



Parks and Recreation Department
Tuesday, August 28, 2007

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, August 28, 2007 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 W. 2nd St. Room 1101.

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

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

A. Meeting Called to Order

Board Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Boyt moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried 8-0.

C. Citizen Communication

Drew Miller, Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association, informed the Board about fundraising projects in the neighborhood. The association wants to partner with the department to develop a playground for children to play and for the neighborhood to congregate. They asked the Board for direction to determine the next steps. Director Struss said the department would be willing to have dialogue with them in the upcoming months.

Mayor Gus Garcia, urged the Board to consider naming a part of the Town Lake Park for former City Council Member, Beverly Griffith. He said she was an integral part of getting the park in the first place.

D. Public Hearing for Texas Rowing Center Dock Expansion

Board Chair Guerrero opened the public hearing.

Matt Knifton, President/Owner of the Texas Rowing Center, urged the Board to approve an additional 48 feet of dock measured parallel to the shoreline. He provided an overview of the Rowing Center's benefit to the citizens of Austin.

Phillip Meyer, Safety Director Texas Rowing Center, also urged to Board to approve the extension. He reported the Center's safety program.

Alvin Cantu, General Manager, detailed the Center's many community services and urged the Board to support the dock expansion.

Joe Kendall, Executive Director, Texas River School, provided a video of the School's many activities and also urged the Board to support the extension of the dock.

It was also reported that the Rowing Center has contributed between \$50,000 – \$60,000 dollars to the Parks System far exceeding the goal set by the City.

For the sake of brevity, Board Member Vane read the names of the people in favor of the expansion of the dock but did not speak. They include:

Thomas Allen	Linda Cantu	Austin Taylor
Laura David	Peter Marsh	Ron Wilson
Rob Blair	Eric Cornet	Lisa Turmain
Lowry Kraft	Larry Hemick	Marty Zyehlkz
Carl Davies	Eric Meiske	Rene Fitlow
Cindy Chambless	Molly/Charles Barkdale	Raymond Yin
Charlie Brady	Venna Gondhalekar	George Krezinski
Russell Clark	Nancy Pierson	Constance Hicks

After all speakers were given a opportunity to speak, Board Chair Guerrero closed the public hearing.

E. Discussion and Action Items

1. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding a site plan (SP-06-0715C) and (SP-06-0716C.SH) including variance requests from the Primary and Secondary setbacks required in the South Shore Central Waterfront Overlay District for 222 and 300 E. Riverside Drive.

Board Chair Guerrero granted each side of this issue 45 minutes to state their opinion. Each speaker was allotted 2 minutes to speak.

The following speakers were in support of the variance request.

John Nowell	Kim Witliff
Susan Rankin	Greg Miller

The following speakers were opposed to the variance request.

Roy Waley	Gail Gibbons	Carol Lee
Lisette Schmidli	Dawn Cizmar	Patty Sprinkle
Cherie Howard	Clemmie Cummins	Steve Speir
Jane Marshall	Heather Bailey	Susan Pascoe
Jean Mather	Jeff Jack	Garry Brown
Gardner Sumner	Tomas Pantin	Peter Torgrimson
Peter Marsh	Sarah Campbell	Wendy Price Todd
Tom Cooke	Allan Weinberger	Ora Houston
Carl Braun	Bill Bunch	Daniel Llanes
Toni House	Bob Drew	Oscar Pipchak
Bob Livingston	Don Garner	Sandy Bowman
Glenn Fukunzya	Cynthia Keohane	Claudette Lowe
George Odunger	Mary Arnold	Paul Thompson
Mark Nowack	Jennifer Coast	Brad Vassberg
Eddie Torres	Cory Walton	Scott Hendler
Sage White	Bill Oliver	Jackie Goodman
Mary Gay Maxwell		

Alica Reinmund Martinez urged the Board to postpone the decision due to the uncertainty of the changes made to the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance.

Richard Suttle, agent for CWS, referred to the purpose statement of the Parks Board and indicated that the site plan fulfills the mission of the Board's purpose statement. He said the proposal: 1) increases parkland along the lake by 2 acres where there is currently no parkland today; 2) the parkland will be maintained at no cost to the City; 3) the hike and bike trail would be extended and would be built at no cost to the City; 4) public restrooms would be installed, maintained and made available to the public; 5) ground floor space would be donated, heated and/or cooled as needed, and would be used at the discretion of the Parks Department; and 6) there are also provisions for improved water quality facilities.

He referred to a Town Lake Corridor Study in which respondents overwhelmingly supported the extension of the trail and said the proposal meets many of the goals of the study. He urged the Board to support the proposal, which requires no variance to the primary setback but only to the secondary setback.

Board Member Chimenti asked whether the decision by the Planning Commission could be appealed. Deborah Thomas, City Legal, indicated yes.

Jeff Jack was allotted 5 minutes to speak to the CWS proposal and addressed the following:

- He indicated that the appeal process is an opinion of City Legal, and CWS could go to court if they thought the process could not be appealed. Therefore, we should rely instead on the process at hand (the Parks Board making a recommendation to the Planning Commission).
- The petition, although signed by many using the Trail, do not know the history behind the Waterfront Overlay.
- He believes the CWS would build more 200 ft towers because they are financially more rewarding.
- The sixteen sub-districts created by the Waterfront Overlay were created for a reason.
- Three City Council Members have already voiced opposition to this project.
- Respect the history of the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance.

Board Member Bostick moved to approve the Land and Facilities committee recommendation to deny the variances, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. The following roll call vote was taken:

Board Member Bostick	Yes
Board Member Shang	Yes
Board Member Vane	No
Board Member Boyt	No
Board Member Ortiz	Yes
Board Member Chimenti	Yes
Board Member Francell	No
Board Member Small	No
Board Chair Guerrero	Yes

Motion carried 5-4.

2. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding an ACWP Wastewater Improvement Project requesting a staging area at Mary Dawson Park.

This request is proposing to use the Mary Dawson Park for construction staging purposes. The Park is located at 650 Dawson Road and the request is to use the parkland for use as a temporary staging and materials storage site. The project entails installing approximately 15,000 LF of wastewater construction and includes demolition of an aerial wastewater line crossing Bouldin Creek. Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2008. All disturbed areas will be re-vegetated to existing or better conditions using native species chosen by the department. The short term effects will be minimal. Board Member Francell moved to approve the project, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding an ACWP project, wastewater line improvement on parkland, near Nile Street along Boggy Creek at Rosewood and Pleasant Valley.

This request is proposing to install 2,250 LF of new 24 inch wastewater line on a City of Austin Track adjacent to Nile Street. The tract is not owned by the Department, but merely maintained. The new line will replace aging and deteriorating 8-inch and 15-inch lines. At the request of the Parks Department and WPDRD, the contractor will install a chain link security fence around the entire staging area off Rosewood Avenue. All trees adjacent to the work area will be protected and no trees will be removed as part of the project. Low hanging branches will be trimmed. Board Member Francell moved to support the project, seconded by Board Member Vane. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Consider approval of the Gary Smith Boat Dock Site Plan Correction Case Number SP-06—0418DS

The applicant is asking to extend the boat dock 45 feet into the water. They do not have an ability to build a dock that would be functional without the extension. Board Member Francell moved to approve the extension, seconded by Board Member Small. Motion passed 6-1.

5. Consider approval of the Wood Boat Dock Case Number SP-2007-0446DS

Board Member Small explained that that applicant is requesting to exceed more than the 20% allowed for shoreline frontage, but since the applicant is not present and has not explained the need to approve the variance, Board Member Small moved not to approve the request, seconded by Board Member Francell. Motion passed 8-0.

6. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Texas Rowing Center's Dock Expansion.

Board Member Small told the Board that Mr. Knifton had met with members of the Trail Foundation as well as PARD staff to go over specifics of the expansion. All seem to agree that the additional 48 feet of dock measured parallel to the shoreline was acceptable. Board Member Small moved to approve the expansion, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion passed 8-0.

7. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the distance that the Threadgill dock may extend into Lake Austin without constituting a navigational hazard Case Number SP_2007-0435DS.

Board Member Francell moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Board Member Ortiz. Motion passed 6-0.

8. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Sherriff Retaining Wall Case Number SP-2007-0232DS

Board Member Small moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Board Member Francell. Motion passed 6-0.

E. Other Business

1. Briefing on the proposed Zilker Lofts residential development adjoining Zilker Park.

Andrew Martin, Brown McCarroll L.L.P. indicated that the project has no requests for variances and fully complies with the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance. The reason for the brief is to request a parkland improvement agreement from the Board as well as a temporary easement for construction. The project will be a 78 unit condo development with all the parking being underground. A mitigation plan will address the trees that will be removed and the ones that will be replanted. The proposal requests a 10 foot no build lane, per fire code. Plants and parking could be built there but no vertical structures can be built. A rainwater harvesting system will be used to water the newly planted trees. There will also be an enhanced parkland dedication fee which will be approximately \$250,000 for the department. Mr. Brown indicated that they would be providing the Board a full brief with finalized proposals in the upcoming months.

2. Brief on Barton Springs Master Plan short-term projects.

Assistant Director, Farhad Madani thanked all the staff who had been working on the project. He indicated several hundred meetings have been held to identify the Barton Springs improvements. He also said a briefing would be held at City Council soon.

Al Godfrey, Limbacher and Godfrey, provided a draft list of 20 short-term 1-3 year projects identifying the 1) project; 2) the problem and; 3) the proposed solution. These recommendations came from stakeholders and input from the public. Due to a time shortage, the presentation was halted. Board Member Small asked Mr. Madani to explain what would follow after the 20 short-term projects had been identified. Mr. Madani indicated that the department would work with the budget office to secure funding for the projects. He also added that about 90% of the stakeholders are in support of the findings and approximately 10% have concerns about the longer term projects. Board Member Boyt thanks Mr. Godfrey for his presentation and announced that there were some citizens signed up for public comment regarding the Master Plan.

Council Member Goodman, President of the Save Barton Creek Association, said the Association had some qualifiers in terms of the short and the long term projects. She indicated that these are merely ideas not actual projects that are being presented to Council. They also have concerns calling the process as a Master Plan and that the participatory process must be more intense (more time and more comments). The cutting of trees is also an issue and added that the projects need to be re-prioritized.

Bill Bunch, Save our Springs, added that we need to engage the community more than we currently have. Since there are no budget numbers to the project, he urged the Board to consider not labeling three years worth of work as urgent.

Suzanne Mason, Friends of Barton Springs Pool, indicated she is a proponent of the bathhouse renovation.

Stefan Wray and Pam Thompson, Save our Springs Alliance, urged the Board to extend time limits to consider the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan.

Robin Cravey, President, Friends of Barton Springs Pool, urged the Board to support the master plan.

F. Director's Report

Director Struss announced that the next meeting of the Parks Board would be held at the One Texas Center one week earlier (September 18th) due to the upcoming annual conference in Indianapolis. He also mentioned that the MACC grand opening would be held on Saturday, September 15, 2007. All are invited.

G. Items from the Board.

It was reported that the Land and Facilities Committee as well as the Navigation Committee had 100% attendance at their regularly scheduled meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.