



Parks and Recreation Department
Tuesday, November 28, 2006

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 W. 2nd St. Room 1101.

Board Members Present: Board Chair Linda Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Jeb Boyt, Jeff Francell, Marilyn Bostick, Hector Ortiz, Danette Chimenti, Clint Small and Stephen Shang.

Board Members Absent: Secretary/Parliamentarian Mark Vane

Staff Members Present: Warren Struss, Stuart Strong, Randy Scott, Cora Wright, Ricardo Soliz, Farhad Madani and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting Called to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Guerrero at 6:05 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Francell moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Boyt. Motion passed.

C. Presentation – University of Texas Landscape Architect Student Presentation on Pocket Parks.

Lynn Osgood, University of Texas Professor along with UT staff members Mike Kison and Kelly Humphrey provided a brief to the Board regarding Small Scale Parks. The brief consisted of using existing models from former Austin traditions highlighting core values and design principles. The presentation also included design theories such as 1) rethinking our cultural traditions; 2) creating layered programs in parks; 3) current needs such as fragmentation and walkability; 4) starting development at the neighborhood level; and 5) precedents and benefits.

D. Discussion and Action Items

1. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Standards of Care for Children's Recreation Programs.

Robert Armistead, Division Manager, indicated that staff would be coming back to the Board in December 2006 to present the proposed changes to the Standards of Care along with a copy of the City Ordinance.

2. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposal to upgrade Downtown Storm Water infrastructure across Town Lake Trail on Colorado Street at Cesar Chavez.

Board Member Boyt indicated that the Land and Facilities subcommittee had been briefed on the subject and recommended 3-0 in favor of the proposed upgrade. As a result, he moved to approve the recommendation to upgrade Downtown Storm Water Infrastructure across Town Lake Trail, seconded by Board Member Francell. Motion passed 5-0 with Board Member Shang abstaining.

3. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding the Sand Beach Reserve design concept and the extension of the Pfluger Bridge on Parkland.

This item was pulled due to some changes that were not yet complete. Board Member Boyt recommended this item should be forwarded to the Forestry Board since it deals with issues regarding trees.

4. Amend the current Parks and Recreation Board Bylaws.

Board Member Francell indicated that the subcommittee had been working on the bylaws and recommended the Board approve the change to the ByLaws. Note: the changes consists of adding a new Section 7 which is as follows: "*the Board shall adopt procedures by which significant items shall be brought to the full board before being referred to a committee.*" and by eliminating the wording which refers to when the retreat will be held. The change eliminated the wording "*to be held in August.*" Board Member Boyt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with Board Members Ortiz and Shang abstaining.

5. Approve Parks and Recreation Department Board Procedures.

As in the Bylaws change, the subcommittee has been working on developing the procedure. Board Member Chimenti moved to approve, seconded by Board Member Bostick. It was suggested that procedure #1 be slightly amended by adding the word "*briefing*" to the wording. Motion passed 8-0.

E. Other Business

1. Briefing on Current Standards of Waterfront Overlay

Ricardo Soliz briefed the Board on the Waterfront Overlay which included a description of the 16 Waterfront Overlay Districts. He provided a detailed map of the Town Lake Waterfront Overlay which identified both the primary and secondary setbacks. Each district had information where each of the setbacks is located. A primary setback line means a line that is a prescribed distance from and parallel to the center line of a creek, shoreline such as Town Lake and Colorado River, or the boundary of an identified street. A secondary setback line means a line that is a prescribed distance from and parallel to a primary setback line. The Brief also included information on review and approval of Site Plans and information on variances.

Board Chair Guerrero requested that a Board subcommittee be formed to study the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance in detail. In addition, she requested that information be provided to the Board on future projects that affects the Overlay. A subcommittee consisting of Board Chair Guerrero, Vice-Chair Boyt, Secretary Vane, Danette Chimenti, Clint Small, Hector Ortiz, Stephen Shang and Marilyn Bostick will review the Ordinance. Cora Wright, Assistant Director, recommended that city staff knowledgeable on the history of the Ordinance be included in the subcommittee. The meeting will take place sometime in December. The Board also requested a brief on the Roma study and on the Parkland Dedication Ordinance. Board Member Chimenti requested a brief on the discrepancy between the Parkland Dedication Ordinance fees paid and the actual fees owed on the property located on 222 and 300 East Riverside Drive. Board Member Boyt requested a brief on the Downtown Commission as well.

Jeff Jack, Barb Evans and Bob Drew spoke under Citizen Communication. Essentially they are against approving variances and to consider delaying decisions until all the facts are known.

F. Director's Report

Director Struss reported on the following; 1) passage of the bonds; 2) problems with cleaning Barton Springs Pool; 3) Chuy's Parade; 4) the Mexican American Cultural Center appears to be on time and on budget; and 5) the Trail of Lights tree lighting and the opening parade will be held December 3rd and 10th, respectively. Board Members who plan to attend are asked to contact Nancy McAleer to reserved the carriages.

G. Items from Board Members

Board Chair Guerrero requested that new Board Member Shang be appointed to the Programs subcommittee. Board Member Small reported that the Navigation subcommittee is still meeting on navigation issues. Board Member Boyt reported that the Land and Facilities subcommittee denied on a vote of 2-1 on variances requested by the developer at 222 and 300 East Riverside Drive.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.