

# Turner-Roberts Recreation Center

7201 Colony Loop, Austin, Texas

Friday, February 17, 2012



## Facility History:

- Joint-Use Facility envisioned through the 2005 Colony Park Master Plan— including Turner Roberts Recreation Center, Volma Overton Elementary School, and other amenities
- Recreation Center opened 2008, following the opening of the elementary school
- Service Area— Colony Park Neighborhood & NE Austin
- Facility named in honor of late civil rights activists, **Dorothy Turner** and **Velma Roberts** recognized as the founders and organizer of the *Black Citizens Task Force* (BCTF, active in the community for more than 25 years); BCTF primary mission was to take action against racism
- Gymnasium named in honor of former **Mayor Pro Tem Danny Thomas**
- Facility Amenities: 7,700 square-foot gymnasium, multi-purpose room, arts and crafts room, weight room, computer room, kitchen facilities, meeting room, corridor art gallery, covered outdoor basketball court and parking

## The Situation and Impact:

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| October, 2009 | Hairline cracks were first noticed and reported to Turner Roberts Recreation Center staff and Parks and Recreation Center Facilities staff. At the time, it was assumed that the cracks were part of normal foundation settling. Staff determined that the cracks should continue to be observed.  |
| March, 2010   | The Parks and Recreation Department observed additional hairline cracks in the Turner Roberts Gymnasium. An initial inspection of the cracks indicated points of differential building movement but did not indicate building failure. Minor differential settling is common in new buildings and is not typically an indication of structural defects.  |
| August 2010   | Turner Roberts Recreation Center gymnasium began to show hairline cracks in the gymnasium wall. Immediate steps were taken to ensure the safety of the children and staff; Public Works (PWD) assessed the cracks and building movement, but determined that there were no signs of building failure; a section of the gymnasium was sectioned off from public use; recreational programming and services continued under close supervision. |
| February 2011 | Independent <b>Structural Engineer hired</b> to evaluate the facility and make recommendations; Extensive testing began which included building survey, water leak tests, test pits, exterior excavation for foundation inspection; Initial testing was  |

inconclusive. Further testing and analysis was recommended for August 2011 (after the school year).

- July 2011                    **Temporary closure** of the gymnasium and relocation of gymnasium programs occurred to conduct further testing. Updates sent to key leaders, parents, neighborhood & school advising them of a projected facility re-open on January 27, 2012.
- August 2011                At the beginning of the school year, all PE classes were temporarily relocated to portables and the outdoor basketball court. Further testing began with removal of wood flooring in the gym to allow extensive foundation inspection; Additional notification to parents of children attending Volma Overton Elementary School distributed in English and Spanish.
- September 2011            An external structural engineer conducted extensive testing which included full depth excavation of a foundation pier, soil testing, magnetic resonance of the concrete walls, seismic testing of the foundation.
- Recommendations for repairs were submitted to PWD. PWD assigned another firm from an existing rotation list, **Camp Dresser McKee (CDM)** to provide further forensic and value engineering services. Additional structural concerns emerged; The Draft CDM report was submitted in early November and the final report was submitted November 21. City staff is currently reviewing the report recommendations and evaluating options.
- October 26, 2011            **COA-AISD-Community Field Meeting** was held to walk the entire campus property and jointly determine interim options for restoring safe recreational and school PE programming on site. See proposed *action plan* below. Concurrently, PWD held a preliminary discussion with CDM which resulted in a decision to notify the PARD Director to recommend full building closure.
- October 27, 2011            After PWD briefing, PARD Director agreed to close the Turner Roberts Recreation Center. Staff will be relocated to other recreation centers week of October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- November 4, 2011            **COA-AISD-Community Leaders** update meeting was held at the Volma Overton Elementary School to provide an update as to the Turner Roberts Recreation Center building assessment results determine the desired location for site improvements (enclosed multipurpose gymnasium, restrooms and walking trail) and introduce a recreation program relocation schedule. Based upon feedback, the Parks and Recreation Department revised the program relocation schedule and confirmed acceptance with community leaders the week of November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- November 15, 2011            **COA-AISD-Community** meeting was held at the Volma Overton Elementary School to provide the community an update as to the Turner Roberts Recreation Center building assessment results, share the location of site improvements and introduce a recreation program relocation schedule. Over 3300 community members were invited to attend and were notified of the meeting opportunity

through U.S. mail and flyers sent home with the children of Volma Overton Elementary School.

- November 22, 2011 COA-AISD met to discuss the building permit requirements for the trail, enclosed multipurpose gymnasium, restrooms and associated utilities. Additionally, the group explored building construction material options and began investigating costs associate with each type of material. Detailed cost estimates continue to be gathered.
- December 5, 2011 COA-AISD conference call was held to confirm a request for funding is scheduled to appear on the December 15, 2011 City of Austin Council Agenda. The request will provide funding to construct the enclosed multipurpose gymnasium, restrooms and associated utilities. Construction material options and estimates continue to be explored. Additionally, the conference call discussed options for accelerating the construction. Public Works met with contractors the afternoon of December 6<sup>th</sup> to investigate construction options. Additional details regarding this meeting will be provided in the near future.
- Off-site free recreational programs (including free transportation) have begun in accordance with the community approved program schedule. Future updates will provide participation information.
- December 7, 2011 The Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department were invited and attended the African American Resource Advisory Commission meeting. Staff provided an update on the facility's structural issues and the programming plan for meeting the community's recreational needs.
- December 13, 2011 PARD received approval for the trail permit. Construction on the trail is estimated to begin mid January.
- December 15, 2011 City Council authorized the negotiation and execution of an amendment to the interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and the Austin Independence School District for the construction and operation of the Turner Roberts Recreation Center and the Overton Elementary School joint-use facility.
- December 20, 2011 As of this date, the off-site program schedule is providing free programming and transportation to 120 program participants in accordance with the community approved program schedule.
- January 6, 2012 As of this date, the off-site program schedule continues providing free-programming and transportation to 120 program participants in accordance with the community approved program schedule.
- Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department has staked the future walking trail and crews will begin work on trail installation in mid January.

