



Parks and Recreation Department  
Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Room 1101.

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

Staff Members Present: Warren W. Struss, Stuart Strong, Ricardo Soliz, Randy Scott, Farhad Madani and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Linda Guerrero at 6:10 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Ortiz moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Boyt. Motion passed 5-0.

C. Citizen Communication

Richard Suttle, agent for CWS Properties, informed the Board that he had submitted an extension with proposed updates to the current site plan at 222 and 300 Riverside Drive. The new plan replaced the 80 ft setback with a 150 ft setback and includes the construction of the new trail with maintenance and operations costs. The extension request, however, was not granted and he will have to resubmit a new plan to be presented before the Parks Board next month.

Dorothy Richter wants the Board to provide recycling containers in Zilker Park. Director Struss indicated that he would like to start a pilot program at several sites throughout the Parks System. He indicated that the Department would work in collaboration with the Public Works Department.

Gail Goff, Co Vice-President, South River City Citizens, encouraged the Parks Board to approve the construction of a hike and bike trail at the Acton tract.

Jean Mather, President, South River City Citizens, spoke on the Acton hike and bike trail. She provided a flyer that requested the trail proposal be approved because of the possibility of losing a very desirable development for the neighborhood. She said the City stands to lose a free section to a much needed trail.

#### D. Discussion and Action Items

1. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the naming of the Festival Beach along Town Lake.

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, reported that staff had received 3 recommendations for the renaming of the Festival Beach along Town Lake. The recommendations were: 1) Edward Rendon Sr. Beach; 2) John Charles Babb Beach; and 3) leave the name as Festival Beach.

The following spoke on behalf of Mr. Rendon:

- ? Bertha Marie Delgado, member of Lulac, in support of renaming Festival Beach for Edward Rendon Sr.
- ? Hector Rubio, in support of naming the beach for Edward Rendon Sr.
- ? Edward Rendon III, in support of Mr. Rendon.
- ? Lisa Rendon-Bara, in support of Mr. Rendon.
- ? Hortensia Palomares, East Town Lake Citizens, in support of Mr. Rendon.
- ? Marcos De Leon, East Town Lake Citizens, in support of Mr. Rendon.
- ? Paul Hernandez, in support of Mr. Rendon.
- ? Sam Guzman, Realtor, in support of Mr. Rendon.
- ? Audrey Raigosa, in support of Mr. Rendon.

Mr. Soliz announced that staff had also received a 2<sup>nd</sup> application requesting the naming of Festival Beach for John Charles Babb. However, there was no one in the audience who voiced support at the meeting. Board Member Boyt indicated that the Land and Facilities committee recommended the renaming to Edward Rendon Sr. (*Park*) - *as clarified by Board Vice-Chair Boyt on June 20<sup>th</sup> see attached*, at Festival Beach and stated it in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion passed 7-0.

Arthur Assadourian, Citizen, requested a status report on the Waller Creek hike and bike trail as well as information on the boat ramp at Town Lake. Tony Arnold, Project Manager, indicated that the trail was under design but has run into several challenges including flooding issues as well as conflicts as they relate to the Texas Historic Commission. He also stated that the Watershed Protection & Development Review Department would be making repairs to the boat dock on Town Lake.

## E. Other Business

### 2. Briefing on the proposed Waller Creek White Water Paddling Course.

Jim Stuart briefed the Board on the proposed White Water Trail. He said the trail is a one mile long whitewater course and recreation corridor on Waller Creek, and would be part of the new Waterfront District. The trail could become an Austin showcase used by the whole community plus visitors from the surrounding areas and around the world. The streambed would be restored and re-created for safe river passage for rafts, kayaks, canoes, and fish. Multi-use amenities of the corridor would include trails, shops, restaurants, and concessions with convenient access for enjoyment of the waterway. He provided information on the success of whitewater parks in over 100 projects across the United States.

Jeff Jack, President, Zilker Park Neighborhood Association, voiced concern over the possibility of property taxes going up. He indicated that other economic development schemes promised growth and prosperity, but in the end the tax payers of Austin were left stuck with the bill.

### 3. Briefing on Barton Springs Pool Master Plan.

Al Godfrey, Limbacher and Associates, briefed the Board on the proposed master plan. He indicated that there has been meetings with stakeholders and recommendations will be finalized by the end of the summer in 2007. He provided a slide presentation that categorized the project in three stages. The first stage was the buildings. The second stage included the pool and its infrastructure. The third stage discussed the grounds surrounding the pool. The first stage will include the restoration of the men's and women's bathrooms and the relocation of the ticket entrance back to the glass cylinder, making it the focal point of the building. Regarding the pool and its infrastructure, the recommendation is to improve the entire operation from an environmental point of view. Construction of new dam's will be built stream and downstream and plans call for connecting Eliza Springs to the pool. He pointed out that the newly constructed dam's (building them higher) would reduce pop-up flooding and recirculation of the water would reduce the incidence of nuisance algae. Suggestions from the public include enlarging the pool and connecting the main stream, sunken gardens, and Eliza Springs. The master plan also calls for rehabilitating the Zilker Ponds and improving tree health and the irrigation system. Currently, there is not enough electrical power to sufficiently clean and maintain the pool. Therefore, plans call for improvements to the electrical system. Several board members asked where the funding for the improvements would come from to which Director Struss responded that City Council had approved \$500,000 in the FY 06-07 budget and that after the priorities are finalized, new requests would be made in the FY 07-08 funding cycle to complete the recommendations.

Sarah Searcy, Friends of Barton Springs Pool, spoke in support of the proposed master plan.

#### 4. Briefing on Pease Park proposal for demonstration restoration plots.

Charlie McCabe, Executive Director, Austin Parks Foundation, briefed the Board on demonstration restoration plots at Pease Park. They have collaborated with the LBJ Wildflower Center who did an analysis of the park. The findings included:

- ? Heavy usage and foot traffic (this deteriorates and depletes the landscape)
- ? Reduces species diversity
- ? Reduces ability to absorb/filter stormwater
- ? Underlying issue – Soil compaction (includes heavy use, flooding issues and erosion).

He indicated that along with partners from PARD, WPDRD, LBJ WC, and E-Corps, they have come up with a Rock Line project that helps with erosion problems on the creek. Their recommendations include: 1) how to reverse or reduce soil compaction, and 2) develop restoration plots which will be monitored for 1 year to see what can be learned from the project.

#### 5. Briefing on the Zachary Scott Theatre Lease Agreement Proposal.

Ann Ciccolella, Managing Director, Zachary Scott Theatre, provided an amended lease agreement whose intent is to explore the possibility of building a restaurant as part of the expansion project. She said the idea is in the exploratory stage and wanted the Parks Board to approve the amended language. Board Member Chimenti indicated that the issue was not posted for action. Therefore, the Board could not make any recommendation. Director Struss proposed the item be forwarded to the Land and Facilities committee for further review.

Jeff Jack, President, Zilker Park Association, voiced concerns regarding the following: 1) how the law was changed to allow the lease line to be changed without public input, and 2) there is no need to have the lease amended if the intent is to simply study the issue.

#### F. Director's Report

Director Struss indicated that the four briefs occurring this evening was his report.

#### G. Items from Board Members

Board Member Boyt reported that he had received comments about Bartholomew Park and disc golf. Director Struss said he had not heard of any, but would review the issue. Board Chair Guerrero wants to further discuss the CBC report on the Zilker Garden Park.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.