as it relates to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance. Assistant Director Strong indicated that there may be partial or complete waiver of the fees, but negotiations were still ongoing. A report would be forwarded to the Board upon completion.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.