Parks and Recreation Department staff will attend the next Colony Park Neighborhood meeting scheduled for January 23, 2012 at 6:00 pm at Overton Elementary School Library.

January 18, 2012

The Parks and Recreation Department Turner Roberts Recreation Center staff met with community members to discuss the implementation and operations of the youth basketball league. Additionally, Parks and Recreation staff, Public Works staff and City Law Department staff attended a mediation session at Turner Roberts Recreation Center.

January 20, 2012

As of this date, the off-site program schedule continues providing free-programming and transportation to 120 program participants in accordance with the community approved program schedule.

Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department has completed the following work associated with the future walking trail:

- Facility construction crews reviewed the site and determined the appropriate staging area for trail installation materials and
- Facility construction crews initiated the installation of erosion control measures for constructing the trail.

The PARC Planning Division continues to work with the Law Department regarding the most appropriate language and process to amend the current AISD/Parks Department facility agreement to accommodate design, permitting and construction of a multi-purpose structure.

The Parks and Recreation Department staff is preparing a Request for Council Approval (RCA) for February Council consideration. The RCA will request the appropriation of necessary funds to construct a multipurpose structure for joint use between the community, school district and department.

Parks and Recreation Department staff will attend the next Colony Park Neighborhood meeting scheduled for January 23, 2012 at 6:00 pm at Overton Elementary School Library.

January 23, 2012

City staff including representatives from the Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation Department attended the Colony Park Neighborhood meeting. Staff provided updates regarding the progress toward resolving the construction issues surrounding the current gymnasium. Staff also provided a progress update regarding the staking of the trail, erosion control procedures and answered program specific questions. Additionally staff reported that a Request for Council Action seeking the appropriation of funding to proceed with the construction of an alternative multipurpose structure is scheduled to go before City Council on February 9, 2012.

January 31, 2012

The Parks and Recreation Department forwarded feedback to AISD regarding the site plan, drawings and building permit for the alternative multipurpose structure.

February 3, 2012 As of this date, the off-site program schedule continues providing free-programming and transportation to 120 program participants in accordance with the community approved program schedule.

February 9, 2012 Austin City Council passed on consent the following Turner Roberts Recreation Center item: Approve an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget to appropriate \$2,360,000 for the construction of a multipurpose structure at Colony Park next to the Turner Roberts Recreation Center.

Austin City Council passed on consent the following Volma Overton Elementary School Fee Waiver Request: Approve an ordinance waiving certain fees and requirements for the Volma Overton Family Fun Day event sponsored by the Volma Overton Parent Teacher Association which is to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at the Doris Miller Auditorium.

February 17, 2012 As of this date, Turner Roberts staff implemented new off-site programming options (previously reviewed and approved by the community), serve the same number of participants and continue to provide transportation.

Trail construction continues to move forward.

**Action Plan:**

The following table outlines key actions taken following the temporary and full closure of the Turner Roberts Recreation Center.

| <b>Extensive Building Repairs</b><br><i>(Public Works Department)</i>  | <b>Offsite Recreation Programming</b><br><i>(Parks and Recreation Dept.)</i>   | <b>Install New Amenities</b><br><i>(PARD/AISD)</i>  |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft CDM report due October 31<sup>st</sup>;</li> <li>• Review CDM report to determine final repair options and final recommendations</li> <li>• Schedule facility repairs (ASAP); begin repairs</li> <li>• Provide written stakeholder updates bi-weekly</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close Recreation Center to staff &amp; public week of October 31<sup>st</sup>; Relocate staff and programs to other sites</li> <li>• All recreation programs and services (free and fee based) will be relocated to other sites and free transportation will be provided, effective week of October 31<sup>st</sup></li> </ul> <p><u>Ongoing Neighborhood Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi-weekly Neighborhood Leader updates</li> <li>• Periodic neighborhood-wide updates</li> <li>• Create stakeholder information tools:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:Turnerrobertscenter@austintexas.gov">Turnerrobertscenter@austintexas.gov</a> email address for the general public to submit questions</li> <li>○ Turner Roberts Project webpage including FAQ</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Conceptual Site Plan</u><br/>Complete in two weeks for placement of new amenities; Solicit stakeholder input</li> <li>• <u>Multipurpose structure</u><br/>To be located behind recreation center; Joint-use amenity for basketball, PE class activities and school assemblies</li> <li>• <u>Portable Restrooms</u><br/>(To be incorporated into the pavilion per Nov. 4 meeting)</li> <li>• <u>Walking Trail</u></li> </ul> |

**Other Public Safety Concern(s) Reported:**

**Roadway connectivity** is a major public safety concern of the neighborhood and school. Currently there is only one road in/out of the campus area. The Neighborhood requested that the City complete the road connectivity for the campus per the Colony Park Master Plan. Action Plan: Public Works is currently reviewing the site plans and preparing a preliminary cost estimate for the additional roadway. The project may be included in a future needs assessment.