



**Parks and Recreation Department Board  
Minutes**

**June 26, 2001  
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, June 26, 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, Amy Babich and Clint Small

**Board Members Absent:** None

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

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

- B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** June 12, 2001 meeting. **Board Member Medrano** made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Board Member Holder** seconded the motion. **The Board was in favor 8-0-0.**

**C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Mike Librik spoke regarding the Seaholm Master Plan.

Jeb Boyt spoke regarding Seaholm Master Plan.

**D. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

1. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Seaholm Master Plan.

**Jana McCann**, Project Manager, City of Austin Transportation, Planning and Design Department gave a presentation regarding the Seaholm Master Plan. Ms. McCann provided a detailed architectural drawing to illustrate upcoming proposed changes to the Downtown properties surrounding the Seaholm Plant. She stated in 1996 the City Council passed a resolution to preserve the Seaholm Plant building and to look at what redevelopment possibilities could best serve the citizens of Austin. Ms. McCann informed the board of various upcoming projects that are being phased in the downtown vicinity surrounding the Seaholm plant. The Lance Armstrong Crosstown Bikeway (LACB), a possible bike station and the proposed purchase of property for downtown

housing. She explained that meetings are currently being held to locate the Lance Armstrong bikeway. Also discussed was the possibility of the re-alignment of Sandra Muraida way to allow for more parkland usage. Ms McCann explained that the Seaholm Plan would be presented to Council at its August 2 meeting.

Several Board Members discussed concerns about several aspects of the Seaholm Master Plan. Board Member Holder raised concerns about the compatibility of the Plan with the Town Lake Park Comprehensive Plan and the 1989 City Ordinance incorporating the Comprehensive Plan. She pointed out that, for example, the Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan contemplate that both the Seaholm Plant and the Green Water Treatment Plant would become "parkland" once the facilities are no longer in service. She asked whether they had already been dedicated as "parkland" but neither Ms. McCann nor Department staff knew the answer. Ms. Holder explained that their designation as parkland might limit redevelopment of these facilities. Board Member Francell expressed concern that the Seaholm Development Plan proposed to turn parkland adjacent to the Seaholm Plant into parking, which he felt, would be an inappropriate use of the parkland. Board Chair Castleberry expressed concern that the realignment of Sandra Muraida Way in light of the uncertainty over the funds to redevelop the Seaholm Plant would only serve to create an entranceway through existing parkland to a private development. Board Member Holder also expressed concern that the Master Plan leaves out planning for an extension of the Pfluger Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge and that the location of the Lance Armstrong Bikeway and its relationship to the parkland and to the Seaholm Plant redevelopment site is uncertain at this time.

**Jeb Boyt**, President, Austin Metro Trails and Greenways distributed a document outlining the pros and cons of six possible alignments for completing the Pfluger Bike Pedestrian Bridge over Town Lake. Mr. Boyt informed the board of a three-day observance by the City of Austin Transportation, Planning and Design Department of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPR) track crossing at Cesar Chavez and observed over 600 people crossing at that track location. At the concern of UPR, the company is considering a signalized crossing to prevent accidents.

**Mike Librik** spoke to the board to speak against the Seaholm Master Plan based upon the lack of planning for bicycle/pedestrian transportation.

**Board Member Holder** made a motion to recommend to Council that they postpone a decision regarding the Seaholm Master Plan based upon the need to fix the location of the Lance Armstrong crosstown bikeway and add to the Master Plan, the need to determine the location of the extension of the Pfluger Bridge and add to the Master Plan and the possible realignment of Sandra Muraida Way in the Plan based upon new proposals about the Lance Armstrong bikeway and the Pfluger Bridge extension and until those issues are resolved. **Board Member Small** seconded the motion. **The motion passed is favor 8-0-0.** The Board will set the item on its next agenda, however, in case Council does not postpone the item on its agenda.

2. **Make a Recommendation to Director Regarding the J.J. Pickle Patch on Town Lake Park.**

**Stuart Strong** gave a brief presentation to the board. In honor of the service and commitment to the 10th Congressional District, the Shady Ladies a private non-profit community organization, will raise \$150,000 to \$200,000 to develop the improvements on the Town Lake Park along the north side of Cesar Chavez Street west of Lamar and between the existing ball fields for a J.J. Pickle Patch. In order to expedite the project, the Water Protection Department will request to City Council to waive certain Land Development Code requirements pertaining to water quality and the flood plain. The following public amenities will be at no cost to the City. Included in the improvements will be an outdoor pavilion, plaza, walkways, benches, a peach orchard and other plantings.

**Board Member Small** made the motion recommending that the Director move forward with plans for the J.J. Pickle Patch. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 8-0-0.**

**E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Olivares informed the board of the Fourth of July fireworks to be held at Zilker Park. Due to the construction of the Long Center, no more concerts will be allowed on Auditorium Shores on Town Lake.

**F. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Programs Committee

**Board Member Medrano** shared information of the Programs Subcommittee meeting. He distributed pamphlets of the National Junior Tennis League. The program has received a new surge of energy and has increased its numbers from 240 children in 2000 to 420 children this year. Lonnie Lyman, N.J.T.L. coordinator, has worked very hard to make this program successful through innovative programming and seeking of grants and sponsors. One of the grants from the Austin Parks Foundation is a racket give away for the participants from Dottie Jordan, Givens, and Rosewood Recreation Centers. The award ceremony for the 100 plus children will be on Friday, July 13, 2001 at the Rosewood pavilion from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Land and Facilities Committee

**Board Member Holder** informed the board of an item discussed concerning the addition of a second left turn lane at Lamar and 24<sup>th</sup> Street being considered by the City of Austin Transportation, Planning and Design.

Navigation Committee

The committee met but does not have any new items to report to the Board at this time.

Bond Oversight Committee

**Board Chair, Castleberry** informed the board that she would have further information regarding the Bond Oversight Committee in August.

**G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Member Holder reported that the Task Force reviewing the Boards and Commissions system will be sending a copy of the existing code provisions outlining the duties of Board Members and a draft rewrite of these code provisions for members to make a side by side comparison to ensure that the draft rewrite being prepared by the City Legal Department staff accurately captures the duties of the Board and does not inadvertently substantively change those duties.

**H.** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.