



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**June 12, 2001
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, June 12, 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, Rhonda Taylor, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim, Rocky Medrano and Clint Small.

Board Members Absent: Amy Babich

PARD Staff Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Kimberley Jamail Mitchell, Stuart Strong, Randy Scott, Maria Ciciarelli, Don Koehler, Carlos Pineda, Bernadette Phifer 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** May 22, 2001 meeting. **Board Member Kim** made the motion to approve the minutes as written. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The Board was in favor 6-0-0.**

C. PRESENTATIONS

Carver Museum

Kalpana Sutaria, Project Manager with the Public Works Department for the new expansion project of the Carver Museum gave a presentation to the Parks Board. Ms. Sutaria displayed various architectural drawings of the planned changes to the Carver Museum. This project was approved by the City Council in 1998 Bond Election. The expansion project also calls for two additional parking lots to be added to the facility to provide ample parking spaces. **Maria Ciciarelli**, Division Manager, Cultural Contract department and **Bernadette Phifer**, Museum Site Coordinator shared information regarding the gallery exhibits designed to educate the public about African America History. Board members asked questions about various aspects of the expansion plans.

Board Member Taylor arrived at 6:53 p.m.

Norwood House

Lisa Danielson, Founder of Health and Lifestyles, a ten year old wellness consulting company, gave a presentation to board regarding the organization's proposal to partner with the Parks and Recreation Department in providing health and wellness education. The company would like to develop the 6-acre Norwood tract on the corner of Riverside and IH-35 into a Health and Healing Arts Center, a wellness oasis in the middle of downtown providing the Austin community wellness information. The proposed project to be located within the center grounds would be a Community Wellness Library, Hot Mineral Water Soaking Pool, a Bath House Spas, and an Education Center. The Education Center would provide the community with Outreach Programs. Ms. Danielson stated the three million dollars for the park and building renovation would still need to be raised.

Janet Abbott, a consultant to the proposed project, also spoke to the board regarding the condition of the swimming pool that is on the tract. Ms. Abbott stated the pool was in excellent shape for renovation to a 4 feet soaking pool. Board Member Francell expressed concern about converting the Norwood tract to a use other than its present use as a dog park in the absence of a substitute dog park. PARD Director Jesus Olivares explained that he has informed Ms. Danielson that a change in use of the Norwood tract would need to be subject to finding a new site for the dog park.

Town Lake Park

Stuart Strong, Division Manager of the Planning, Design and Construction division gave a presentation to the board regarding the Town Lake Park project. Mr. Strong provided a detailed architectural drawing with information showing the roads, landscape, car garage, water detention ponds and the Performing Art facilities. The Town Lake Park will have irrigation pumping capabilities from Town Lake. Also discussed was a new 'water splash area' for a more family oriented place to bring children. The area will contain splashing fountains and touching modules which children could interact with to set off the fountains. The Event Center should be completed by June 2002 and by November 2002 the roads will be in place. Board Member Holder asked about the status of the transportation study regarding Riverside Drive through the park. Mr. Strong explained that no final decision has been made regarding the status of Riverside Drive.

D. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. **Make a Recommendation Regarding the Construction of Coleman Boat Dock at 2503 Edgewater. File No.SP-01-0116D**

Board Member Small stated the boat dock was in compliance with Land Development Code requirements and made the motion to approve the construction of Coleman Boat Dock. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

2. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Deep Eddy EMS Detention Area Agreement.

Jason Martin, District Commander of EMS Service and **Norman Mattson**, Project Manager of Public Works department requested a recommendation from the Board for a park use agreement to install a vegetative filter strip adjacent to the Town Lake Hike and Bike trail near the site of the community garden. As a condition to the approval of a Site Development Permit for the EMS Station site, the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department (WPDRD) has required the installation of a vegetative filter strip in order to comply with site run off water. This solution, approved by WPDRD, is in lieu of a detention pond which would have covered too much of this planned station site and adjacent parkland and parking area for Deep Eddy Pool. The consultant has worked closely with the PARD staff to insure the structure will not interfere with mowing operations, can be easily maintained and will not impact the hike and bike trail or the community gardens.

Board Member Holder stated this item had been considered and recommended to the full Board for approval by the Land and Facilities Sub-committee. **Ms. Holder** made a motion to recommend to City Council to accept the Park Use Agreement to locate the vegetative filter strip for the Deep Eddy EMS station in the area proposed. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

3. Make a Recommendation on Resolution of the Joint Committee of the Environmental Board Subcommittee and the Parks and Recreation Board Land and Facilities Committee Concerning the Gardens at Bull Creek Regional Detention Facility and the Effect of Such Facilities upon the BCP Preserves.

Board Member Holder handed out to Board Members copies of an aerial photo copied from the City's Environmental Assessment for the Gardens at Bull Creek regional detention facility. She explained that this photo showed the boundary lines of the Hanks BCP tract, the adjoining Gardens at Bull Creek tract and the location of the dam across portions of both tracts. Ms. Holder reminded the Board that the Gardens at Bull Creek tract was purchased with monies from both the Watershed Protection Department and PARD. The purpose for which this land was acquired was for construction of the dam and to provide a buffer for the adjoining Hanks BCP tract.

