



Friends of Barton Springs Pool

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**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Advocacy: Tom Weber,  
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Membership: Karl Detjen,  
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Barton Springs Plan

Coordinating Committee

Robin Cravey, chair  
Gary Beyer & Tom Weber,  
Friends of Barton Springs Pool;  
Charlie McCabe & Ralph Webster,  
Austin Parks Foundation;  
Mary Ann Neely & Scott Harris, TreeFolks;  
Jon Beall, Save Barton Creek Association;  
Andrea Rado, Hill Country Conservancy;  
Emily Little, Austin Heritage Society;  
Glee Ingram, Greenbelt Guardians.

January 14, 2010

To: Mayor & Council  
From: Robin Cravey, FBSP  
Subject: Item 42, flood debris removal

# Late Backup

Thank you for hearing this item tonight.

1. Voting on this ordinance amendment is one more step in a long process, and delay could result in forcing the postponement of the project. This project has been funded and waiting for implementation since 2007, and has already been delayed more than once. There has been ample public input.

Once the ordinance is approved, staff still must advertise for bids, open bids, go through departmental reviews, and submit the contract for council approval, and then wait for law department review before giving the contractor the go ahead. Some time after this vote, staff must also confer with USFWS.

2. This project is one of a series of short-term projects that are slated for implementation this year, and delaying this could shove others down the line. We have proposed to staff an ambitious schedule of meetings, reviews, and contracting for this year.

See this link for our proposal:

<http://friendsofbartonspringspool.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Project-timeline-lgl-pdf.pdf>.

We expect to meet with staff later this month to refine this schedule, but you can see that it is demanding.

3. The design for this project is done, it has been thoroughly discussed, and it is a good one. The path for access to the south side will be composed of bark and timbers that exceed the city's requirements for protection of root zones. Arborists have been consulted, and every precaution has been planned to protect the trees in the area. Access to the pool from the north side has been discouraged by the USFWS.

4. Removing the gravel bar will advance the study of long-term options for improving the flow regime in the pool. Once the gravel is removed, the topographic survey of the bottom of the pool can be completed, yielding information that will



be used in constructing a computer model of the pool. This model will be used to study various methods for improving flow.

5. Every day that the gravel bar remains in the pool is another day that the pool cannot be fully cleaned. The gravel bar traps sediment that is stirred up by swimmers and clouds the water. We will not be satisfied until the pool can be thoroughly cleaned again and the waters are crystal clear.