



Parks and Recreation Department
Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 W. 2nd St. Room 1001

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

Board Members Absent: Marilyn Bostick

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

A. Meeting Called to Order

Board Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order.

B. Approval of Minutes

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

C. Citizen Communication

Skip Cameron, President, Bull Creek Foundation, produced a video on the BCP and requested Parks Board support to pass a resolution which would provide public access to BCP lands.

Hill Abell, Austin Ridge Riders, is requesting the City Council to delay approving a public access plan until they have considered the impact of public's ability to draft reasonable access opportunities.

Gary Rochelle, Friends of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Mr. Rochell is requesting consideration of public access to the BCP. He wants the Board support a resolution

supporting proposed amendments to the BCP management plan, a plan that is proposed by the Friends of the BCP.

Richard Viktorin, requested Parks Board support of the resolution to open BCP to the public.

D. Other Business.

1. Briefing on the Barton Springs Master Plan Timeline

Farhad Madani, Assistant Director, announced that consultants are currently working on the Draft Master Plan which will be soon posted for public review and comments. In January 2008, the City will hold a public meeting to present the Plan and record comments received from the public. Meetings will also be held with the Parks Board, Environmental Board and the Historic Landmark Commission sometime in February or March. Findings from these meetings will be used to present to Council in April or May 2008.

2. Briefing on Republic Square Design

Charlie McCabe, Executive Director, Austin Parks Foundation, discussed a proposal to redesign of a portion of Republic Square. The proposal has been discussed with many community stakeholders and surrounding property owners. Danny Woodroffe, President of TBG Partners, briefed the Board on the goals of the proposal, which are: 1) reinforce a sense of place; 2) preserve the historical significance; 3) create public activity; and 4) redefine the park space. In 2006 a public workshop was held and the findings of the workshop indicated that the community wants flexible open space for the park, including a place for gathering under the oak trees and also to preserve the sense of history. Mr. Woodroffe suggested that the primary vision of the proposal is the auction oaks, and his group (TBG Partners) will continue to work with stakeholders and with the Texas Historical Commission for the completion of phase I.

3. Briefing on Downtown Wastewater Tunnel –

Stan Evans, Austin Clean Water Program, provided a brief on a downtown wastewater tunnel which will be built to provide more sewer capacity for downtown, north and south of Town Lake. The tunnel will prevent sewage overflows in the North Austin Interceptor as well as in the South Austin Interceptor. Mr. Evans indicated that project parameters would be as follows:

- ? The tunnel would be excavated with a tunnel boring machine.
- ? Five shafts will be needed to remove excavated material from the tunnel and to bring construction materials to the tunnel.
- ? Shaft noises will be consistent with other normal construction activities.
- ? Permanent manholes would remain at each construction shaft for maintenance access and for hydraulic drops to take wastewater to tunnel depths.
- ? The manhole will consist of 12 to 20 foot diameter concrete lid.
- ? Maintenance will occur every five years.
- ? Length of tunnel is approximately 3.5 miles.
- ? Boreing diameter will be up to 120 inches,
- ? Depth of tunnel will be 50 to 80 feet below ground or lake surface.

Mr. Evans indicated that they would be coming back before the Board to request a land use agreement and easement requests.

E. Discussion and Action Items

Devan Desai, Law Department, briefed the Board on the proposed acquisition by TxDOT on the John Trevino Park. Mr. Desai indicated that TxDOT has expressed apologies to Watershed Protection Department, the Land and Facilities Committee and the Parks Board for the environmental approval they requested and expressed regret the way they have handled the acquisition process. Mr. Terrance Everson has asked PARD for a list of things the department wants at the park including a projected amount of value of the land.

1. Briefing and Possible Action recommending that the City of Austin acquire and preserve the Lions Municipal Golf Course for use by future generations.

Farhad Madani, Assistant Director, provided the Board with an overview detailing: 1) the partnership between the University of Texas and the Citizens of Austin; 2) the Brackenridge Task Force Recommendation (which recommended the lease of the golf course not be renewed or extended when it expires in 2019); 3) the history of the lease including the lease payments made throughout the lease term; 4) the importance of low cost golf to the Citizens of Austin and; 5) the impact that the golf course has had on the community. Lions, is was noted, is one of the most popular courses in Central Texas. The course has exceeded over 1.3 million patrons since 1988. Mr. Madani also indicated that the University of Texas Board of Regents will take public comment on November 9, 2007 at 1: 30 p.m.

Mary Arnold provided the Board with additional information including how in the 1970's the Regents and the City agreed to continue the lease and how a second agreement was approved to continue with the terms of the lease. After additional discussion, Board Member Chimenti moved to approve a resolution (attached) which recommended: 1) the City of Austin seek to acquire and preserve the Lions Municipal Golf Course for use by future generations and; 2) the City of Austin encourage the University of Texas Board of Regents to include the City, users of Lions Municipal, neighbors and any other interested parties in the Master Planning Process for the Brackenridge Tract. Motion was seconded by Board Member Shang. Board Member Boyt requested that an addendum be added to include "that the City work with the UT to complete the extension of the Town Lake trail to Red Bud Island". Board Member Vane added "that the resolution be presented to the Board of Regents at their next meeting". Motion with the addendum passed 8-0.

2. Consider approval of the Paul Grimme Boat Dock Case Number SP-2007-0470DS

Board Member Small indicated that the request requires a variance for two different reasons. The first is the applicant is wishing to build within the 10 foot side setback and secondly they are replacing existing dock and wish to leave the dock at a width that is

greater than 20%. Mr. Small does not think that the second request is valid therefore, moved to approve the Paul Grimme Boat Dock to build only within the 10 foot side setback, seconded by Board Member Francell. Motion passed 8-0.

3. Consider approval of the Jay Fields Boat Dock Case Number SP-2007-0465DS

Board Member Small moved that the Board approve the variance request that exceeds 20% of the shoreline frontage, seconded by Board Member Francell. Motion carried 8-0.

Board Chair Guerrero asked all the Board Members to stand and applaud the Director and staff for receiving National Accreditation.

F. Director's Report

Council adopted the upcoming new tennis center, a 12 court center in collaboration with AISD. The center will be built adjacent to the new Gus Garcia Middle School. Director Struss thanked the Board for their support during the 2 year accreditation period.

G. Items from Board Members

Board Member Small, members need to discuss the upcoming Board meetings including the annual Board retreat

Board Member Francell, wants to approve a resolution to retain the Director.

Board Member Chimenti, BCP resolution already discussed.

Board Member Ortiz, announced the Veterans Day Tree Planting on Saturday November 10, 2007 and that a resolution was passed by City Council (read resolution)

Board Member Boyt – Since the Holly Street Power Plant is closed, Mr. Boyt requested a future brief from staff on possible programming of the acquired parkland. He reported also that on November 8th, the Council will have discussion on the proposed amendment related to boards and commissions. Under this amendment the Parks Board would be composed of 7 members instead of 9 and would now require a majority of four. Term limits will also be discussed.

Board Member Vane, asked a question regarding construction in and around the Austin American Statesman. Staff member Scott learned that the trail will be re-routed to the bat display but the construction does not negatively impact the trail.

Board Member Guerrero, reported on her visit to the national conference and is requesting that PARD advisory boards update the Board each quarter with 3 minutes updates. Additionally she wants information on how we started the photography fee and to start thinking about reappointing other board members as liaisons to other board and commissions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8: 50 p.m.