

Resolution of the Waller Creek Citizen Advisory Committee

Whereas, the Waller Creek Citizen Advisory Committee (WCCAC) was created by City Council as advisory and oversight group for the Waller Creek Tunnel Project; and

Whereas, the City's tunnel design consultant has advised the City there are several issues that must be resolved at this time to remain on schedule for the tunnel design and construction, but as engineering and design work continue, further recommendations may be considered; and

Whereas, the current issues concern:

1. Base water flow in the creek
2. Character of the inlet and outlet structures;
3. Overall appearance and public availability of the Waller Creek area upon completion.

Whereas, the WCCAC has undertaken to provide recommendations on the above issues, and has held several meetings and reached out to the community to make well-informed recommendations; and

Whereas, the WCCAC has developed design recommendations that are based in part on comments and suggestions received from individuals, organizations represented by members of the WCCAC, and other City boards and commissions, and from the public at a design workshop held November 17, 2007;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The WCCAC makes the following design recommendations to City Council for the Waller Creek Tunnel Project:

1. Tunnel Inlet at Waterloo Park: The inlet should be designed so it is friendly to both organized events and casual users, and water is part of the overall experience. It should be designed and engineered so the operational requirements of the inlet structure are as unobtrusive as possible, while maintaining public safety.
2. Tunnel Outlet at Lady Bird Lake: The outlet should be designed to maintain the natural character of the shoreline of Lady Bird Lake, and should not include an amphitheater. The island that serves as a nesting site for water fowl should be preserved.
3. Tunnel project design and engineering should plan for a base water flow rate that
 - a. Is steady in order to maintain a reasonable depth, health and movement of water,
 - b. Does not impede access or use for all individuals along the creek, and
 - c. Does not cause additional erosion problems.
4. Tunnel project design and engineering should minimize exclusionary uses, and provide a variety of mutually compatible uses along the creek corridor which will allow the greatest number of people to engage in recreational activity along Waller Creek at any given time, and should not include activities that will impede some existing uses. The design should also ensure the channel includes areas of riparian habitat that will promote the establishment of other native flora and fauna along the corridor by use of natural materials and native landscaping.

Date: 1/30/2008

Signed: 

Title: Vice Chair WCCAC