



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**March 13, 2001
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2001 in the Board Room of the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office located at 200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Mary Ruth Holder, Rocky Medrano, Clint Small, Jeff Francell, and Carol Kim.

Board Members Absent: Rhonda Taylor and Amy Babich

Staff Members Present: Stuart Strong, Juan Valera-Lema, Don Koehler, Cappy Manly, Kimberley Mitchell, Randy Scott and Dina Haines.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, February 27, 2001 meetings. Board Member Francell made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Board Member Small second the motion. The Board was in favor 6-0-0.

C. PRESENTATIONS

Dolores Duran, City of Austin Public Works Department spoke in regards to the Land Use Agreement and Permanent Slope Easement Related to Phase II and Phase III of the Loyola Lane Right of Way.

Jean Drew, City of Austin Watershed Protection Department gave a presentation to the board regarding the Watershed Protection Master Plan. (see attachment)

D. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

John Nyfeler, Architect, Aquirre/Nyfeler spoke on his request to have the Lamar hike and bike pedestrian bridge named after James D. Pfluger, FAIA. Mr. James D. Pfluger, was the principal designer who worked with Lady Bird Johnson in the original creation of Town Lake Park. Mr. Pfluger was one of the architects who did the layout of the Town Lake hike and bike trail. Mr. Nyfeler said he has support from various associations and provided copies of letters of support.

Tom Evans spoke to the board regarding his concern of a developer's improper clearing of the Balcones Canyonland Preserves. The developer allegedly cut the locks on a city-installed gate on Kollimeyer Road and entered the property with a number of trucks, a bulldozer, a shredder and several chainsaws and cut a 700 foot long, 25 foot wide swath of land on BCP property. Mr. Evans stated his support for preserving the tract of land for the Golden-cheeked Warbler habitats.

Don Koehler, BCP Manager was present to answer questions. Mr. Koehler stated that although the developer has permission to enter upon proper circumstances, such as surveying, but not to clear property without proper permits required by Watershed Protection Department.

Pam Murfin also spoke to the board with her concerns of the clearing through the BCP property. Ms. Murfin lives between Medway Ranch and Reicher Ranch. She informed the board of her intent to try to locate outside conservation buyers to purchase more land to secure for the Golden-cheek Warbler. She also encouraged the Parks Board to seek City Council support for more funding to purchase land.

Board Member Small left the meeting 6:58 p.m.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation to City Council regarding a Parkland Use Agreement and Permanent Slope Easement Related to Phase II and Phase III of the Loyola Lane Right of Way.

Dolores Duran, Project Manager with the Public Works Department gave a presentation to the board. The project consist of a land use agreement to construct a 20 to 30 foot wide slope easement along the full length of the Northeast Park southern boundary adjacent to Loyola Lane near Hwy 183. The Loyola Lane project from Hwy 183 to Decker Lane will improve the roadway from two lanes to four lanes, including bike lanes, sidewalks and drainage improvements. In the Colony Park and Northeast Park, the Public Works Department is also asking for temporary staging area permission to store materials for the project while under construction. **Board Member Holder** informed the board this item had been brought to the Land and Facilities committee meeting and would recommend to City Council the Parkland Use Agreement, Permanent Slope Easement and temporary staging area related to Phase II and Phase III of the Loyola Lane Right of Way improvements. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.**

2. Make Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Watershed Protection Department Master Plan, Phase I Report.

Jean Drew, Master Plan Program Coordinator from the Watershed Protection Department gave a slide show presentation of the Watershed Protection Master Plan. The

master plan findings can be summarized generally as watershed problems are wide spread and are expectant to worsen if solutions are not implemented. To address these problems over 800 millions of capitol improvements have been identified and are needed to construct integrated watershed protection facilities including detention ponds, channel stabilization projects, flood, erosion and water quality controls. (Presentation Attached)

