



Parks and Recreation Department
Tuesday, December 16, 2008

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at the Parks and Recreation Department Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd.

Board Members Present: Board Chair Linda Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Danette Chimenti, Mark Vane, Jeff Francell, Sara Marler, Marilyn Bostick and Jane Rivera.

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Sara Hensley, 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 6:12 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Board Member Rivera moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Citizen Communication

Peter Pfeither, Tarrytown Boat Club, provided a brief history of the Boat Club and wants Parks Board support to replace the existing dock.

Scott Fairbairn, President, Tarrytown Boat Club, added that they have been negotiating with adjacent neighbors to agree with items such as downsizing the slips. He also asked the Board to support the application for the 12 boat slips.

Craig Donogan, Legal Counsel for the Tarrytown Boat Club, indicated that he as been tasked with determining the legality of lot 38. In his research, he found out that lot 38 is a legally platted lot. Also, part of the legal requirement is that the perpetual rights to use the shoreline be granted a neighborhood association. Since both requirements are met, the project should be moved forward.

Bruce Aupperlee, Consultant, said they have been working on the application for the past 18 months. The 1st application as since expired and is now working on the 2nd application. He also stated that the lot in question is a legally platted lot, and should be approved by the Board. (Note: City legal has opinioned that the lot is not a legally platted lot).

Dean Vandergriff, Vice President, Tarrytown Boat Club, said the club is frustrated with not having a direct process to follow and feels the Club has been held hostage with issues surrounding the neighborhood.

Carl Henin (sp), Secretary of the Boat Club, was asked to explain what happened during the last 8 months since the club presented its documentation of the legally platted lot and other researched material. He indicated that the documentation was given to staff member Randy Scott but the club never heard anything back. Mr. Scott said he forwarded the documentation to city legal immediately afterwards.

Mark Scherer (sp) member of the Boat Club told the Board he was appalled at how the Boat Club has been treated and asked that the Board be an advocate to the club as well.

Steve Tittle, Waterfront Homeowners Association, reported that the association has another plan for the Boardwalk which would encompass city-owned land in front of the condominium along with an easement granted by AMLI. This option will allow the trail to go around their building and not through the water. He indicated that the association wants to work with the Parks Department to try to find a resolution.

Eric Fisher, owner of one of the condominiums, reiterated that the association wants to utilize the easement granted by AMLI and keep the trail on land as much as possible.

Jill Chamberlain, condominium owner, said that the map being distributed since November 2008 has factual errors on it, and that the association has not received adequate notice of the public hearings regarding the Boardwalk.

Buckner Hightower, condominium owner, also wants to keep the trail on land and not on the water and since he has a sailboat, Mr. Hightower believes he has the right of navigation on the lake.

D. Staff Briefings

2. Update on the Northwest Recreation Center.

Sammi Frye, Advisory Board President, has been involved in Parks activities since the 1980's. She reported that the recreation center has been the top revenue producing center in our parks system. The center provides a multitude services such as summer camps, after school care, neighborhood activities, specialty classes, carnivals, active programs

like jazzercise and TCTA (Totally Cool Totally Art). She also announced that the neighborhood is actively involved in assisting in renovating the building.

3. Informational brief of temporary outdoor public art projects.

Megan Turner, AIPP Coordinator, briefed that Board on the temporary art that is going up in the Central and East Austin area parkland. Seven (7) pieces have been selected, six (6) will be visual arts pieces and one (1) will be performance oriented. The artwork will be installed in March 2009 and will be removed in December 2009. Since there is no art fund per se, the goal of the project is to have art that is low in maintenance.

4. Update on Boardwalk Trail at Lady Bird Lake.

David Taylor, Project Manager, Public Works Department, provide a presentation of the proposed conceptual plan for the Boardwalk. The plan included the following information:

- ? The history of the trail, the stakeholders currently involved, the consultant and project manager
- ? Trail scope which allows the connection from Austin American-Statesman to Lakeshore Park.
- ? Citizen/community input from meetings, surveys, owner contacts etc...
- ? Goal setting (including concepts for completing the trail, providing a safe experience and respecting the natural setting. These goals also address connectivity, offering a variety of experiences, scenic views, and the integration with lake activities.
- ? Path Parameters (includes routing on land where possible, ADA compliant, flood compatibility, periodic rest stops and enhancements)
- ? Design Alternatives
- ? Preliminary routing/possible routes including conceptual cost schedule for each option
- ? Trail challenges (identifies respecting existing properties, adequate connections, limited parking and funding)
- ? Trail Opportunities (connecting to southeast lakeshore, enabling various trail experiences, special connections to Blunn Creek Outfall and Norwood park, and a trail destination)

