



January 25, 2011

For Immediate Release

Austin Rowing Club, a 30 year old non-profit, is in danger of being displaced from their home. Parks Board votes **tonight** on whether or not to deny Austin Rowing club management of Waller Creek boathouse. This is the facility that will replace their current home, which is being demolished to make room for the Waller Creek Tunnel Project.

The issue is simple:

How much does the city of Austin stand to lose in community services?

If ARC is displaced, the loss to the greater community is enormous in both services for Austinites as well as future economic gains for the city. ARC regattas and visiting crews brought 3.5 million dollars in to the local economy last year alone, and the growth potential for those numbers under the right leadership and experience are huge. Austin is killing its future revenue potential with this deal in favor of a short term gain. (an offer by one individual to write a check for one million dollars) ARC is disappointed to see City leaders taking such as short-sighted approach to local business.

Why should rowing be managed by a non-profit?

Can't ARC exist as a "renter" under TRC's for-profit management?

ARC is one of the nation's largest rowing organizations with many programs and events. Our 5-year strategy includes expansion in services and programs. Over 5,000 people received services from ARC in 2010. (Over 5,000 rowers!) Because of our non-profit nature, our community based business model encourages volunteer involvement. This allows us to provide services to the city at very little cost to members. This culture may be lost if we must pay a percentage of gross revenue to a for-profit manager. We have extended offers to TRC to house parts of their programs that are better served in this facility than at their current home, and we have been turned down.

ARC supports ALL rowing clubs on Lady Bird Lake.

Austin currently has three thriving rowing organizations and we hope they continue to thrive. Asking two competing businesses to operate out of the same building is not good business practice; it will be confusing to the community, and it will weaken both organizations. It will not allow for ARC's planned growth.

ARC invites everyone in the city to join us at Austin Rowing Club. Show your support for a great community resource. Come out and learn to row. See Lady Bird Lake and Austin from a new perspective. **AustinRowing.org**

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**For more information please contact Camille Jobe, President,
Austin Rowing Club, (512) 585-3466, email to President@austinrowing.org**