

**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL - Minutes for the Travis County
Citizens Bond Advisory Committee
PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING
Monday, June 20, 2011, at 6:30 P.M.
Commissioners Courtroom
314 West 11th Street, Austin**

Attendees:

Committee Member:	Representing:	Travis County Staff:	Affiliation:
Joyce Thoresen	Precinct 1	Steve Manilla	TNR Staff
John Williams	Precinct 1	Carol Joseph	TNR Staff
Larry Graham	Precinct 2	Wendy Scaperotta	TNR Staff
Jeffery W. Travillion, Sr.	Precinct 2	Charlie Watts	TNR Staff
Leigh Naftolin, M.D.	Precinct 3	Stacey Scheffel	TNR Staff
Carolyn Vogel	Precinct 3	Steve Sun	TNR Staff
Frank Fuentes	Precinct 4	Randy Nicholson	TNR Staff
Joe Gieselman	Precinct 4	Laura Seaton	TNR Staff
Rosa Rios Valdez	Precinct 4		
Terrence L. Irion	Judge		
Nell Penridge	Judge		

Guests:

Tom Clark	Penny McDonald	Vera Massaro
Jim Schwendinger	Rob Bailey	Christy Muse
Doug Saile	Mark Lindsey	Karen Ford
Brett Spicer	Jason Cheng	Jenifer Huston
Kelly Robb	Margery Lindsey	Nora Miller
Eric Robb	Judy Ron Kartz	Tom Wald
Jeremiah Jarvis	Nancy Naeve	Haythem Dawkett
Kurt Nielsen	Jim Ratcliff	

Commencement of Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:32 P.M.

Presentations by TNR Staff

Mr. Charlie Watts, Roadway, Safety and Bike/Pedestrian Projects
 Ms. Stacey Scheffel, Drainage and Bridge Safety Projects
 Ms. Wendy Scaperotta, Parks and Land Conservation Projects

Citizen Communication

Mr. Tom Clark, RE: Bond program & Lost Creek Sidewalks

General Manager of Lost Creek Municipal Utility District in favor of Lost Creek Sidewalks program; emphasized safety issue regarding pedestrian traffic, neighborhood residents and visitors accessing the trail system access in their area. The organization has offered \$500,000 matching funds for the program that are readily available. The MUD has completed a preliminary inventory of the sidewalks in the area and it does not maintain the existing sidewalks and would be interested in doing an inter-local agreement to serve as project manager with Travis County.

Ms. Jim Schwendinger, RE: Flintrock Road

Support of Flint Rock Road program, came before the CBAC June 2, 2011. A question came up about "push back from Serene Hills" and wanted to address it. Read passages from a letter from Jeff Alt, Chair of the Serene Hills Community Committee, stating he has been working since 2006 seeking improvements to Flint Rock Road. Mentioned in the letter that the opposing opinion came from "... a newer resident ... with good intentions, (who) is intent on derailing all the effort we've put in to get this accomplished." The letter continues that this individual "... does not speak for the majority of his neighbors who realize that more development, a cut-through from Highway 71 ... and a new hospital ..." will make the existing road more dangerous. More support will be given at future CBAC Public Outreach Meetings. He also spoke in opposition to the County funding of a BMX park, sighting the small majority of users and limited benefit to the community as a whole. CABAC member Nell Penridge and Wendy Scaperotta shared with him that the BMX project funding is being proposed through alternative County sources and is no longer proposed to be financed with potential bond funds.

Mr. Doug Saile, RE: Roads in Apache Shores

Member of the Apache Shores (community association) Board, an approximately 1800 resident, very economically diverse neighborhood, seeking assistance for road improvements through the Substandard Roads program. This Community has a good history with Travis County in improvement and maintenance ownership of substandard roads; the County has taken over about 12 miles of roads in the area leaving about 8 miles of roads for which the community is responsible. They have limited funds and are doing what they can to repair non-County roadways in their neighborhood, "band-aid" fixes, chip seal, etc., trying to protect their road base from eroding. Their community association also maintains a degrading former "Houston vacation spot" with lake access and recreation areas and infrastructure in their neighborhood with their limited

association maintenance fees and assessments. He is in support of more funds being allocated to the Substandard Roads program.

Mr. Haythem Dawlett, RE: Bee Creek Road

Mr. Dawlett, a representative of a company involved in the development of land in the area, read a letter from the mayor of Lakeway in support of the Bee Creek Road improvement program, sighting current safety needs and future need in regards to future schools and developments being constructed in the area.

Mr. Brent Spicer, RE: Bee Creek Road

Deferred his time to Mr. Jim Ratcliff.

