



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**September 24, 2002
Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2002 at the Parks and Recreation Department, 200 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Pablo Valdez, Amy Babich, Linda Guerrero, Mary Ruth Holder, Jeb Boyt, Jeff Francell and Clint Small

Board Members Absent: Marilyn Bostick

City Staff Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Stuart Strong, Randy Scott, Valerie Bennett, Kim Jamail and Dina Haines

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6.46 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, September 10, 2002

Board Chair Castleberry made the motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Board Member Valdez seconded the motion. The vote was in favor 7-0-1. Francell abstained.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Andy Slater, Vice President, Development, Hilton Hotel spoke to the board on the Susanna Dickinson House relocation to Brush Square.

Bennett Donovan, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association spoke in support of relocation of Susanna Dickinson House relocation to Brush Square.

Clay Lebec, *Friends of the O Henry Museum*, spoke in support of relocation of the Susanna Dickinson House to Brush Square.

D. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation to City Council on a Use Agreement for Proposed Wastewater Line on Parkland, West University Area Overflow Abatement.

Anne Scharlach, Project Manager, Public Works Department was present to answer questions. Nieves Alfaro, Engineer, Weston Solutions, Inc. presented the larger scale drawings and gave a brief description the project. The proposed construction within City parkland includes the installation of a 12-inch diameter wastewater line

along San Gabriel Street from 28 ½ Street to Lamar Blvd. The West University Area Overflow Abatement Project will include the replacement of a deteriorating wastewater line generally bordered by Shoal Creek, Rio Grande Street, West 30th Street and Lamar Blvd. However due to the curvature of Lamar Blvd the encroachment will occur on parkland necessitating a parkland use agreement.

Board Member Holder informed the board that this item had been to the Land and Facilities Sub-committee and was recommended by the subcommittee for Board approved based upon several conditions:

1. That Public Works and consultants communicate with the Optimist Club, who have an agreement with PARD to sell Christmas trees on the area in which Public Works Department is staging equipment;
2. That if any pecan trees along the project line are damaged or killed Public Works will replace those trees or provide adequate monetary reimbursement to PARD;
3. That Public Works will work with PARD staff to provide a source for potable drinking water on this parkland as an amenity to the neighborhood and other park users;
4. The staging areas along with any parkland affected by the project will be restored by Public Works back to their original vegetated condition using appropriate plant materials once the project is completed.

Mr. Stuart Strong also stated that Public Work intends to work with PARD to include a sidewalk along the eastside Lamar Blvd from 19th Street to 29th Street. **PARD Director Jesus Olivares** also stated that Public Works would be working with PARD staff to make additional improvements to selected trail areas in the parkland west of this area (west of Lamar).

Board Member Holder made the motion to recommend to Council the approval of the West University Area Overflow Abatement Parkland Use Agreement based upon the several conditions recommended by the Land and Facilities subcommittee and based further upon Public Works and their consultants continuing to work with PARD on the additional improvements in the other areas discussed by Stuart Strong and PARD Director Jesus Olivares. **Board Member Babich** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 8-0-0.**

2. Reconsider Recommendation Regarding the Location of the Susanna Dickinson House.

This item has been brought back to the Parks Board for the board to reconsider an alternate site other than the Old Bakery and Emporium location at 10th and Congress Avenue. The PARD Department is recommending relocation of the house to the northeast corner of Brush Square, next to the O Henry Museum. **Mr. Olivares** informed the board that he had met with *Friends of the O Henry Museum* and they

had voted to support the Susanna Dickinson House move to the Brush Square location. He also stated that PARD would begin the process to bring the item to City Council for their approval. Mr. Olivares also stated that the O Henry Museum Master Plan already stated that the O Henry House was to be moved closer to the street in order to maintain more green space within the square. This will enable the relocation of the Dickinson house next door to the O Henry House and both homes will be aligned closer to the street.

Andy Slater, V. P. Development, Hilton Hotel spoke in support of the move. Mr. Slater informed the board that the Hilton Hotel in planning to open on January 2004. Mr. Slater said he supports the relocation but hopes the City of Austin will restore the house in the near future, given its location across from the new hotel. **Board Member Holder** suggested that the city might be in a better position to restore the house more quickly if the hotel was able to become a partner in that effort. Mr. Slater stated the hotel is not in any position to offer any financial support for the restoration.

Mr. Olivares informed the board that once the Susanna Dickinson House is restored, it would to be utilized by the O Henry staff as for lecture classes and an information center that would serve the public. He further informed the Board that staff is working on securing parking for the public uses of the museum and Susanna Dickinson house, including handicapped parking.

Bennett Donovan, President, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association spoke in support of relocation to N.E. corner of Brush Square.

Clay Leben, Treasurer, Friends of the O Henry Museum spoke in support of relocation, but had two concerns he hoped could be addressed.

1. That the department meets the financial challenge and not to leave the O Henry house where it is now. He supports moving the house closer to the street as provided in the Museum Master Plan.
2. He also addressed the need to provide parking spaces for visitors to the museum and Susanna Dickinson house, and handicapped parking.

Board Member Holder made the motion which was supported in Land and Facilities to recommend to Council the relocation of the Susanna Dickinson House to the N.E. corner of Brush Square and that the City make reasonable efforts to move the O Henry house forward to be aligned with the Dickinson house and that staff continue to work on handicap parking concerns. **Board Member Francell** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 8-0-0.**

3. Set a date for Parks Board Retreat.

Mr. Olivares informed the board of the discussions to be considered to at Parks Board Retreat:

1. CIP Project updates.
2. Issues current to PARD.
3. Bond Package preparation planning with public input for 2005.
4. PARD and AISD possibly collaborating on strategic joint parcels of land to build athletic fields for sporting events. Joint usage of the fields could be arranged.

After a discussion it was decided that **Tuesday, November 12** instead of a regular meeting, PARD intends to have a **'work session' and will begin at 6:00 p.m.** with PARD providing dinner in the PARD Boardroom. No minutes will be taken during the work session.

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares invited board members to KVUE Community Picnic, October 3 at Metz Recreation Center, 6:30 p.m. Mr. Olivares also updated members on the Austin City Limit Concert to be held at Zilker Park, September 28 and 29, 2002. He informed the board that organizers and PARD Staff had met with all interested neighborhood associations near Zilker Park and had worked out "no parking" plans in the neighborhoods with Park Police providing patrolling assistance.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Pablo Valdez informed the board that Mark Lord, will postpone the S.M.A.R.T. resolution and considering the program for volunteer purposes for the first year. Also noted was the possibility that Park Police could track how many incidents they have had to respond to by callers.

Land and Facilities Committee

Both items Susanna Dickinson House relocation and West University Area Parkland Use Agreement were discussed at Land & Facilities, September 3, 2002.

Navigation Committee

Jeff Francell informed the board of pending items, which will be brought to Parks Board at a later time.

1. Water intake structure at Steiner Ranch
2. Bulkheading issues for land owners and increased wave action from larger boats and "wave surfing" activities causing erosion on the shoreline.
3. Consider the possibility of banning personal watercraft (Jet Skis) on Lake Austin.

G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Ruth Holder updated the board members on BCP Transition Advisory Team on which she serves.

H. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.