After additional discussion, it was agreed that this project would be re-visited by the Land and Facilities Committee, the Joint E-Board and Park Board Committee and finally to the full board again. Board Chair Guerrero suggested that group interface be initiated so all groups could be fully apprised on the development of the Boardwalk.

E. New Business and Action Items

5. Adoption of New Standard City Board and Commission Bylaws.

Board Chair Guerrero requested a motion which was made by Board Vice-Chair Chimenti, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Standards of Care for Children's Recreation Programs.

Assistant Director Madani reported that the Department of Human Services and the Department of Protection and Regulatory Services require municipalities to adopt an ordinance amending local standards of care. This is an annual process requiring Parks Board approval prior to it being forwarded to Council. There are some minor changes to the proposed ordinance, but they have been reviewed by City legal. Board Member Rivera moved to approve, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried 6-0.

7. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Hastings Boat Dock.

Board Member Francell reported that the applicant has agreed to build the smallest boat dock in order to comply with the Land Development Code. He moved to approve the applicant's request. Motion carried, 6-0.

8. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Menn Boat Dock.

Phil Moncada, consultant, expressed concern that he was not notified of the Navigation Committee meeting in which this case was discussed. He then proceeded to brief the Board on the history of the subdivision which indicates that the subdivision was established in 1965. At that time, he stated, the City of Austin had no watershed regulations of any type and now all the owner wants to do is to rebuild the same dock that was on his property since then. Since he was not present at the last Navigation Committee meeting, he requested postponement of any board action. Board Member Francell confirmed that any action by the Board would be suspended until the next Navigation Committee. Board Member Chimenti requested that City Legal be present at that meeting.

F. Director's Report

Sara Hensley, Director reported on the following:

- ? Virginia Graeme Backer Pool and Spa Act. The Act will take effect on December 19, 2008 and will require public pools and spas to be equipped with certified drain covers that meet the required standards and safety measures. Several of our pools

do not comply and will need to have the repairs made or face the possibility of closing.

- ? A brief on the Parkland Dedication Fees will be presented to the Board in the upcoming months.
- ? A dig has been sanctioned by the City Council and the Texas Historical Commission at Zilker Park (the Zilker Dig). As a result, the Texas Historical Commission will need to be involved regarding mitigation purposes. More information is forthcoming.
- ? Other items covered by Ms. Hensley report included: 1) another possible dig at Commons Ford; 2) the contract for Capitol Metro regarding Saltillo Plaza; 3) the department's decision to not allow the pumping of lake water in the Del Vesco case; 4) the Waller Creek Tunnel Team's approval of the design phase which will include as first option, the boathouse; and 5) park plans as they relate to the TOD (Transit Oriented Development).

G. Future Agenda Items from Board Members

Board Member Chimenti reported on the Waterfront Overlay Task Force team that has been meeting for the last 8 months. The task force has submitted their final recommendations and will brief the City Council in December 2008. She reported that the re-write of the 1999 Ordinance significantly lessened the current ordinance. For example, bonus provisions and height requirements were removed including the disbandment of Waterfront Advisory Board. All have contributed to affecting protections to the Waterfront Ordinance. The Task Force's five main recommendations are as follows: 1) to reinstate the reference to the Town Lake Corridor Study; 2) reinstatement of the Waterfront Advisory Board; 3) reinstate maximum building heights; 4) reinstate the bonus provisions and; 5) that newly adopted city-wide design policies that are in conflict with the Waterfront Overlay not take precedence over the Overlay. The document was approved by the task force by a vote of 9-2.

Board Member Vane wondered whether project recommendations that have been approved by the Board are ever completed. Staff reported that a project manager is assigned to each of the projects and ensures that all the mitigation recommendations are completed. Director Hensley added that she would share with the Board any issues that the City Council makes that impact the Board and the department. These includes any modifications made by the Council.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.