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

AGENDA



Thursday, May 14, 2009

Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s) **Item No. 41**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Set a public hearing to consider the use of approximately 4,218 SF (0.10 acre) for right of way use to allow for the construction of the West Gate Boulevard Extension Project from Cameron Loop to Cohoba Drive through dedicated parkland known as the Piney Bend 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. (Suggested date and time: June 11, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

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

For More Information: Junie Plummer 974-7085; Annie Van Zant 974-2825; April Thedford 974-7141

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 Public Works Department is proposing to extend West Gate Boulevard from Cameron Loop to Cohoba Drive. The new roadway will start at Cohoba Drive and continue north to Cameron Loop and will be 114 feet across and include sidewalks and bicycle lanes on either side of the road, four traffic lanes and a median approximately 20-24 feet wide. The area taken from the park for right of way purposes is approximately 4,218 square feet. Benefits for this project include providing area residents greater north-south traveling access, allowing Cowan Elementary School to establish one-way traffic flow through the property, and connecting the bicycle network.

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". The Public Works Department is required to pay all costs associated with the site restoration.

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 May 17, 24 & 31, 2009.