## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Special Meeting May 30, 2002

## Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Tillie Bishop at 9:08 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Tillie Bishop

Bernie Goss Bob Cron Dennis Derrieux

Dale Hollingsworth

Lena Elliott

Board Members Absent: Nora Hughes

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director

Don Hobbs, Assistant Director

Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent

Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner Kelly Arnold, City Manager

Invited Guests: Pat Kennedy, Riverfront Commission

## Item 2: Las Colonias / Master Plan

Tillie Bishop began by requesting a discussion of the Master Plan's status as well as how it relates to the recent Legacy Grant request made by the Riverfront Commission. Questions that Mr. Bishop wanted to see answered included "Where will the funding for the \$400,000 match come from?" and "How will this match affect the Master Plan?" Although Tillie Bishop agreed that the board was in support of the Riverfront Commission's intentions, he expressed his concern that the funding is not available and that Las Colonias was not originally identified as a priority in the Master Plan.

Bob Cron replied that, in his opinion, the board should look at the current situation as an "opportunity" which may require some reprioritizing. He reported that the cost for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Las Colonias Park is approximately \$1.8 million. The potential to leverage a GOCO grant for approximately \$800,000 - \$1 million is now available due to the recent donations of \$200,000 from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the \$200,000 from the Riverfront Foundation. Bob Cron stated that not only is there currently an opportunity for the implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase with a minimum expenditure from the City (estimated at \$400,000), this will also make the relocation of the Art Center to this site a possibility, which was consistent with the original Master Plan. Although Mr. Cron did not have the answer to "where" the money should come from, he felt the board currently has a "tremendous" opportunity to make something happen on the Riverfront for a minimum amount of money.

Tillie Bishop responded that his concern was that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board had not discussed the issue as to how it relates to the Master Plan. He indicated that there was a public "misconception" regarding the board's support or nonsupport of this issue due to recent newspaper articles.

Discussion ensued whether or not this opportunity would jeopardize the ability to continue the work on Canyon View Park. Lena Elliott strongly expressed that she feels the completion of Canyon View Park

should no longer continue being postponed. Bob Cron replied that the funding for Canyon View Park's phase II is available for the current 2002 year, therefore, the Las Colonias funding would not interfere as these funds will not need to be available until 2005.

Kelly Arnold replied that his recommendation was that the identification of "where" the money will come from should not be a part of the discussion at this time. He felt the discussion is premature, due to the funds not needing to be available until 2005 or 2006. Instead, Kelly Arnold recommended the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board should assign Las Colonias as a high priority in the overall CIP budget for 2005 versus the funds being deducted from other Park & Recreation projects. Mr. Arnold stated that one, possibly two, City Council members were not satisfied with his recommendation and intended to discuss the issue further at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 2002.

Tillie Bishop expressed to Bob Cron that because Bob is directly involved with the Riverfront Commission, he was concerned that Bob might be influencing the board to take a direction they are not given an opportunity to discuss. Lena Elliott questioned whether Bob Cron was a volunteer or an employee of the Riverfront Commission. Bob Cron replied that he was employed by the Riverfront Commission. Lena Elliott expressed her concern that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board needed to be extremely careful not to get involved every time someone approached the board with money to spend. She felt it was imperative that the public recognize that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board may often agree to support a new project, however, that by agreeing to "support" various projects, that does not necessarily mean "financially" supporting the projects.

Chairman Bishop requested Shawn Cooper to clarify as to whether there were going to be any building restrictions on Las Colonias Park. Shawn Cooper briefly outlined the ground water removal requirements and stated that the overall requirements would not be very difficult or excessively restrictive.

Joe Stevens reminded the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board that this project was still a "work in progress" and that the Legacy committee was under a time constraint as they have to have a grant application submitted by June 17, 2002 in order to take advantage of this opportunity. Mr. Stevens stated that this has proven to be a difficult undertaking due to there being a total of 14 agencies involved. Joe Stevens reported the only significant change to the Master Plan is the possibility of the Art Center relocating to the Las Colonias site.

Dale Hollingsworth expressed his concern that the City has normally participated in past projects, therefore, he was very hesitant for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to be in favor of providing the funding until "after" all other possible funding has been explored. Bernie Goss reported that he would be in favor of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board exploring ways to fund the project since there is time to do so. Bob Cron stated that he would like the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to push the City into bringing Las Colonias into the CIP budget in order for the project to move forward. Lena Elliott responded that she felt the City has to live within their budget and that they are not going to be persuaded into changing their philosophy. Bernie Goss disagreed, expressing that there is always room for changes.

Kelly Arnold stated that transportation remains a very high priority for City Council, due to transportation being "behind the times". The "pay as you go" philosophy of the Council requires that priorities be alternated based on the most needed and that Council has placed transportation issues at the top. To keep up you have to borrow and thus far Council has decided against that.

Dale Hollingsworth stated that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board needed to do more to promote parks and to continue expressing to City Council how far behind we are in parks as well.

Tillie Bishop requested a joint meeting be held with the Riverfront Commission and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Pat Kennedy replied that it was imperative for the Riverfront Commission to identify the necessary funding "now" while this opportunity is still available. He expressed his concern that the chance to seize this opportunity may disappear if PowerBall goes into another slump.

Joe Stevens agreed, reminding the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board that this is an opportunity that should be "seriously" considered. There is also a potential for long tern GOCO grant opportunities for development of areas such as Canyon View Park.

Kelly Arnold suggested that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board allow time for CIP discussions on all upcoming agendas. Mr. Arnold then asked the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board if they would like to take a position at this time.

Lena Elliott moved and Dale Hollingsworth seconded the following motion:

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is very supportive of all the efforts and accomplishments of the Riverfront Commission and the Legacy projects. The Board admires their passion for their current grant application, however; the Board has prioritized the Parks Master Plan and at this time does not want to cut any current projects and does not want to support funding from the Parks and Recreation Department's budget.

Motion adopted by Parks & Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0 Bob Cron abstained from voting due to "Conflict of Interest".

## Item 6: Adjourn

Tillie Bishop asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bernie Goss moved and the meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Hobbs Assistant Director