Board Member Holder stated this item was also brought to Land and Facilities committee meeting. Ms. Holder stated that in the Board Member's packet was the Environmental Board's Recommendation, which incorporated the citizen advisory group's recommendations. Ms. Holder felt the Parks Board should support these recommendations with the following addition: On page 2, in the Environmental Board Recommendation, Item 3, 3.4.1. entitled "develop a plan to optimize City departmental relationship by cooperation to protect the environment" (i.e. Public Utilities, Water/Wastewater and Tree Protection staff) the Parks and Recreation Department should be added to the list of departments. Ms. Holder also stated she believes Board members should be cautious about allowing the use of parklands and preserves as locations for city flood control and water quality projects because private development created the need for such projects and public lands should not have to bear all the burden of the effects of private development.

Board Member Francell made the motion to recommend to City Council the recommendations in the Environmental Board's recommendation with the addition of Parks and Recreation Department in item 3, 3.4.1. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.**

3. Make Recommendation to City Council Regarding a Parkland Use for an ICG Communication Line to cross parkland near Drake Bridge.

Stuart Strong stated the ICG Communications Company requested a license agreement to place an underground telecommunication line on parkland near the intersection of Cesar Chavez and the South First Street bridge. Telecommunications are permitted to place lines in rights of way without local approval.

The hike and bike trail would remain open and that the work will be completed within two evenings.

Board Member Holder made motion to recommend to City Council a Parkland Use Agreement for ICG Communication Line to cross parkland near Drake Bridge. **Board Member Kim** seconded the motion. The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.

4. Make Recommendation to the Director Regarding the Dino Pit Exhibit at the Austin Nature and Science Center.

Juan Valera-Lema introduced Mr. Neil Smith and Ms. Tammi Migl to the board. Mr. Smith is an architect with Graeber, Simmons & Cowan, Inc. Ms. Migl is an Engineer with Baker-Aicklen & Associates. Both Mr. Smith and Ms. Migl have been very generous with donating time and efforts to the Dino Pit Project.

Mr. Stuart Strong stated this is an effort to recreate a dinosaur environment, a children exploratory experience in the area next to the Nature and Science Center.

Cappy Manly, Supervisor, Splash and Special Projects at the Austin Nature and Science Center, stated that the Dino Pit Exhibit is a collaborative project between the ANSC, The Texas Memorial Museum. The project is funded by all private donations at not cost to the city. Funds are being held at the Austin Community Foundation. The project has secured 70% of the funding including substantial in-kind donations from the architecture firm Graeber, Simmons, & Cowan and Baker Aicklen & Associates Engineering Firm. Ms. Manly also informed the board that additional funds of \$300,000 need to be raised.

Board Member Holder made the motion to recommend to the Director that he approve the Dino Pit Exhibit. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.**

5. Appoint Parks Board Members to the Arts and Recreation Sub-Committee also known as the Appeals Committee.

Board Chair Castleberry appointed Mary Ruth Holder and Carol Kim to the Arts and Recreation Sub-Committee also known as the Appeals Committee. Board Chair Castleberry will also served on the committee.

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stuart Strong gave an update on the Austin Community College Riverside Golf course. A Public Hearing was held by ACC on March 5. The majority of the people spoke in favor of keeping the land as a public golf course. There was a 900 person petition submitted from the neighborhood.

Mr. Strong also informed the board the Montopolis Ballfield construction is on schedule and should be completed within the two months time period.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Board Member Medrano informed the board that the committee would be meeting in two weeks.

Land and Facilities Committee

Items of discussion at the last meeting are on tonight's agenda.

A presentation on Walsh boat landing parking lot situation.
A zoning issue in regards to Riverside Drive
Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park
Use of leave blowers in city parks
Land acquisition concerning Mount Bonnell park was discussed.

Navigation Committee

Items discussed were the two boat docks coming up on our next meeting, March 27. Along with Walsh Boat Landing parking issue.

Bond Oversight Committee

Board Chair Castleberry informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for March 15.

G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Francell inform the board of his intent to meet with Don Koehler next week to talk about a mountain bike permit.

H. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.