Both the Parks and Recreation Board and the Environmental Board had made several recommendations to Council about the dam project within the past two years based upon the purview of each Board and because of ongoing problems with the project, formed a

joint subcommittee to address these concerns. The goals of the joint subcommittee were to gain a greater understanding of this project and its effects, to understand the erosion problems created for the dam and the Gardens tract by an adjoining development in progress, to make decisions and call upon staff resources in a more efficient manner and to make recommendations using the Gardens at Bull Creek project as an example of some the effects of increased development upon the City's natural resources such as BCP tracts and the Bull Creek watershed. The resolution concludes the joint subcommittee's recommendations concerning the effects of development necessitating projects such as this dam upon BCP tracts. The subject of most of these recommendations had already been discussed at prior Board meetings in reports from the joint subcommittee meetings. Board Member Holder explained that the project, the adjoining development and the impact upon the BCP tract, the Gardens tract and the Bull Creek watershed has proved to be an educational experience for joint subcommittee members, staff from both departments and for members of the public who attended the joint subcommittee meetings and provided helpful information.

Environmental Board Member Joyce Connor spoke to the Members and explained that the Environmental Board had adopted the joint subcommittee resolution and backup information and recommended that Council adopt the resolution at its meeting on June 6, 2001. The Environmental Board voted to emphasize bullet number 7 of the resolution, calling for a review of funding for the BCP and for greater patrol of "trouble spots" where vandalism and illegal entry is occurring on BCP tracts.

Board Member Francell made the motion to adopt the Resolution as written and the backup information and to recommend that City Council adopt the resolution. **Board Member Taylor** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

4. Make a recommendation to City Council Regarding the Northtown MUD Consent Agreement Amendment.

Sarah Campbell, Senior Planner with the Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation to the Board regarding an amendment to the Northtown MUD agreement. The original agreement allocated a certain amount of acreage outside the floodplain ("upland acreage") for parkland development and provided that a certain amount of acreage within the floodplain would be used as a greenbelt area. The MUD and developer sought to amend the agreement to reduce the amount of upland acreage for parkland development by 15 acres. They argued that the floodplain has actually increased, with accurate surveys now in hand by an estimated 15 acres. Not only have they lost 15 acres they had counted on developing, but the parkland acreage in the floodplain has increased as well. The critical parkland issue, however, is the upland acreage outside the floodplain, since this is where park facilities will be able to be located. In an effort to settle the dispute, PARD has agreed to reduce the 15 acres shortage to 10 acres, 7 acres in actual land and \$90,000 in lieu of the remaining 3 acres at \$30,000 in either cash or park improvements. The applicants will provide 1 to 2 acres out of the floodplain and will build trailhead amenities, including a 20-car parking lot, near

the south east corner of Heathererwilde Blvd at John Henry Faulk Drive. The applicant will provide the remaining 5 to 6 acres out of the floodplain along the east side of the greenbelt north of Well Branch Parkway for future neighborhood park and trailhead development. The developer has also agreed to the request to build a pedestrian underpass at Wells Branch, for continuous trail access to the 22-acre park to the south. The applicants will provide a second connection between the "Wildflower" greenbelt trail and proposed John Henry Faulk Drive. The Parks and Recreation Department agrees to work with the applicants for reductions in greenbelt (floodplain) acreage where such action will be advantageous to both parties, as well as, to the District.

Board Member Holder explained that the agreement had not been finalized at the time of the Land and Facilities committee meeting but the item was nevertheless forwarded to the full Board so the applicants could proceed to the Planning Commission. She made the motion to recommend that City Council adopt the amendment to Northtown Municipal Utility District Agreement. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares invited board members to the Lamar Pedestrian Bridge Grand Opening ceremony, Saturday, June 16, 2001. He informed the board of the 5K Run, along with the grand opening of the bridge. Mr. Olivares also informed the board that items on the City Council agenda for Thursday, June 14, 2001 will include the name changes to the Colorado River Park and Northwest District Park, as well as the naming of the Lamar Pedestrian Bridge. He also told Board Members that at 5:30 p.m. at the Council meeting on Thursday, Mayor Watson will proclaim July as National Parks and Recreation Month.

Mr. Olivares informed the board of two programs that were well attended the Save a Life Swim Clinic at the Metz pool with Metz Elementary School students and Widen Elementary School at the Dove Spring Pool. The department will work next year with the American Statesman to promote this program in late May 2002.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Board Member Medrano informed the board of Juneteenth Celebrations starting on Monday, June 18. Mr. Medrano also informed the board that baseball season is officially over and he thanked PARD staff for an excellent job well done in maintaining the field and leagues.

Land and Facilities Committee

Board Member Holder informed the board of items discussed at the Land and Facilities meeting. In addition to the items discussed at tonight's Board meeting,

the subcommittee continued to discuss bicycle/pedestrian safety in Zilker Park and the location of bicycle racks in city parks.

Navigation Committee

Board Member Small informed the board members of a directive from the City Manager's office concerning streamlining of the boat dock approval process which was discussed at the committee meeting. Mr. Small also discussed the permitting process to allow commercial boats on Town Lake, however that was not an item discussed in the committee meeting.

Bond Oversight Committee

Board Chair Castleberry informed the board that the Bond Oversight Committee was preparing the final statement to go to City Council.

G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Holder informed the board that the Trust for Public Land organization was not able to purchase the private property adjacent to Mt. Bonnell Park to be given as a gift to the City for additional parkland. The owner of the two tracts immediately adjacent to the park on its south side has indicated that she is not interested at this time in selling the tracts for an addition to the park.

H. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:02 p.m.