



Parks and Recreation Department
Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at the Board and Commissions Conference Room, 301 W. 2nd St. Room 1101.

Board Members Present: Board Chair Guerrero, Jeff Francell, Hector Ortiz, Clint Small, Danette Chimenti, Marilyn Bostick and Stephan Shang.

Board Members Absent: Vice-Chair Jeff Boyt and Secretary/Parliamentarian Mark Vane.

Staff Members Present: Warren Struss, Cora Wright, Stuart Strong, Ricardo Soliz and Randy Scott.

A. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Guerrero at 6:07 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

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

C. Citizen Communication: N/A

D. Discussion and Action Items

6. Make a Recommendation to the Director regarding the proposed placement of public art along the Lance Armstrong Bikeway. (Note: agenda item moved by Board Chair Guerrero)

Meghan Turner, AIPP Coordinator, discussed the public arts options to the Board. She indicated that the art work along the 6 mile long bikeway will consist of 4 elements. They include: road paint that will be stenciled and applied at regular intervals along the

road; sign attachment to provide navigation information; bench and bike racks to provide rest spots and two sculpture tunnels. The tunnels will be located at Veterans Drive and Altantis Street and by B.R. Reynolds and Cesar Chaves Street. Board Member Bostick moved to approve the proposed placement of the art, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion passed 6-0.

1. To approve the 2005-06 Annual Report and 2006-07 Work Plan for the Parks and Recreation Board.

Board Member Chimenti moved to approve the annual report and work plan, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion carried. 6-0.

2. Make a recommendation to the Director and the Planning Commission on the Lakeshore District Planned Unit Development proposal.

Dawn Cizmark, Neighborhood Planning Team, asked the Board not to approve the Cypress proposal without scrutinizing the development plans more closely. She is concerned about the amount of green space being reduced and is proposing for Willow Creek amenities to the creek as well as the parkland surrounding the creek. She also asked the developer to work with the Neighborhood Planning team to address the amount of green space being removed.

Gail Goff, Co-Vice President, South River City Citizens, is concerned with parking issues regarding the development. Additionally, she is concerned with the revenue lost due to the developer not sub-dividing the property.

Jean Mather, South River City Citizens, and member of the EROC planning team, is also concerned with the density the development will bring and that the developer is not subdividing and thus not subjected to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance. She also expressed her desire to have the Willow Creek be the connector, serving as a walkway for pedestrians coming from Riverside Drive.

David Armbrust, representing Cypress Real Estate, addressed the Board and provided information regarding the Lakeshore PUD. The PUD is a mixed-use development proposed at Tinnin Ford Road and Lakeshore Drive. The project plans to redevelop the site presently zoned for 1,760 multifamily units to 2,500 residential units. As part of the plan, the Developer is seeking two variances. The first is to allow the development of a wet water quality pond into the Waterfront Overlay and the second is to allow pedestrian and vehicular/pedestrian bridge to cross the Willow Creek Greenway. He provided the Board with a list of items that will benefit the City and the community. They include: 1) current and additional setback; 2) water feature (wet water quality pond; 3) Willow Creek Greenway Restoration; 4) pedestrian trail corridor and 5) internal open space.

Sean Crompton, Cypress Real Estate, also addressed the Board on the Project. He detailed the development outlining the conceptual master plan which included streets, parking connectivity to Town Lake, enhancements and improvements, and environmental strategies. After some questions and discussion on the project plan, Board Member Francell moved to approve the recommendation to the Director and the Planning Commission regarding the Lakeshore District PUD provided they pay \$650 per door as established by discussion at a previous Parks Board meeting, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried, 6-0-1 with Board Member Chimenti abstaining.

3. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Austin Music Hall variance request.

