

Travis County 2005 Bond Public Meeting • Speaker Summary **Tuesday, June 23, 2005 • Precinct Three Travis County Office**

NAME	COMMENT
1. Valerie Bristol	Purchase Reimer's Ranch and protect our water supply.
2. Alex Wood	Is in support of parks and open space. Feels that there are economic reasons to acquire open space. He thinks it is one of the few things that the County would get paid back on; it's an investment for the future, not a cost. He also said, there is a direct savings of reduced need for public service, and referenced a recent study of tax revenues in Hays County, that was conducted by the American Farmland Trust. This study showed that open space only requires 33 cents in services for every dollar generated of tax revenue, while residential land uses need \$1.26 for every dollar they generate. He also said that land adjacent to open space and parks increases in value, which in turn raises the tax base and referenced a study from The Trust for Public. He feels that we have a one-time opportunity here to do some good.
3. Tommy Blackwell	Is a life long County resident of Precinct Three. He talked about the growth and changes occurring in the community. He feels that this is a onetime opportunity to purchase Reimer's Ranch and save it from development.
4. Rick Watson	Teaches people to rock climb. Feels very strongly that Reimer's Ranch needs to be protected from development, and believes that it will happen through this bond proposal.
5. Nigel Smith	Lived in Precinct Three for six years, and believes that we need open space so save Reimer's Ranch.
6. Dan Page	Is a landowner in SW Travis County and thinks that it is better to spend money on open space instead of building Reimer's-Peacock Road.
7. Judy Rankartz	Is in support of Reimer's Ranch, and has been a biker there for past four years. Explained that there are already trails in place on the property.
8. Robbin Trusty	Is in favor of the purchase of Reimer's Ranch and said that biking, walking, hiking, fishing, and climbing builds character, stamina, courage and critical thinking, and asked what do we want our legacy to be.
9. Jeff Ransell	Has been involved in protecting land and open space professionally for ten years. Supports parks & open space.
10. John Weiss	Feels that a tiny skateboard park would be abandoned, and that the budget set aside for one is inadequate.
11. Scott Isgitt	As a biker, he feels that Reimer's ranch should be saved and that this is our one chance to do so. Also submitted list of names to staff that are in support of Reimers Ranch.
12. Kevin Lewis	Urges the committee to take this opportunity to save Reimer's Ranch. He notes that the citizens have given free labor to the ranch, for maintenance, because of their love for it.

13. Tommy Eden
Commented that CAMPO passed new guidelines for providing bike/pedestrian facilities on new roads. He requested the committee and the public to check with staff to see if enough right-of-way has been purchased for sidewalks and bike lanes before road projects are developed.
14. Brian Barnhart
Is a biker who supports parks & open space. Concerned that there is not enough money proposed to make the skate park big enough.
15. John Davier
Is concerned about his daughter's future. Worries that there will not be enough open space available to her when she grows up.
16. Joel Schopp
Tourist's come here to observe. We have a unique opportunity to save Reimer's Ranch.
17. Christy Muse
Concerns are for the future of her daughter, and feels that wisdom is needed when deciding how money should be spent today. Supports mobility but discourages MAD 4 on Hamilton Pool Road.
18. Joe Rich
BMX Pro who says people travel from all over the world to ride in Austin. Supports parks in general, and skate parks particularly.
19. Cory Jackson
Supports parks and public skate parks. Says there is a need for a skate park at Barton Springs, which is packed.
20. Seth Johnson
Director of the Austin Public Skateboard Action Committee says that skateboarding and rock climbing are very popular today. He feels a skateboarding park may help address the child obesity problem. Recommends that the County spend \$500 thousand to \$1 million dollars on the skate park. Has worked with City of Austin to develop the skate park at Mabel Davis Park, and would like to work on a taskforce with the County to help erect this one.
21. Jennifer Hardison
School teacher and a BMX/Skateboarder, says that an adequate skate park offers recreational opportunities to kids of every ethnic background and interest. Says often children are left behind because they don't fit into the idea of an athletic child. Alternative sports such as BMX and skateboarding help these children find confidence, self-motivation, and determination.
22. Jessica Scheick
UT Nursing student and skateboarder favoring a skateboard park in Austin. She notes, as a health advocate, that there's an obesity problem in this country, and in TX. She says that Austin is the only major city that doesn't have an obesity epidemic, and she believes that this is due to the variety of non-traditional sports we have in our community such as skateboarding and rock climbing.
23. Isaac Hoefling
A bike rider from Chicago, who moved here three years ago, thinks that Austin is an amazing city. He's amazed that there is no skate park in Austin and feels that we really need one.
24. Georgia Shaw
Initially attending meeting in support of open space, especially Reimer's Ranch, says that after hearing everything said by speakers, she also supports providing a skate park. The committee should try hard to prioritize the bond projects.
25. Luke Bowman
Says that west Austin is being broken into small pieces, and that Reimer's is the only large piece of open space left. He's concerned that if we do not purchase Reimer's Ranch, it will be purchased for development very quickly.