Thursday, December 13, 2007

Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s) RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 68

Subject: Set a public hearing to consider the use of approximately 0.460 acre for a temporary staging and storage area to use for staging purposes for construction of a portion of the Govalle 1 – South 2nd Street Reroute Phase I Wastewater Improvement Project through dedicated parkland known as the Mary Dawson Park, in accordance with Sec. 26.001 et seq. of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

Amount and Source of Funding: All costs associated with construction as well as any parkland restoration will be paid by requester.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Junie Plummer 974-7085, Sharon Hamilton 479-1642, Robin Field 974-7064.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board. (Suggested date and time: January 10, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code provides that the use of parkland for non-park purposes may be approved upon a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of this land.

The Austin Clean Water Program, on behalf of the Austin Water Utility and the Public Works Department, is proposing to use the Mary Dawson Park for construction staging purposes. The park area is approximately 0.92 acre and does not currently have park improvements except for some trees which will be protected with tree protection fencing. The park will be used as a staging area for approximately one year.

All disturbed land will be restored and re-vegetated to existing or better conditions. Mitigation for this staging area will be for improvements to the Nicholas Dawson Park located at 604 Gibson Street.

Approval of the use of parkland is made on the condition that all restoration is completed in accordance with the Standard Specifications and Construction Standards of the City of Austin and the Parks and Recreation Department's "Construction in Parks Specifications". Austin Water Utility is required to pay all costs associated with the restoration and tree mitigation will be included as part of the site restoration process.

There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the dedicated parkland which includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to such lands. The dates of public notification in the Austin American-Statesman are December 16, 23 and 30, 2007.