Mr. Jim Ratcliff, RE: Bee Creek Road, Flint Rock Road

Senior Director of Facilities, Construction and Auxiliary Services for the Lake Travis School District. Spoke of the status of the new schools being built in the area and its affect on traffic on the area roads, including Bee Creek Road, emphasizing the need for an expanded road. He also spoke about the traffic concerns regarding school traffic on Flint Rock Road and how improvements on this road will allow for better and safer student/school bus mobility.

Ms. Kelly Robb, RE: Parkland

She and her husband are outdoor volunteers, members of the Texas Mountaineers and other like organizations. She spoke in favor of the Pedernales River Corridor program. She and her husband are avid rock climbers, hikers and bikers; she emphasized the opportunities for recreation for individuals and families in the location including rock climbing, mountain biking, river access, and other activities, and of the increased traffic of visitors – bird watchers, hikers, trail runners, among others - enjoying this specific natural area from around Texas, the United States and other countries.

Ms. Margery Lindsey, RE: Lost Creek Sidewalks

A fifteen year Lost Creek resident, past president of the neighborhood association, served on the board of the Lost Creek MUD and spoke in support of the Lost Creek Sidewalk program. Shared there has been an explosion of residential development west of Lost Creek Boulevard, including the home of Governor Rick Perry, and the need for sidewalks for safety of school children and the aging population in the area.

Mr. Jeremiah Jarvis, RE: Conservation Easements, Wilbarger Creek Watershed

Introduced himself as an "interloper from Bastrop County" and with the Pines and Prairies Land Trust. Spoke in support of the Conservation Easement program and the need for the protection of these lands as vital agricultural farm land.

Ms. Vera Massaro, RE: Austin's Colony Future Development

Speaking in support of three items on the preliminary bond project list: Pass through Finance of FM 969 program, secondary access to Austin's Colony program and the Hunter's Bend sidewalk program. She asked staff about why the Pass through Finance of FM 969 program was taken off the list; Steven Manilla explained to her the details regarding pass through Finance programs as they stand now. She shared details of the numbers of residential lots that are either developed in the area or are being developed for the area, highlighting again the need for additional access.

Ms. Christy Muse, RE: Conservation

She works for the Hill Country Alliance and is on the board of the Hill Country Conservancy, a local land trust, and lives in western Travis County near Bee Creek Road. She feels the overall program package looks reasonable and necessary. She spoke on "green infrastructure" and the conservation components and their benefits: "reaching into the future," protecting water resources, and removing land from future development. Water is the critical issue and conservation projects protect water resources in the County. Highly supports all land conservation projects and protection of water resources. Emphasized the availability of Federal funds for conservation programs.

Mr. Kurt Nielsen, RE: Substandard Roads

Also a resident of Apache Shores, spoke in support of the Substandard Roads program. It is a safety issue and the neighborhood association fixes to the substandard roads in not adequate. He emphasized that they are a willing partner to help any way they can. He requested that consideration be taken to keep and/or add more funds to the program, as he does not believe other sources of funding would be available. Questions were asked and Steve Manilla emphasized that these types of roads were built before standards were in place and that when they are accepted by the County, the County maintains them to an acceptable standard. Regulation does not permit roads of this substandard quality to be built today.

Mr. Tom Wald, RE: Bicycling Accommodations

Mr. Wald is with the League of Bicycling Voters, an Austin metro bicycle advocacy organization. Expressed appreciation for the allotted funds for bicycle improvement projects and he and his organizations have been working with Travis County staff to identify projects that can best utilize these funds. They

hope to have it ready by the end of the week and have it forwarded to the Committee. Bikes do not only provide recreation, many people ride them to work and support of bicycle projects is a good way for government to provide transportation services to the community. There is a coalition of bicycle advocacy groups including Bike Texas, Travis County Bike Safety Task Force, Austin Cycling Association and Austin Metro Trails and Greenways and they are working together to submit recommendations.

The Committee asked staff to identify which Roads Projects include bike lanes in their program proposal.

Action Items

Discussion on Other Items and Next Steps:

No Discussion. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at the East Service Center at 6:30 p.m. A show of hands was given by Committee members who planned on attending. A map to the location is available on the CBAC web site. The Proposed 2011 Bond Property Tax Impact Calculator will be on the web site soon. The Chairman thanked all citizens who presented testimony and emphasized this was the main purpose of this evening's meeting.

Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at approximately at 8:27 P.M.

Note: Above items summarized from the verbatim minutes. Due to the background noise, audience comments, and the levels at which constituents/representatives were speaking into the microphone, verbatim minutes of the meeting are transcribed as best as possible. Please refer to the tapes of the meeting for specific questions regarding the contents in this document. You can call TNR's open records request line at (512) 854-7683.