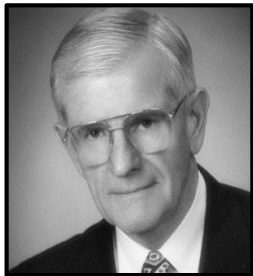




18 Years of Dedicated Service to the River Place Community



Jim Casey

May 22, 1935 -
September 17, 2015

In the heart of every thriving community are dedicated individuals focused on the greater good. Individuals that generously give of their gifts and their time to make their neighborhoods a better place to live. Jim Casey was one such extraordinary person.

Jim enjoyed extensive success in business development in technology-based industries bringing fiscal life to start-ups and major expansion to Fortune 500 firms. After spending his early retirement years building his own successful business consulting practice, Jim spent his last 18 years in service to our community. In 1997 Jim was voted to the River Place Municipal Utility District Board of Directors. One year later the Board voted Jim President of the Board of Directors; a position he held for 17 years until his death in September, 2015.

During his career, Jim brought the same enterprising drive that was fundamental in his successful career to the River Place Board. The Board had a vision for the community, and Jim had the leadership and business acumen to see these visions to fruition. The impact Jim made during his tenure on the River Place MUD Board is visible throughout the District

He played a leading role in the development of both SunTree and Woodland Parks. Utilizing his business development experience, Jim was the driving force in negotiating with both the Texas Parks and Wildlife and the LCRA to financially participate in the initial expense of the park projects, saving the residents thousands of dollars. Our extensive nature trail systems that are enjoyed year round by River Place residents and visitors were projects that Jim was integral in establishing and improving.

Jim took an interest in and was actively involved in every aspect of the MUD. In addition to his commitment to improving the quality of life in the community, Jim was equally dedicated to the responsible management of District funds while always insisting upon providing the highest quality services to the community. This is most evident in the various recognition the MUD received during his tenure.

- the MUD's bond rating is one of the highest in the State
- the MUD's tax rate was maintained at one of the most affordable levels in the area
- the MUD's water and wastewater rates were maintained at a very reasonable level
- the MUD was recognized by the State for Superior Water System

Because of Jim's highly personal level of involvement in our community, he touched so many people during his time on the Board, possibly none more than those of us that have served with him on the Board. Having had the privilege to work with Jim for so many years, we, the current Board members, will no doubt feel the loss of his leadership for some time to come, but will continue to be inspired by his dedication and love for the River Place community. We are all blessed to have known him.

Olympic Gold Medalist Inspires New Generation of Athletes at SunTree Soccer Field

Sun Tree and Woodlands parks, managed by River Place MUD, provide opportunities for kids of all ages to practice and play their sports. Many of the athletes who have started their sports careers at the parks have gone on to contribute to the success of sports programs at Four Points Middle School, Vandegrift High School, and in college. The proximity of the parks to River Place homes, and the number and variety of soccer fields, have facilitated much growth in this popular sport. The board has received positive feedback from residents as to the value of the parks to the community and plans to continue to maintain the parks to high standards after annexation by the City of Austin.



*"...this situation could not occur were it not for the efforts by you and the other board members to sustain a **great facility like Sun Tree**. I view every moment that kids are engaged in activities like this, with great role models, as insurance against all the less desirable distractions that teenagers encounter. In other words, you and the MUD board are making meaningful contributions to our community, and I thought it appropriate to thank you."*

-Kent Douglas



Next Board Meeting

4th Tuesday of the Month ▪ 2:00pm ▪ River Place Country Club ▪ 4207 River Place Boulevard

All homeowners, residents and interested parties are cordially invited to attend. Meeting dates and agendas are posted on the bulletin board in the pavilion at Sun Tree Park and the Travis County Courthouse.

City of Austin Annexation of River Place MUD

The first in a three part series of newsletter articles intended to keep residents informed.

In December 2008, the City of Austin (City) issued a notice of intent to annex River Place MUD (the District). The City is required by statute to provide a three-year notice of proposed annexation to the prospective Municipal Utility District (MUD). Under this scenario the District could have been fully annexed into the City as early as January 2012. The District employed a commonly used method for postponing full purpose annexation by negotiating what is commonly known as a Strategic Partnership Agreement (the SPA). The SPA delays the annexation process and establishes terms and conditions for the District to convert from a MUD to a Limited District. The SPA was approved by both the District and the City on August 27, 2009 and became effective September 7, 2009.

Under the terms of SPA, the City assumed responsibility for all of the water and wastewater assets owned and operated by the District on October 1, 2014. This is when the City began billing the residents of River Place utilizing the City current water and wastewater rates. As you know, there is a major difference between the rate structure of the District and the City. The biggest difference in the rate structure (at least as it pertains to water) is that the District used a three tiered rate structure whereas the City uses a multi-tiered structure. Additionally, the District’s rates were maintained at a relatively lesser amount when compared to other utilities in the area including the City. There have been numerous complaints from residents of the District indicating that they would prefer to once again receive water and wastewater service from the District because the City’s water and wastewater rates have increased their bill 2, 3 and even as high as 4 times from what they were paying. However, the SPA does not allow for this and the City will continue to own and operate the water and wastewater facilities. They are and will continue to be responsible for the billing of the water and wastewater services.

Our next trigger date is December 15, 2017. This is the date that the City will complete the annexation process. There are significant changes that will take place after this date. First, the District will convert from a MUD to a Limited District and secondly, the residents of River Place will become citizens of the City of Austin.

Winter Newsletter: Limited District Explained

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