



Parks and Recreation Department
Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 West 2nd St. Room 1101.

Board Members Present: Board Chair Linda Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Danette Chimenti, Mark Vane, Jeff Francell, Sara Marler and Jane Rivera.

Board Members Absent: Marilyn Bostick

Staff Members Present: Stuart Strong, Ricardo Soliz, Randy Scott, Marty Stump and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting called to order

Board Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Francell moved to approve the September 23, 2008 minutes, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried 6-0.

C. Citizen Communication - None

D. Briefs

1. Brief on Trail Enhancement Plan

Acting Director Strong announced that Council had requested a report on the Trail Enhancement Plan. The Department then partnered with the Town Lake Trail Foundation who, in turn, was contacted by RVI Consultants, who offered to produce, at no cost, a Vision Plan for the trail. Barbara Austin, RVI Consultants, said that because their agency has been in Austin for the last 25 years they wanted to commemorate their existence by offering the Vision Plan. The Plan incorporates community input and

differs from a master plan in that it takes a more creative approach rather than the more traditional method.

The components of the plan include: 1) a review of the history of the trail; 2) a layered look at the trail components; 3) mapping the exploration of the trail (emotions of the trail at individual segments along the trail); 4) research and available resources; 5) programming (how people use the trail); 6) community workshops and neighborhood interviews; 7) goals for the trail; 8) other opportunities such as loop trails enhancing the already built areas; 9) a signage system and; 10) construction of trail heads along the trail. Many other options are still being considered.

MartY Stump, Park Development Coordinator, talked about an internal assessment that was conducted on the trail to determine what amenities are currently there. A database documenting the condition of the amenities has been created. He added that the purpose of his brief was to inform the Board that the department is mostly interested in renovating, replacing and enhancing what is currently there, and not cluttering the trail with too much other stuff. The next step is to determine the costs associated to implement the plan.

Board Chair Guerrero suggested that the Holly Good Neighbor Program, funded by Austin Energy, should be contacted in an effort to possibly joint-fund specific aspects of the trail.

Acting Director Strong indicated that both RVI's Vision Plan and the Department's Trail Enhancement Plan will go to Council, possibly in October 2008.

2. Brief on Bond Funds and Parkland Dedication Fees.

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, Planning, Design and Construction Division, reported that the 1998 Bond projects are 99% completed with the exception of the Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park. He provided a list of the 2006 Bond Projects which are either completed or are underway. The list included the project name, description of the project and the bond category. The projects ranged from roof repairs and facility renovations to playscapes, golf courses, pools, and museums.

Mr. Soliz also briefed the Board on the Parkland Dedication (PLD) funds. Board Members viewed a map of the appropriated PLD funds for fiscal years 07- 09.

E. New Business and Action Items

3. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding 2700 Rivercrest Boat Dock.

Board Member Francell announced that the item was being pulled. No action was taken due to pending legal clarification.

4. Make a recommendation to the Director regarding 3337 Far View Boat Dock and Tram.

Board Member Francell announced that the item was also being pulled. No action was taken due to pending legal clarification.

Board Chair Guerrero inquired about the Lake study. Randy Scott, announced that the study is in it's final stages with one last mail-out needed. The mail-out, which is sent to marina owners and boat slip renters, will include a questionnaire whose results will be tabulated by Texas A&M University. Results of the study will be presented to the Board sometime around April 2009.

5. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding naming of parkland adjacent to the American Legion Travis Post 76 at the intersection of Veterans Drive and Atlanta Street.

Ricardo Soliz reported that the department received three applications for the naming of the park. The applications were: 1) Veterans Park; 2) Bernal Family Park; and 3) Jesse Ramos Park.

Board Member Chimenti announced that the Land, Facilities and Programs committee met to discuss the applications and recommended that the park be named Veterans Park. She therefore moved to name the parkland adjacent to the American Legion Travis Post 76 at the intersection of Veterans Drive and Atlanta Street to Veterans Park, seconded by Board Member Rivera. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Soliz added that memorials currently at Waterloo Park, which could be affected due to construction of the inlet tunnel, could also be moved to the park.

F. Director's Report

Acting Director Strong reported on the following:

- ? Sara Hensley has been selected as the new Director and will report to work on December 1, 2008.
- ? Austin City Limits will be held September 26-28th at Zilker Park.
- ? Turner Roberts Recreation Center will hold it's Grand Opening Ceremony on Saturday, September 27th.
- ? 24 frozen vacant positions may impact work during the next fiscal year.
- ? Work has started on the Boardwalk Plan. Public meetings have been scheduled to solicit input. Plan design has been targeted for completion sometime around May 2009.

- ? Seven (7) Forestry Unit staff members were sent to Houston, Texas to assist in helping clearing streets, littered with debris due to Hurricane Ike. Slides of the staff clearing the street were shown.

G. Future Items from the Board.

Board Chair Guerrero reported on the Barton Springs Pool short term projects. She provided a list that outlined each of the projects; describing their costs and problems within each of the projects. She added that lead departments have also been identified. Updates will be provided as the projects move along. A new way to remove gravel from the pool has been identified; one which is much less taxing to the pool.

Board Member Francell suggested that a brief be provided at the next Board meeting to discuss the Zilker Park Plan Improvement Project.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.