



Parks and Recreation Department  
Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at the Board and Commissions Conference Room, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Room 1101.

Members Present: Board Chair, Linda Guerrero, Board Vice-chair, Jeb Boyt, Hector Ortiz, Clint Small, Danette Chimenti, Marilyn Bostick, Stephen Shang and Jeff Francell.

Board Members Absent: Secretary/Parliamentarian, Mark Vane.

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

A. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Guerrero at 6:13 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Boyt requested a correction to a summary report. With the correction noted, Board Member Ortiz moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried.

C. Citizen Communication

Charlie McCabe, Executive Director, Austin Parks Foundation, announced that on April 14<sup>th</sup> the Foundation will sponsor It's My Park Day. They are currently working on 45 projects and are seeking over 1600 volunteers.

D. Discussion and Action Items

1. Consider approving the serpentine bulkheading at 7090 and 7913 Big View Drive case number SP-07-0109D

Board Member Small reported that the Board had previously approved the design for the serpentine bulkheading. This design lessens the water break that a straight bulkheading

design does not. Board Member Small moved to approve the serpentine bulkheading as requested with the stipulation that staff member Randy Scott evaluate its effectiveness at a later date, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion carried. 7-0-1 with Board Member Bostick abstaining.

2. Consider approval of a Boat Dock and silt removal on Turkey Creek Branch at 2449 Pearce Rd case number SP-07-0164D.

Board Member Small indicated that the Board has historically allowed the dredging of the silt removal. He recommended approval pending staff member Randy Scott's recommendation that there is no violation to the Core of Engineering requirements, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion carried 8-0.

3. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the naming of the new Pavilion on Boggy Creek Greenbelt.

Ricardo Soliz, reported that the new Pavilion will be built near the Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center. Five (5) naming proposals were received during the required 90 day period. At the Land and Facilities committee, two of the proposals voluntarily removed themselves and one had no representation present. Therefore, the committee recommended a joint-naming of the Pavilion. Board Member Boyt indicated since the two proposals were outstanding candidates, the Department should look into other naming opportunities. Board Member Bostick requested that the Board be provided with a list of future naming sites.

Ida Hunt, Treasure/Trustee, Conley Guerrero Guild, Inc., spoke in honor of naming the Pavilion after Ms. Onie B. Conley. She spoke of her many accomplishments, her accolades and the numerous projects she was involved in. Ms. Hunt indicated that this was Ms. Conley's dream and the naming of the Pavilion would be a highlight of her legacy. She presented the Board with a petition with over 300 signatures in support of the naming of the Pavilion after Ms. Conley.

Margarine Beamon, Advisory Board member, spoke also in support of Ms. Conley. She added that Ms. Conley found an architect to draw up the plans for the pavilion and attended many Council Meetings to draw support for the Pavilion.

Margery Tillie Mackey and Nellie P. Tellez, also addressed the Board in support of the Pavilion being named after Ms. Conley. Mr. Frankie Brown and Ms. Alice Houston-Johnson did not speak but requested Board approval for Ms. Conley.

Karen Paup, spoke on behalf of Ms. Ora Lee Nobles and requested that the Board support the Land and Facilities committee's recommendation to name the Pavilion the "Conley-Nobles Pavilion. She provided information regarding Ms. Nobles many civic accomplishments, including her volunteer efforts, her duties as chair the Model Cities

Board and her work with the Blackshear Homestead Program. Ms. Paul also provided letters of support and petitions in support of the dual naming.

Lennien Cook, Geraldine Pinkard, Joffre Cook and Julia Faye Mitchell did not speak but requested that the Board support the Land and Facilities joint naming recommendation.

Board Member Chimenti moved to approve the naming of the Pavilion the Conley-Nobles Pavilion, seconded by Board Member Bostick. There was considerable Board discussion regarding dual naming of facilities verses individual naming and they requested staff continue to look for other naming opportunities to honor outstanding citizens. The motion did not carry as a result of a 4-4 vote. Board Member Francell provided a second motion - this time to name the Pavilion after Onie B. Conley, seconded by Board Member Boyt. The motion carried 8-0. Board Member Chimenti requested expediting the process to find other facilities to name as soon as possible (to honor the contribution of Ms. Nobles) and Board Member Francell requested that staff provide the Board with a list of the unnamed facilities as the earliest possible date.

4. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Final Report produced by the Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force as it relates to exemptions to the Parkland Dedication ordinance.

Ricardo Soliz reported on the Task Force report and summarized the details of the recommendations. The Core Values identified in the report included: 1) Deeper Affordability Targets; 2) Long-term Affordability; and 3) Geographic Dispersion (where the units will be built). Also identified in the report were the incentives such as expediting review and approvals, expanding fee waivers (this impacts PARD) and enhancing development entitlements. Three categories were specific which included: 1) Downtown-properties zoned CBD and DMU; 2) Urban Infill - which are vertical mixed use projects and transit oriented development nodes; and 3) Suburban – which are single family and multi-family developments with lower density levels. Mr. Soliz also talked through an example project which detailed possible fee waiver options, eligibility and affordability limits. After some discussion regarding the report, Board Member Chimenti moved to approve the PARD recommendation which states: Allow 100% exemption from Parkland Dedication Fees for only the units meeting the affordability requirements as opposed to an entire development that has an affordable component, seconded by Board Member Small. Motion carried 7-0-1 with Board Member Ortiz abstaining.

5. Consider approval of a site plan correction to boat dock location and elevations at 8300 Big View Drive case number SP-05-1705D

Board Member Small moved to approve the site plan correction to boat dock location and elevations pending staff member Randy Scott's approval, seconded by Board Member Shang. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Consider approval of the Haley Boat Dock at 8016 Big View Drive SP-07-0066DS. The applicant requested approval to extend the boat dock by approximately 36 ft. Board Member Small moved approval of the Haley Boat Dock at 8016 Big View Drive, seconded by Board Member Shang. Motion carried 7-0.

7. Make recommendation to the Director on safety and directional signs on Town Lake. This item was pulled and will be part of an April brief.

#### E. Other Business

#### 8. Briefing on the Turkey Creek Focus Group Recommendation

Ricardo Soliz provided a summary of the process initiated in March 2006 in which staff was instructed to work with stakeholders to come up with a long-term sustainable plan for users. The timeline was as follows:

- ? April 06 – Staff held first meeting with stakeholders
- ? May-June 06 – completed an exercise that identifies things to preserve, add, and identify challenges and threats.
- ? July 06 – Developed 7 options to begin identifying the strengths and weaknesses for each.
- ? August 06 – Conducted 2 site visits at Emma Long to analyze all 7 options.
- ? Sept. 06 - Developed a matrix to better analyze each option
- ? Oct. 06 - Scored all 7 options ( 3 options surfaced to the top)
- ? Nov.-Dec.06 – No meeting
- ? Jan. 07 Group unanimously supported one option

Mr. Soliz added that the group established goals and developed criteria to evaluate alternatives. The group's recommendation is: 1) Make improvements to the existing trail (this includes stabilization, improve pedestrian bridge crossings, signage, etc.); and 2) Construction of a new trail. Cost estimates are approximately \$90,000 to reconstruct the pedestrian bridge, stabilize the bank and re-vegetate certain areas of the trail. The new trail is cost approximately \$80,000 to clear out the vegetation and lay out the trail.

#### F. Director's Report

Director Struss announced the selection of Amparo Garcia-Crow as the new Mexican American Cultural Center Manager. Ms. Garcia-Crow is highly credentialed and will oversee the grand opening of the center which is now scheduled to open the weekend of Diez y Sies de Septiembre. In addition Troy Houtman is now the new Operations Division Manager. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Zilker Botanical Gardens is coming up and Mr. Struss invited all the Parks Board members to attend. Upcoming events include the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Urban Fest, Eyore's sculpture unveiling, and the new Learning Center opening at Kizer Golf course. The boating study will not be conducted unless the level of Lake Austin rises to 665 ft. The Department is moving forward with Accreditation. Evaluators will be coming in July 07.

G. Items from Board Members

Jeb Boyt reported on the Downtown Commission as been working on the Capitol View Corridor study and will be releasing a report for public comment. Board Member Small reported on directional signs on Town Lake and is concerned about the aesthetics of the signs. He also added that the issue with St. Tropez would be coming back to the Board. Board Chair Guerrero had questions about the Waller Creek Tunnel to which Director Struss replied that staff would provide a brief to the Board at a future meeting. It was requested that the brief include some information regarding the white water course.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.