



Parks and Recreation Department Board Minutes  
Tuesday, March 22, 2005  
Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office, 200 S. Lamar, Blvd. Board Room.

Board members present: Board Chair Rosemary Castleberry, Board Vice-chair Linda Guerrero, Marilyn Bostick, Jeb Boyt, Jeff Francell, Leonard Lyons, Hector Ortiz and Mark Vane. Board members absent: Clint Small

Staff members present: Warren Struss, Stuart Strong, Randy Scott, Farhad Madani and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Castleberry at 6:41 p.m.

B. Approval of the Minutes

Board member Boyt moved to approved the minutes, seconded by Board member Guerrero. Motion passed unanimously, with Board member Lyons abstaining.

C. Special Presentation

The Board presented a resolution honoring Ted Siff, Executive Director, Austin Parks Foundation, for the leadership to the Board and to the Department over the years. Mr. Siff has stepped down as Executive Director and has assumed the position of Chief Operating Officer, Texas School Administrators Legal Digest. Also presented was a Certificate for Distinguish Service award to Mr. Siff from Warren Struss, Director and Rosemary Castleberry Board Chair.

D. Citizen Communication

Jeff Jack addressed the Board regarding the Town Lake Park. He reminded the Board of the community's values addressed during the development of the master plan for Town Lake Park. Since then a Waterfront Overlay Ordinance as been developed as well as a Waterfront Overlay Combining District. He asked the Board to keep in mind the goals of community in the master plan that was adopted by the community.

Officer Richard Lozano, President of the Austin Park Police Association, introduced himself and members of the executive board. They included: Secretary Ray Ramirez, Treasurer Dawn Hanson, Vice-President Mike Hart.

#### D. Presentation

1. Austin Green Art Program –Megan Weiler, Administrator, Art in Public Places. Ms. Weiler addressed the Board regarding a proposal that Randy Jewart, Artist and Project Manager of Austin Green Art, has proposed to the City of Austin Art in Public Places Program. The proposal is for a temporary sculpture installation beginning in June 2005. The sculpture installation is scheduled to coincide with the National Americans for the Arts Conference and Public Art Pre-Conference. It is anticipated that over 800 administrators, artists and art supporters will grace our city from June 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be between 5-10 artworks throughout Austin including city parkland and privately developed land. The temporary sculpture exhibition will serve the citizens with quality works of art on a temporary basis while paying tribute to the sustainable aspects of natural and built environments. Green art is the work produced with natural materials or environmentally thematic concepts. The mission and project goals were presented to the Board. Projects have not yet been specifically identified however, here will be some projects designed specifically for kids. Director Struss told the Board that the department will not incur any costs or expenses associated with the project and will not be able to provide security for the projects – the artists will have to provide their own.

#### 2. Future Realignment of Sandra Muraida Way and Detention Pond Development on Parkland.

Greg Kiloh, Economic Growth and Development Services addressed the Board regarding changes to the Seaholm District and the potential realignment of the Sandra Muraida Way. He reminded the Board that the Sandra Muraida Way master plan included the realignment. The current plan shows the intersection farther west than the 2000 master plan. The Economic Growth and Development Services Department is proposing a detention pond on parkland between Sandra Muraida Way and Lamar St. This will result in additional useable parkland east of the SMW. EGDS will return later to respond to other issues and for action on Chapter 26- Conversion of parkland.

Jeff Jack responded that the project report as presented raises some questions. 1) Does it facilitate the extension from Pfluger bridge to Lamar that the biking community and the neighborhood wants and 2) what to really do with the Seaholm plant.

#### 3. Conversion of Cesar Chavez Boulevard to two-way traffic.

Renee Orr, Public Works Department, reported that in July 2004 the City Council had directed staff to find the best way to convert Cesar Chavez to two-way traffic. City staff, along with Halff Associates, Inc., has collected the data required to analyze different options for converting the segment between San Antonio and Brazos streets. The following options are being considered: 1) simple conversion, entails re-striping with the existing curb lines, 2) additional turn lanes – requires widening some portions of the current street section, 3) addition of a turn and through lanes which could also require



widening the current street section and 4) a capacity neutral option, which would reconfigure the road to keep the traffic capacity at its existing level of service.

