



Parks and Recreation Department Board Minutes

**April 24, 2001
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, April 24, 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, Amy Babich, Jeff Francell, Rocky Medrano, Clint Small and Carol Kim.

Board Members Absent: Rhonda Taylor

Staff Members Present: Jesus Olivares, Kimberley Jamail Mitchell, Stuart Strong, Randy Scott and Dina Haines.

- A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.
- B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**, March 27, 2001 meetings. **Board Chair Castleberry** made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The Board was in favor 7-0-0.**
- C. PRESENTATIONS**
- D. ITEMS FOR ACTION**
 - 1. Make a Recommendation Regarding Construction of Davis Boat Dock at 1603 Manana. File No. SP-01-0079DS
 - 2. Make a Recommendation Regarding Construction of Tom Luth Boat Dock at 1711 Manana. File No. SP-00-2584D
 - 4. Make a Recommendation Regarding Construction of Rosenberg Boat Dock at 4210 Wateredge Cove. File No. SP-01-0116D

Board Member Small stated item #1, the Davis boat dock is a single slip. Item #2, Luth boat dock is a 2 slips. Item 4, the Rosenberg boat dock is a 2 slips. **Board Member**

Small made the motion to recommend the construction on all three-boat docks. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 6-0-1.** Board Member Babich opposed.

3. Make a Recommendation Regarding Construction of Coleman Boat Dock at Edgewater. File No. SP-01-0116D **This item was pulled from the agenda.**
5. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding the TEA-21 Enhancement Program Application Ranking. **This item was pulled from the agenda (see below).**

Greg Kiloh, Urban Designer, City of Austin Transportation Planning and Design Department spoke to the board regarding the four projects going to Texas Department of Transportation for the TEA-21 funding. Mr. Kiloh noted that he had provided board members with information in their backup packets regarding each proposed project. The backup information included the following:

Northern Walnut Creek Trail

The Northern Walnut Creek Trail will run from Balcones District Park to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) offices adjacent to IH-35. The 4.3-mile long trail will be 13 feet wide concrete will be a multi-modal non-motorized commuter trail.

Lamar Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Phase II

The Lamar Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Phase II is the extension of the bridge over Town Lake now under construction. The phase II extension will provide for safe crossing of Cesar Chavez, Sandra Muraida and the Union Pacific Railroad, to link the pedestrian and bicycle bridge to 5th Street and Lamar Boulevard.

Upper Boggy Creek and Bike Trail

The Upper Boggy Creek Hike and Bike Trail is the first phase of an extensive non-motorized commuter facility that will eventually link the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail and Lance Armstrong Crosstown Bikeway to the intersection of North Lamar and Airport Boulevard.

Congress Avenue Bridge Enhancements

The Congress Avenue Bridge Enhancements Project is a proposal to aesthetically improve the landmark bridge with the addition crash barriers, pedestrian scaled railing and lighting, shade structures and viewing platforms.

Board Member Holder stated that the recommendation of the Land and Facilities subcommittee on these four grant applications was for the Board to recommend to Council to go forward on the application for the Northern Walnut Creek trail from Walnut Creek Park to Balcones District Park, for the Upper Boggy Creek and Bike Trail and for the Lamar Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Phases II and III so long as the project

proceeds as originally aligned, to follow the currently existing Sandra Muraida Way. The subcommittee does not at this time support the Congress Avenue Bridge Enhancement in the absence of any information from Bat Conservation International about the potential impact of the project on the bat population that lives under the Congress Avenue bridge. Ms. Holder informed the other Board members that although the Land and Facilities subcommittee (which has already held two meetings on the grant proposals) had requested a presentation by the project manager for the Congress Avenue Bridge Enhancements at its second meeting on the grant proposals, no staff person had attended the meeting to speak on this item.

Teresa Calkins, Project Manager, Public Works Department spoke to the board regarding the proposed project for the Congress Avenue bridge. Ms. Calkins handed out information concerning the Congress Avenue Bridge Enhancements. She said the project has changed substantially since the written information provided to the Land and Facilities subcommittee. This project would create safe areas for pedestrians gathering and scenic resting areas to view the popular flight of the Mexican Free-tailed bat currently residing under the Congress Avenue Bridge.

Board Member Holder restated her concern about the lack of information about possible effects on the bat population. **Board Members Francell** and **Small** also stated their concern about the lack of sufficient information on the project. **Board Member Francell** asked for the item to be pulled from the Parks Board agenda. After discussion from several board members, the members agreed to pull the TEA-21 applications from the agenda. **Board Member Holder** stated that the item should first be brought back to the Land and Facilities sub-committee meeting, May 1, 2001. The item would then be brought back to the Parks Board on May 8, 2001 for further consideration.

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares informed the board of the Safety Audit Report included in the board members information packet. The department concurred with the findings and is currently implementing changes. Also included in the packet was the Austin Parks and Recreation Annual Report.

Mr. Olivares informed the board of a possible partnership with National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA), and Dr. Peter Witt. Dr. Witt has been working with the national office and The Totally Cool Totally Art program is being considered to go nation wide as a model teen program.

Mr. Olivares also informed the board that once again, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department have been nominated for the finalist for the Gold Medal Award for the best park system in the nation.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Board Member Medrano passed out information concerning programs being offered at Dittmar, Montopolis, South Austin, Dove Springs and McBeth Recreation Centers. Mr. Medrano also informed the board members of the two representatives from Montopolis Recreation Center who were sent to the National Golden Gloves tournament.

Land and Facilities Committee

Item discussed:

TEA-21 Grant Project

Re-naming of Colorado River Park and Northwest District Park

Navigation Committee

None

Bond Oversight Committee

None

G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair Castleberry stated she had visited with Ms. Roberta Crenshaw. Ms. Crenshaw would like to get a program started at the recreation centers to use the recycled paper to make pads.

Board Member Babich stated her concern for too many vehicles being allowed to park on the grass at Waterloo Park for the Earth Day Celebration. Ms. Babich also stated her concerns for the trail being blocked.

Board Member Holder stated that the Trust for Public Land has been investigating the development of the private lots along the south side of Mt Bonnell to determine whether they can be acquired for addition to the park. The development of these lots will significantly damage the view from the south side of the park and this has recently been in the news. The public currently uses these lots and people do not realize they are not part of the park.

H. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:38 p.m.