



City of San Antonio

Parks Committee – 12/18/2006

2007-2012 Bond Program

Committee Comments/Questions

- Carole Abitz- Where is the proportionality in this plan...Voelker is getting \$36 million?
 - Malcolm Matthews - The mayor and city council made a commitment to try to fund the Voelker project prior to the Bond election, but it could not be completed. The City Council feels a need to complete this program, as there was a commitment made to acquire the rest of the property, so they added it to the Bond program. They also want to make the property accessible to the citizens, instead of leaving it as a vacant piece of land. Thirty-five square miles of the city in this area do not have a park available to the citizens.
 - Bonnie Connor- With Brackenridge in the center of the city and Medina Park in the south, this would be a park for the Northern part of the City. The City had the ability to acquire a piece of land in this size and this could be a tremendous asset to include various activities for the citizens.
- Manuel Garza- What if there is another usage for a park- could the money be reallocated if a different plan was utilized?
 - Malcolm Matthews - Parks in Texas are regulated by state law- what can and cannot be done at the park or with the park land. As with any project done by the Parks Department, community input and meetings are held. If there is a change to a plan for a park, the money would be redirected for other park usage.
- Hector Cardenas- With \$36 million going to Voelker, that leaves only \$14 million to be used for actual parks. Do we have an idea of what the Community Initiatives Bond Committee might recommend for parks? Why was only \$50 million allocated for Parks when so much of it is proposed to be used for Voelker?
 - Councilman Perez- The City Council wished that they could do more for Parks, but there are streets and drainage issues also. They needed to look at things at a citywide basis.
 - Sheryl Sculley- The initial discussion of the Bond Program included only streets as part of the bond, as there are 4,000 miles of streets in the community and a need of \$2-3 billion for those. The City Council agreed that parks are very important and it was a tough decision for the City Council.
- Doug McMurry- Opened the floor to the Citizen speakers.

Citizen Comments/Questions

- Richard Brodsky- UTSA has purchased 125 additional acres of property for the school, and has proposed to build an athletic park on that property which will include baseball, softball, track and soccer fields as well as concessions, etc. He would like to see city encourage multiple uses of this UTSA athletic park. The county approved some money to go towards this. The upkeep would be handled by UTSA, so additional costs would not be dependent on city funding.
- Ryanne DuPree- Graduated from UTSA at the Convocation Center this past weekend. 40% of the people who use the Convocation Center are not students- the facilities are shared with other city groups and members of the community. UTSA also wants to share athletic parks with the community. Encourages committee to help fund the athletic park.
- Alejandro Soto- President of the Woodlawn Lake Homeowner Association. Wanted to address the plan for Woodlawn Lake Park. They do not want the development of a pedestrian bridge as shown in the slide presentation. They want to close that bridge to cars. A pedestrian bridge does not take care of the bicycle traffic problem. Motorists speed through that area and they want to discourage car traffic entirely. Then the pedestrians and bicyclists can safely use that bridge.

- Charlotte Kahl- Thanks to the Committee Members for serving on this committee. The Old Spanish Trail goes through San Antonio. San Antonio was the headquarters when the trail was developed and it will be the headquarters for its rejuvenation. It is an alternate to IH-10. They would like to add some hike and bike trails along the trail.
- Carlos Barbosa- Interested in UTSA Athletic Park. Related the importance of parks and athletic facilities to education and stated that they closely correlate. He has a 7 year old daughter and a 10 year old son and they talk about college because of the sports tie ins. Children relate through athletics. The facilities planned would be a tremendous asset to the city and it is known that we need to increase the education level of those in the city and this would help do it by bringing the kids to the campus and exposing them to college.
- David Worley- This Committee has a chance to make history and do something great for the community. San Antonio is the 7th largest city and we need to support the infrastructure and parks. The city needs a lot, so please partner with the university facilities to help benefit the children for tomorrow. This is an opportunity to use this money wisely. Help to expand the \$14 million available for Parks by partnering with the University of Texas at San Antonio.
- Scott Matkin- Voiced support to allocate monies to the UTSA athletic complex. This is of community interest and is a need by UTSA. The soccer fields would benefit the community and will also help to draw special events to San Antonio. UTSA has enrollment nearing 30,000 students and the facilities have been in place unchanged for 25 years. This makes economic sense to partner with UTSA for this complex.
- Ray Knox- President of Friends of the Parks, an arm of the San Antonio Parks Foundation that is a vehicle for the citizens to help with city parks. Presented a letter which was addressed to the Mayor, City Council and Bond Committee Members. The letter was read to the committee.
- Tim Stivers- Wanted to express support for the UTSA athletic complex and would like to request funding support for that complex. He is a graduate of UTSA and believes children would benefit from the complex because it is an opportunity for them to set foot on the UTSA campus and encourage them to attend college.
- Fred Magee- Member of Rainbow Hills Neighborhood Association, The Parks located west of Highway 90 and Loop 410 are postage stamps, made of small acreage. NISD is looking at a \$450 million bond to build 15 additional schools and there are more homes in that part of town, but no parks that amount to anything. The day the Rainbow Hills Park opened, over 150 kids showed up and they had to turn kids away after 150. There is a lot of land in that area that is still available to be bought and used to develop parks in that area.

Additional Committee Comments/Questions

- Jeff Webster- Wondering about the back to back Community Bond Committee meetings on January 8th. The Community Initiatives Meeting is before the Parks meeting in the same room. What happens if they run long?
 - Staff will look for an alternate room to hold this Committee meeting.
- Hector Cardenas- Is it possible to receive the status of projects for the past three bond elections?
 - These are located in the Citizens Bond Oversight Commission 2006 Annual Report. This report was given to all committee members.
- Leo Gomez- Is it possible to have a presentation on the UTSA Athletic Complex the committee heard about today?
 - The City Manager explained that the committee could invite UTSA to make a presentation on the project.

- Doug McMurry explained that because the Committee was tight on time, maybe a brief summary of the information could be presented.
- The committee was reminded that a handout was presented by one of the speakers.