



Parks and Recreation Department Board Minutes  
Tuesday, April 26, 2005  
Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, April 26, 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, Leonard Lyons, Clint Small and Mark Vane.

Board members absent: Board member Jeff Francell and Board member Hector Ortiz.

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 6:48 p.m.

B. Approval of the minutes

Board member Guerrero moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board member Small. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Citizen Communication

Dan Garrison, Director, Town Lake Trail Foundation, addressed the Board on mile markers that will be installed on Town Lake Trail. The foundation contacted several design companies to come up with a design that was culturally as well as architecturally in line with the City of Austin skyline. The markers were designed to match the color of building structures around town and have a 25 -50 year life. The board viewed the mile markers which were placed outside to simulate actual outdoor lighting conditions.

Scott Johnson, addressed the Board on dog activity degrading the area around Auditorium Shores. He indicated that the surrounding area is eroding and is asking that the area become a restricted area to ensure the safety of all users and the trail itself. He also reported on the Utility Check off bill which is intended to increase PARD funding. Since Austin Energy must upgrade their billing system the project has been pushed back a year or possibly more. Director Struss reported that the department will post the edges of the shoreline with signs to inform the public that the limits of the lease free area is Auditorium Shores and not the lake. Signs will hopefully be posted with the next 30 days.

There was some discussion on allowing dogs to swim on the lake and to reconsider the current effort to restrict the area.

#### D. Presentation

Ann S. Graham, Executive Director, First Night Austin, informed the Board that First Night Austin is a New Year's Eve event in celebration of the arts in Austin. It will be held Saturday, December 31, 2005 from Congress Ave and 9<sup>th</sup> streets to Auditorium shores. The event starts at 2:00 p.m. and ends with a pyrotechnic display at midnight at Auditorium Shores. The event is a major visual and performing arts festival created by and for the community to welcome in the New Year. It initially came into existence in Boston in 1976 and it's mission is to broaden and deepen the public's appreciation of the visual and performing arts through an innovative, diverse and high quality New Year's Eve program. Since 1976 First Night has emphasized a nonalcoholic festival environment in celebrating New Year's Eve. Ms. Graham emphasized that the art works exhibits will be used for that one day only. The purchase of a First Night button (approximately \$8.00) will be the price of admission. Buttons can also be earned by volunteering.

#### E. Items for Action

1. Make a recommendation to City Council on ACWP Use Agreement at Reed Park.

ACWP, on behalf of the Austin Water Utility and the Department of Public Works, is proposing to install a new wastewater line in Reed Park and the Common Area from Pecos to Scenic Drive. The new line will be a 12 inch wastewater line in Reed Park and will increase in size in the Common Area to a 15 inch wastewater line. The old line lacks adequate capacity and is in poor condition. Construction is slated to begin in 2006. The short term effects of the construction will affect the park and swimming pool which will not be accessible during the entire construction period. All disturbed land will be restored and revegetated equal to the existing conditions with native species. The Contractor will be required to provide a one-year warranty of his work including restoration and revegetation. Proposed mitigation include a traffic turnaround at the edge of the driveway to enhance exiting the park safely and possibly additional sidewalks. A traffic study will be initiated to determine other park needs. Public meetings have been held with the residents to inform the neighborhood of the pending construction. Mary Arnold, resident of the neighborhood, indicated that she was not comfortable with the terminology of Use Agreement but indicated that meetings have been held with the water utility and is appreciative of their efforts to inform the neighborhood of the current problems. Since there was no initial recommendation from the Land and Facilities committee (lack of a quorum) and the additional discussion needed regarding the park mitigation, Board member Boyt moved to approve the Land Use Agreement with the following condition. That mitigation be further resolved at the May meeting of the Land and Facilities meeting and at the May Parks Board meeting and to proceed in scheduling of the Chapter 26 public hearing. Board member Bostick seconded, motion passed unanimously.



2. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding LCRA Use Agreement in Barton Creek Greenbelt.

Harriett Peppal, LCRA, Transmission Services, addressed the Board regarding a user agreement/aerial easement for the Barton Creek Greenbelt. They are requesting to use the air space 35 ft. parallel and adjacent to the existing 100 ft. easement. A significant portion of the line has already been completed, with the remaining 3 mile section left to be built. In order to the area to be built, no tree should be higher than 40 ft. The request is to use the additional 35 ft. above the maximum tree height of 40 ft. Board member Guerrero asked if all the requirements of the BCCP infrastructure guidelines had been met. The response was that an interlocal agreement must be initiated that changes the corridor description – this has not been done. To date, BCP has not yet evaluated the site. It is unlikely that trees in the use agreement area will be trimmed and soil condition and extremely dense population of cedars constrict the growth of other species such as read oaks and live oaks. Board member Boyt moved that we proceed negotiations with the use agreement with LCRA for the property contingent on further review and approval by the BCCP, ensuring compliance with all requirements as advised by the BCCP coordinating committee. Board member Guerrero seconded, motion was approval unanimously.

Note: Mayor Pro Tem Goodman addressed the Board and indicated that she had been visiting other boards and commissions throughout the City to say thanks for all the time, dedication all the expertise board members provide. She encouraged the board to continue the line of communication with elected officials.

3. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding a request for Bike Lanes on Barton Springs Road and Walking Paths in Zilker Park.

The purpose of the project is to add two 5 ft. bike lanes to both sides of Barton Springs Road starting from just west of the Robert E. Lee bridge to Rollingwood Drive. The design includes pedestrian walkways on both sides of the road.

At the last Parks Board meeting there was a request to consider reducing the lane width on Barton Springs Road to get additional space (thereby reducing the amount of asphalt removed and maybe making the bike lanes wider). Since data provided by the city, state and federal government require 12ft desirable and 11 ft minimal for lane width it was requested that the proposal be approved as initially submitted. Board member Bostick moved to approve the recommendation to the Director regarding the request for Bike Lanes on Barton Springs Road and walking paths in Zilker Park. Seconded by Board member Boyt. Motion passed 4-1. Members for Vane, Boyt, Guerrero and Bostick. Members opposed – Lyons.

4. Items for Information – N/A

PARB April 26  
Approved, w/  
compliance w/  
BCP & mitigation

## 5. Director's Report

Director Struss reported on both Roberta Crenshaw Walkway dedication and the Chestnut Park dedication and indicated that both went well. The South Austin Tennis Center issue is going to Zoning and Platting on May 17<sup>th</sup> for approval. Beach Volleyball will be held at Auditorium shores and ESPN will film. The cemeteries matter is still being discussed and reviewed. Skateboard Park has been bid and will be built at Mabel Davis Park. The Town Lake Park will be bid out in mid-May. Ground may be broken in late August or early September. Turner Roberts will be bid out in two months and groundbreaking will occur in August or September. Dead trees will have to be removed at Zilker Park and a press release will soon be announced. Thirty four parks participated in It's my Park Day.

## 6. Committee Reports

Land and Facilities – Board member Boyt reported on SPA waters of Texas

Navigation – Board member Small reported on the Lake Watch Program

Programs – Board member Guerrero reported Play Strong, Cinco de Mayo, Chestnut and Lott park.

## 7. Items from Board Members – N/A

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.