



Parks and Recreation Department Board Minutes
Tuesday, September 27, 2005
Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office, 200 S. Lamar, Blvd. Board Room

Board members present: Board Chair Rosemary Castleberry, Vice Chair Linda Guerrero, Hector Ortiz, Mark Vane, Clint Small, Jeb Boyt, and Marilyn Bostick.

Board members absent: Jeff Francell and Leonard Lyons

Staff members present: Warren Struss, Randy Scott, Cora Wright, Farhad Madani and Tino Garcia

A. Meeting call to order

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

B. Board member Ortiz moved to approved the minutes, seconded by Board member Guerrero. Motion passed.

C. Citizen Communication

Mark Gentle requested that the Board ask for detailed review of pending Seaholm and Lumberman's project uses and applicable law prior to action on realignment of roadway to assure legality of action.

D. Items for Action

1. Make recommendation to Council regarding Sandra Muraida Road alignment, detention pond on parkland, and completion of the Pfluger Pedestrian Bridge.

Gordon Derr, Engineer, Public Works, Traffic Engineering Division provided an 8 step outline on the Sandra Muraida Road Realignment. He informed everyone that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Chapter 26 requires the City Council to determine findings in order for any changes to be made. He also reported that several projects are currently underway. The first project is the extension of the Pfluger bridge to the north side of Cesar Chavez and the second is the Lance Armstrong Bikeway which is being proposed on the North side as well. The 3rd proposal is the Seaholm project and connecting parcel to Lamar Blvd. The 4th is the Lumberman's track. As a result,

these projects provide an opportunity to make a direct connection between the Pfluger bridge and the Shoal Creek hike and bike trail.

The outline detailed some elements of the proposal which included the Sandra Muraida intersection with Cesar Chavez will be moved to the west and that it also provides a east and west roadway which includes parallel parking and a bio-filtration meadow. Mr. Derr informed everyone that there are currently no other feasible and prudent alternatives to the proposed realignment and that the current proposed project includes all reasonable actions to minimize harm.

In conclusion Mr. Derr stated that if the Parks Board approves the proposed road alignment, detention pond and the completion of the bridge, then it goes to City Council who will then set a public hearing (tentatively set for November 3, 2005). . Greg Kiloh, Raul Calderon and Austin Librach were present to speak on behalf of the proposal.

Lorraine Atherton, President, Zilker Neighborhood Association spoke and recommended rejection of the proposal to realign Sandra Muraida at this time.

Mary Arnold requested that the Board deny recommendation regarding the proposed realignment and indicated that parkland should not be used to help private development. She indicated that is too premature to approve the proposal when there are other alternatives.

Austin Librach, reported that the funding for Pfluger Bridge was approved three years ago along with the funding for Sandra Muraida for any changes. He also stated that the current proposal provides 1) for parkland for the Parks Department, 2) funding source for the roads including assess to Seaholm and 3) provides an upgraded road system and 4) an opportunity for improved water quality.

Jeff Jack questioned why the rush to approve the resolution and handed out a letter from Mary Arnold to the City Council regarding Townlake Joint Ventures.

Steve Dremer, representing Gables residential, explained the pending zoning case.

Board member Boyt moved that the recommendation from the Land and Facilities subcommittee is a recommendation in favor of the staff proposal regarding the Sandra Muraida Road realignment, detention pond on parkland and the completion of the Pfluger Bridge. Board member Bostick seconded. Motion passed 4-2.

2. Items for Action.

1. Approve the construction of a three-slip boat dock at 3403 Westlake Drive.

Board member Small moved a to approve a two-slip boat dock (pending submittal of a new site plan) and approval by staff- Randy Scott. Seconded by Board member Ortiz. Motion passed.

2. Approve the construction of three docks at 2503 Westlake Drive.

Three docks have previously been approved but a new structure has been added to the docks. Board member Small moved to approve/reapprove the 3 docks at 2503 Westlake Drive. Motion passed.

3. Approve the construction of a wave break for Lake Austin Marina located at 2215 Westlake Drive.

After considerable discussion on the merits of the wave break it was decided that a presentation be made to the board at a later date.

E. Director's Report

- Director Struss reported on the following:
- Council has adopted on Town Lake Park the reconfiguration and design of Riverside Drive.
- The 4th annual ACL event was successful except for dust and lots of heat. There were some parking issues and we need a little more neighborhood control.
- The Hartman Foundation proposal to operate and manage the Zilker Botanical Gardens was not supported, however it may be used as a funding mechanism for the Garden Center.
- City budget was adopted which included the addition of 1) 5 forestry staff, 2) 5 FTE's in the maintenance staff 3) 1 FTE at Metz and Carver and one Administrative Assistant. Also, 10 sites will be added to the Summer Playground Program. Money for the improvement of Deep Eddy was also added.
- Staff did an outstanding job for the Katrina Relief effort.
- November 10th Boards and Commissions recognition.

F. Committee Reports

Land and Facilities: Discussion on a Parks Board meeting on the Bond Election. The meeting was set for Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation board room.

Programs Committee: Board member Guerrero reported on the department's Senior Transportation services for medical appointments. Also, the Summer Playground Program provided a summary of the services that they provide.

G. Items from Board Member: N/A

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.