



Parks and Recreation Department
Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, June 24, 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, Jeb Boyt, Marilyn Bostick, Hector Ortiz. Jeff Francell, Mark Vane and Stephen Shang.

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Stuart Strong, Cora Wright, Ricardo Soliz, Farhad Madani, Tony Arnold and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting called to order

Board Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Francell moved to approve the May 27, minutes, seconded by Board Member Boyt. Motion carried with Board Member Shang abstaining.

C. Citizen Communication

Dorothy Richter expressed concern with some problems at Zilker Park. In particular, she indicated concerns with the following: 1) signs at the canoe rental; 2) the need for more police; 3) garbage cans being dumped and 4) trees to be sprayed for ball moss.

Megan Tuner, Art in Public Places, discussed the temporary public art exhibition in conjunction with the Texas Biennial in the spring of 2009. She indicated receiving proposals for Butler Park, Auditorium Shores, Mexican American Cultural Center and the Dougherty Arts Center among others. Board Member Vane suggested that before public art can be placed in any of city parks, the Land and Facilities Committee should review and recommend.

Mercedes Doolittle-Kovar, Friends of Norwood Estate Dog Park, requested a water variance to increase watering days (up to 4 days per week) to help prevent erosion and death of native trees.

Gavino Fernandez, El Concilio, requested that the department expedite the placement of signs for 1) Rendon Park, at the entrance of East Avenue and Nash Hernandez St. and 2) the Johnny Degollado Pavillion. He asked that if the reason for not placing the signs is a budget issue, then the use of the Holly Street mitigation monies could be used to fund them. Amenities to the Rendon park, such as picnic tables and BBQ pits, should be funded with the same mitigation monies.

Mary Arnold reminded all of a pending meeting the UT master planners are having regarding the Brackenridge Tract and Lions Golf Course. The public is invited to a listening session.

D. Briefs

1. Brief on Downs Field Restroom Issue:

Assistant Director Farhad Madani reported on the department's annual contractual field use agreements. The current agreements are with: 1) Hispanic Baseball league; 2) Zaragoza Amateur Baseball League; 3) Concordia University; 4) Austin Metro League and 5) Huston-Tillotson University. The contractual obligations include infield and outfield mowing, grounds maintenance, field preparation and maintenance of restroom facilities during the contractual period. In response to some community concerns expressed at the last Parks Board meeting regarding Downs field, he updated the Board on the department's face lift efforts to improve the restroom facilities as well as the surrounding field and storage. Board Member Chimenti requested that this issue be further discussed at the July Land and Facilities Committee meeting.

2. Brief on issues involving Emma Long Park and access to Lake Austin form area properties.

Troy Houtman, Division Manager, Operations Division, discussed Emma Long Park encroachments. He updated the Board on the use of unauthorized personal property at the lake. He provided a map, a description of the type of encroachments, and a list of complaints and actions taken to rectify the concerns. Letters and flyers have been sent to residents along the lake with a notice to remove any unauthorized material (pipes, stairs, decking etc...).

A contractor was hired to remove pipes and power electric lines plus other personal property at a cost of around \$10,000 (administrative cost included). Board Chair Guerrero requested that this issue be addressed at the July Land and Facilities Committee meeting to discuss the legal ramifications plus recovering the costs associated with the City cleaning up the lake. Board Member Vane suggested that the department take this opportunity to not only look at the Emma Long Park encroachments but those in other park areas as well.

Alan Roddy expressed concern with the fact that even though property owners have received notice to remove unauthorized property, they do not comply. Unless they are

jailed, he said, the issue with encroachments will continue. He emphasized that criminal action needs to be taken.

3. Brief on Austin Water Utility upcoming construction project for the Mueller Redevelopment, impacting the Morris Williams Golf Course.

Yvonne Gil Vallejo, Project Manager, Austin Water Utility, briefed the Board on the Southeast Wastewater Improvement Project, which will provide wastewater service to the Mueller Redevelopment. The wastewater line is 3,404 linear feet in length, 1,957 linear feet of which are to be constructed in Morris Williams Golf Course. Temporary and permanent easements are needed to construct the new wastewater line. The total requested permanent easement is 1.21 acres and the temporary easement including staging and storage area is 4.46 acres. In order to not interrupt play, the majority of the project will be bored (constructed underground). However, she indicated that there will be two to three open and cut pits that will be fenced for the safety of the patrons. The total length of the project is expected to last 210 days.

