Thursday, January 10, 2008

Public Hearings and Possible Actions RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 100

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and approve a resolution authorizing the use of approximately 0.460 acre for a temporary staging and storage area 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.

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 for approximately one year. The park area is approximately 0.92 acre and lacks park improvements. Existing trees will be protected with tree protection fencing.

All disturbed land will be restored and revegetated to existing or better conditions. Mitigation for the 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 were December 16, 23 and 30, 2007.