A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L

AGENDA



Thursday, December 18, 2008

Parks and Recreation **Item No. 38**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Approve a resolution adopting the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan.

Amount and Source of Funding: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Please contact Tony Arnold at 974-6766 or David Johns at 974-2781.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Historic Landmark Commission, the Design Commission, the Parks and Recreation/Environmental Boards Joint Subcommittee, the Parks and Recreation Board, the Environmental Board and the Planning Commission.

Prior Council Action: Council Resolution calling for creation of master plan for Barton Springs Pool, October 19, 2006; Council Resolution authorizing $6.2M for BSP short-term improvement projects, September 10, 2007; Council Presentation, December 11, 2008.

In September of 2006, the Board of Directors of the Friends of Barton Springs Pool submitted a letter to Council requesting improvements at the pool and making key recommendations. On October 19, 2006, Council passed a resolution directing the City Manager to obtain the services of a professional consultant to prepare a comprehensive master plan for Barton Springs Pool that will address improvements to facilities, the grounds, infrastructure, water quality and salamander habitat conditions.

The master plan design process has included over 80 public meetings with contributions from neighborhood associations, interested stakeholders and special interest groups, including the Friends of Barton Springs Pool. A website was established for the purpose of disseminating information, and an e-mail account was established to accept public comments. A joint subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Environmental Board was established to act as a liaison for the public.

One of the goals of the Master Plan was to identify a collection of short-term projects and to present them to Council for funding in the 2007-2008 budget cycle. Subsequently, twenty-one projects were presented to Council in September of 2007. Those projects were chosen on the basis of the following criteria: public safety, scientific studies required in preparation for future improvements, critical infrastructure improvements, projects agreed to by consensus, and ADA accessibility improvements. These projects were funded via Council Resolution on September 10, 2007.

Future enhancements and concepts envisioned within the Master Plan include: restoration of the historic bathhouse to more closely resemble its original design; grounds improvements in and around the pool area; rehabilitation of Eliza Springs and reconnection of the spring run to the pool; addition of a small changing facility and/or restroom on the south side; restoration of the area immediately downstream of the pool; and improving water movement through the pool based on proposed hydrodynamic modeling, and aimed to enhance water quality. These concepts would each go through a public review process. Since the proposed projects are currently unfunded, they would also require future Council approval of funding, perhaps through a bond election.

The Barton Springs Pool Master Plan has received approval from the Parks and Recreation Board, the Environmental Board, the Planning Commission, the Design Commission, and the Historic Landmark Commission with recommendations. These include using the Master Plan as a resource for short-term projects and as a concept plan for possible long-term projects. The joint subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Baord and the Environmental Baord will continue to provide oversight to review implementation of the plan and provide a venue for public comment. At the conclusion of the Master Plan process, the plan was presented in a briefing to Council on December 11, 2008. By approving this action, Council will authorize the adoption of the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan: Concepts for Preservation and Improvements.