



Parks and Recreation Department
Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 West 2nd St. Room 1101.

Board Members Present: Interim Board Chair, Linda Guerrero, Interim Vice-Chair Danette Chimenti, Stephen Shang, and Marilyn Bostick, Hector Ortiz, Jeff Francell and Mark Vane.

Board Members Absent: Jeb Boyt

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

A. Meeting called to order

Board Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board Chair Guerrero postponed the approval of the minutes until later in the meeting.

C. Citizen Communication

Dale Flatt, Save Austin's Cemeteries, asked the Board to advise him on how to create a cemetery advisory committee that would include participation from residents of all 5 City of Austin cemeteries.

Jimmy Castro reminded everyone to vote in the May 10th Austin Independent School District bond election. He discussed the three proposals that, if passed, would provide funds for technology upgrades, science classroom renovations, new schools and a new performing arts center.

Larry Akres, Town Lake Park Project, briefed the Board on the Town Lake Ant Alliance. Mr. Akres said the project proposal is to place oversized steel ants on the northeast quadrant of the observation hill. The ant objects would be designed by local artists. Board Member Vane expressed concern that the Board had not heard about the proposal.

D. Other Business

Briefing on the CreateAustin Plan

Vincent Kitch, Cultural Arts Program Manager, Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office, discussed the concept of CreateAustin which he explained is a cultural planning process that identifies assets and challenges, goals and recommendations to the year 2017. Focus groups, stakeholders meetings, interviews, and surveys have been used to collect data. Six key topic areas have emerged. As a result, task forces have been formed to establish the identity of the priority topics. A draft plan has been sent to the stakeholders for review and the consultant will provide a briefing the City Council in late May or early June 2008.

Board Chair Guerrero asked for an explanation on how the plan would input the department, specifically in regards to programs and staff. Mr. Kitch responded that the City wants to consolidate all divisions throughout the city that deal with arts and culture, but that it is too early in the planning process to determine how programs and staff will be impacted.

Briefing on the Permitting Process for Park Development Projects.

Marty Stump, Park Development Coordinator, briefed the Board on the department's permit program. He outlined three specific permits: 1) site plan permits; 2) general permits and; 3) building/trade permits. He provided examples of project types in each of the three categories explaining scale, permit conditions, approximate design duration as well as approximate permitting duration.

E. Discussion and Action Items

Consider approval of three docks on a single lot at 1204 Rockcliff.

Board Member Francell explained that the applicant has an existing dock that is not a boat slip (more of a swimming pier) and is requesting to reconstruct 2 slips on the property. Since this request is under the 20% rule, Board Member Francell moved to approve the proposal, seconded by Board Member Shang. Motion passed 5-0-2 with Board Members Guerrero and Vane abstaining.

Consider approval of the Tarry Town marina located at 2608 Scenic Drive.

This item was tabled by Navigation Chair Francell.

Consider approval of the Honeycutt Boat Dock located at 2203 Manana.

Board Member Francell moved to approve the request, pending approval of the restrictive covenant from the City Law Department, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion carried 4-0-3 with Board Members Guerrero, Vane and Chimenti abstaining.

Consider approval of the Sanders Boat Dock located at 3213 Smoky Ridge.

Board Member Francell indicated that the owner only has 50 ft of shoreline and therefore moved to approve a minimum single slip boat dock (14ft) at 3213 Smoky Ridge, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried 5-0-2 with Board Members Guerrero and Vance abstaining.

Consider approval of a single slip boat dock at 3824 Westlake Drive.

Board Member Francell said the owner has an adjacent lot to his current house and is requesting to construct a single slip boat dock that would exceed the 20% of shoreline frontage. Since the request exceeds the 20% rule, he moved to not support the recommendation, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion to not support the recommendation carried 6-0-1 with Board Member Vane abstaining.

F. Director's Report

Acting Director Strong reported on the following:

- ? Board Financial Disclosure Statements are due April 25th.
- ? Sarah Macias, Division Manager, Central Park, will retire in mid-May.
- ? Janet Fish passed. She will long be remembered as the mother of the trail system in Austin. She helped build the first leg of the Shoal Creek hike and bike trail.
- ? It's My Park Day was a huge success with over 1500 volunteers participating at 50 sites.

Briefing on the Waller Creek Tunnel Project - Watershed Protection Department.

Kimberly Springer, one of several presenters, briefed the Board on the Waller Creek Tunnel. She provided slides outlining the history of the tunnel including the flooding problems that have occurred over the years. A video that illustrates the flooding conditions on the creek was provided. Ms. Springer indicated that the City Council approved a TIF (tax increment financing) which would be in place for 20 years. The City will contribute 100% of the tax increment and the County will contribute 50%. Gary Jackson discussed the inlet and outlet site concepts, specifically the structure components, the design structure and the benefits to be derived. Board Member Vane asked how much of Waterloo Park would be impacted by the inlet structure. Specific

details have not yet been produced, but would be available for the Land and Facilities subcommittee meeting scheduled for May 13, 2008.

G. Items from the Board

Board Member Chimenti reported on the 222 and 300 East Riverside Project. She said that a compromise had been reached with the following outcomes:

- ? All of the buildings that were close to the shoreline have been removed.
- ? 1.5 acres of parkland will be dedicated.
- ? A trail will be built.
- ? Everything will be out of the primary setback and 50% of the secondary setback can have buildings. However, buildings along the shore can only be 30 feet in height.
- ? Buildings built on the project will be limited to 96 feet in height and a PUD will be started.

Board Chair Guerrero appointed Board Member Chimenti to the Town Lake Waterfront Overlay Committee and reminded all members to submit their financial disclosure forms April 25, 2008. She also indicated that public comments for the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan are now closed and posted on the department web site.

Additionally, she requested the following:

- 1) a list of stakeholders participating in the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan from PARD and Watershed Departments so that the subcommittee can continue to include them on the ongoing project.
- 2) a list of PARD events that provide bike parking. This is in regards to a concern that no bike parking was available at the Bob Marley Festival.

Board Member Shang expressed concern that the Board is not fulfilling the role of strategic planners. He prefers the Board to be more strategic, visionary, with big picture ideas and less operational directed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.