

Thursday, January 10, 2008

Public Hearings and Possible Actions RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION Item No. 102

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and approve a resolution authorizing the use of approximately 12,873 SF (0.295 acre) for a wastewater line and approximately 7,418 square feet (0.171 acre) for a temporary work space to construct, use, maintain, repair, and replace a wastewater line associated with the Govalle I – South 2nd Street Wastewater Improvement Project through dedicated parkland known as the Nicholas 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 install approximately 350 linear feet of 18-inch wastewater line running north-south through the park and approximately 205 linear feet of 8-inch wastewater line running east-west through the park.

The project will affect only a small area of the park running east-west along the James Street right-of-way. The wastewater lines within the park will be installed via trenchless construction. There will be one large pit in the center part of the park to allow four bores. Two of the bores are under the creek to limit impact to the creek. Existing park improvements will not be disturbed by this project.

Additional mitigation on this parkland is required by the Parks Department for the use of Mary Dawson Park as a staging area.

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.