The Austin Music Hall is currently processing a site development permit to expand and update its facilities. A portion of the building currently lies in the primary setback and is 36.75 ft from the centerline of the Shoal Creek. The proposed improvements will place a portion of the egress stairs 31.75 feet from the centerline of the creek. (an increase of the encroachment by 5 ft.). They are requesting a primary setback variance from Section 25-2-738, in order to construct the emergency egress, and slightly extend the back of the building. The Board was given a list of creek enhancements which detailed; 1) improvement over the uninterrupted large green block wall that currently faces the creek; 2) improvement to the back of the building will improve the view of the stream back from the Seaholm Hike and Bike trail and 3) the egress stair and walkway can become an integral part of the park trail system, connecting pedestrian traffic to the footbridge. Board Member Ortiz moved to approved the recommendation, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried. 7-0.

4. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding Austin Clean Water Program's Wastewater Improvement

The Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP), on behalf of the Austin Water Utility and the Department of Public Works, is proposing to install 839 liner feet of new 12-inch wastewater line on parkland adjacent to the Carver Library and Museum. The line will tie into a proposed 12-inch wastewater line at Rosewood Avenue at the south end of the tract and tie into a proposed 12-inch wastewater line at Pennsylvania Avenue. The project was designed with the intent to minimize disturbance to the area as well as improve local watershed conditions with the Govalle 4 watershed basin. There will be minimal short term effects of the construction and there will be no adverse long-term affects. All disturbed land will be restored and revegetated to existing or better conditions using native species. Board Member Jeff Francell moved to approved the recommendation to the Director, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding Star Riverside Project variance request.

Curtis Steger, Holford Group Development, addressed the Board regarding the Star Riverside Project. He provided the Board with concept plan of the proposed buildings. There will be four buildings ranging in height for 60 ft. to 110 ft. high. They are asking for approval of a variance request to the primary setback which will include 1) the Town Lake trail; 2) construction of wetlands and 3) extension of a box culvert. He also indicated that they will assist the Town Lake Trail Foundation with approximately \$250,000 to help develop the Town Lake Trail.

Dawn Cizmark, South River Citizen Coalition, indicated that the developer did not meet with their organization and was concerned that development in the south shore of Town Lake should enhance the area. Citizens should not be blocked out of the natural access to the lake.

Gail Goff, South River City Coalition, requested that the Board protect the impervious cover requirement of the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance.

Board Member Francell moved to approve to the Director supporting the Star Riverside Project variance request provided that they include information that they have contributed a significant amount to the Town Lake Trail Foundation in lieu of a proposed Parkland Dedication Ordinance fee and that they will work with the Parks and Recreation Department staff on the alignment of the trail as to minimize the impact on native trees. In addition, the Star Riverside Project must stay within the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance impervious cover requirement, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion passed 6-1 with Board Member Bostick voting against.

E. Other Business: N/A

F. Director's Report

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, Planning, updated the Board on the Parkland Dedication Ordinance proposal. He indicated that he had visited with the Downtown Austin Alliance and the Design Commission and that they had expressed interest in supporting the proposal. He will visit the Planning Commission, (Codes and Ordinances subcommittee) and also with the Austin Neighborhood Council. Director Struss reported on the outstanding coordination between the City, County and State during the winter storm period and gave kudos to our Recreation Division for providing homeless shelter and to our Forestry Division for assisting in keeping the streets clear of debris. He also reported that the Trust for Public Land is interested in donating 44 acres of Barton Creek wilderness to our Barton Creek wilderness area. More information will be forthcoming soon on this. The Lake Austin Boating Study will soon take place in coordination with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). An interlocal agreement will be initiated with work beginning around Memorial Day. Texas A &M University will be the vendor providing the necessary services.

G. Items from Board Members

Board Chair Guerrero reported on a visit she received from other board members from Phoenix, Arizona. They visited with Charlie McCabe, Austin Parks Foundation, to review the foundation's operations and guidelines. A special called meeting will be called to discuss the new site plan for the Riverside Project. Ricardo Soliz provided dates for the board to consider. Board Member Ortiz reported on the pervious month's retreat and addressed the discussion about subcommittee quorums.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.