All the above options incorporate elements of pedestrian improvements and curb design concepts including enhancements to mitigate any impacts to parkland. As the options are developed, a final presentation will be made to the Parks Board and to various special interests to obtain comment and input.

Jeff Jack reminded the Board that if Cesar Chavez is made into a two way street this may allow the closure of the Riverside Drive through Town Lake Park.

#### E. Items for Action

1. Reappoint Parks and Recreation Board Representative to the Downtown Planning Commission for term ending 10/01/06. Motion was made to approve the reappointment of Jeb Boyt by Board Chair Castleberry, seconded by Board member Francell. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Make a recommendation to Council regarding a Park Land Use Agreement for Austin Clean Water Program to construct a Wastewater Lift Station on Butler Shores and a Use Agreement to construct a section of the Govalle Interceptor on Town Lake Park. The Land and Facilities subcommittee has been briefed and is in favor of the recommendation. Board member Ortiz moved to approved the recommendation to Council, seconded by Board member Bostick. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding a request for Bike Lanes on Barton Spring Road and Walking paths in Zilker Park. Gary Jackson, Public Works, reported that plans are being implemented to expand Barton Creek Road across Zilker park by 5 feet on either side and to identify them as commuter bike lanes. Also included in the proposed plans are adding walking paths along the road all the way up to the new transportation loading area. These bike lanes will be built following current national bike standards for bike commuter lane use.

Questions regarding the narrowing of the road to reduce traffic speed and the initiating of a traffic engineering study were recommended to enhance public safety aspect of the current proposal. Board member Francell recommended to table the motion but to explore the possibility of looking at options such as narrowing the lanes, adding crosswalks and to review the additional transformation study requested by Director Struss. The new recommendation with the new data will be made available to the Parks Board at a later date.

4. Make a recommendation to Director regarding the realignment of the Circle C Park Disc Golf Course. Stuart Strong reported that currently pedestrians and disc golf users are using the same pathway thus creating user conflicts. The recommendation is to realign approximately half of the baskets and to reposition them to eliminate the conflict. The neighborhood has been informed and is in agreement with the recommendation. Land and Facilities has been briefed on the issue. Board member Ortiz moved to

recommend to the Director the realignment of the baskets, seconded by Board member Boyt. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Make a recommendation regarding the construction of a sun deck on an existing single slip dock at 2309 Big Horn. Board member Boyt reported that the sun deck has already been built. As a result, a restricted covenant has been issued in which the current owner or future owner cannot build another boat dock on the adjacent lot. This compromise complies with the code (in spirit) therefore Board member Francell moved to approve the recommendation to construct a sun deck on an existing single slip dock at 2309 Big Horn, seconded by Board member Vane. Motion passed unanimously.

#### F. Items for Information

Board member Boyt reported that Green Water Treatment Plant will be soon eliminated and a new smaller facility will be installed in the lake.

#### G. Director's Report

Director Struss reported that Town Lake Trail Foundation has successfully completed two projects: 1) the rest stop surface and 2) the tree help program. A prototype mile marker was shown to the board for review and discussion. The markers are made up of cast concrete and aluminum. The markers will be placed at ½ mile intervals throughout the trail. The Roberta Crenshaw Walkway dedication will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> and the grand opening of the Chestnut Park will be dedication on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The board was cordially invited to attend both events. The Kite Festival had over 25,000 in attendance and the TAAF basketball tournament had over 138 teams registered. Upcoming events include: Easter weekend, the Capitol 10K (27<sup>th</sup> year) and the forthcoming Parks Board officer elections, if deemed necessary.

#### H. Committee Reports

Land/Facilities – Already has been discussed with the board

Programs - Board member Guerrero passed out information regarding the Easter egg hunts.

Navigation – More on St. Tropez forthcoming, possibly at the next Parks Board meeting.

#### I. Items from Board members

Board member Boyt asked where the department was on the bond process. Director Struss indicated the departments have been working on a needs assessment. A package totaling 170 million has been submitted to the City Manager. After several reviews (budget office and Assistant City Manager office) the package now stands at 125 million.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.