Benny Moskowitz, asked that additional mitigation money be requested to assist in funding needed improvements to Morris Williams Golf Course. This he said could be done while the construction is being done. He said the storage barn and the pro shop need renovation.

David Laird agreed with the Mr. Moskowitz. However, he is not opposed to the golf course being closed down if there are major renovations put in place. The tees, greens and fairways, including the driving range, should be re-done.

Travis A. Eckert also requested an increase in mitigation monies to fund improvements to the golf course. He said that he has been playing the golf course since 1964 and no improvements have been done since then.

Mary Arnold said that she and others have met with staff from the Austin Water Utility to discuss closing the golf course. She indicated that renovation, especially the greens, could be done during the construction of the sewer project.

Deleno Womack questioned that the project could be completed in 7 months and that the 25% mitigation figure is too low.

Tommy Wyatt indicated that a list of improvements to the golf course have been turned in to the department. Although the pavilion has finally be completed, there are many other areas that need renovation.

E. New Business and Action Items

4. Consider approval of 2700 Rivercrest Boat Dock

This item was pulled by Board Member Francell at the guidance of city legal.

5. Consider approval of 7908 Big View Boat Dock

This item was pulled by Board Member Francell at the request of applicant.

6. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the adoption of the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan.

Board Member Francell provided a brief summary of the development of the plan since it's inception. Board Chair Guerrero reminded all of the name change of the plan which is now known as the *Barton Springs Pool Master Plan: Concepts for Preservation and Improvement*. This was done to acknowledge that additional analysis and data will be needed in the future. Linda Team, Heritage Society of Austin, provided a letter indicating support for the efforts of the City and its consultants in the development of the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan. Board Member Boyt moved approval of the recommendation regarding the adoption of the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan, seconded by Board Member Francell. Motion carried 6-0.

7. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the temporary use of parkland for the demolition of a wastewater lift station on Old Spicewood Springs Road.

Board Member Francell moved to approve the recommendation for the temporary use of parkland for the demolition of a wastewater lift station on Old Spicewood Springs Road, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding permanent and temporary use of parkland at Waterloo Park.

Board Member Boyt indicated that the Land and Facilities Committee had been briefed on the project and felt that all concerns with the project had been addressed. Board Chair Guerrero requested a one-minute recess to allow board members to view the model provided.

Board Member Vane moved to approve the recommendation regarding the permanent and temporary use of the parkland at Waterloo Park, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried 6-0.

9. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the temporary use of parkland for the installation of a 24 inch water transmission main, along the 3rd St. Pedestrian Bridge.

Board Member Francell moved to approve the temporary use of parkland, seconded by Board Member Shang. Motion carried 6-0.

10. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the temporary use of parkland for the Green Water Treatment Decommissioning and Deconstruction project to reconstruct the retaining wall along the eastern side of Shoal Creek and Shoal Beach.

The City of Austin is in the design phase to decommission and deconstruct the Green Water Treatment Plant. Four separate components of the project will impact parkland. The primary impact to park-land is limiting public access to a portion of the park and the hike and bike trail in order to avoid the public's proximity to equipment and construction. The park land areas and impact are as follows:

- ? Area 1 – Repair of existing 42-inch Pipe Outfall and Storm Drain. This will require temporary detour of hike/bike trail.
- ? Area 2 - Removal of Chlorine Injection Vault. This will require temporary use of a portion of the parking lot.
- ? Area 3 – Shoal Creek Repair/Restoration. Requires use only of the bed of Shoal Creek.
- ? Area 4 - Utility Bridge Removal. Requires temporary detour around Shoal Creek hike/bike trail from Cesar Chavez St. to 3rd St.

Board Member Chimenti moved to approve the temporary use of parkland for the decommissioning and deconstruction project, seconded by Board Member Boyt. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Director's Report

Acting Director Strong, briefed the Board on the status of cemeteries and indicated that a team has been assembled to assess the condition of the city's cemeteries. Other briefs included: 1) the annual Juneteenth celebration with parades and other community activities; 2) the annual 4th of July Celebration at Auditorium Shores; 3) Barton Springs Road Bike Project starting on June 30th; 4) Playgrounds and pools are operating into the summer schedule.

G. Future Agenda Items From Board Members

Board Member Boyt inquired about the Blunn Creek Project. Ricardo Solis reported that discussions are continuing and a report would be brought forth to the Land and Facilities Committee in July. Board Member Chimenti reported on the Waterfront Overlay Task Force. The task force is looking into the current overlay ordinance and will be making periodic reports to the full task force.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.