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## Montopolis Neighborhood Plan Contact Team

November 11, 2010

Late Backup

Mayor Lee Leffingwell  
Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez  
Council Members: Laura Morrison  
Chris Riley, Bill Spelman, Randi Shade & Sheryl Cole

**RE:** Response to Memorandum from Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director Austin Parks & Recreation Department, dated October 11, 2010 regarding "Community Meeting re: disc golf on recently acquired parkland adjacent to Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Metro Park

Dear Mayor & Council Members:

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Montopolis residents held a meeting with the Parks & Recreation Department to receive an update report on the Roy Guerrero Colorado River Park (Roy Guerrero Park). Fred Fuller and Mark Schruben with the Parks Department gave a report on the park development. At that meeting they never mentioned disc golf coming to the Roy Guerrero Park area. At the present time the Parks Department is also requesting that seven (7) acres of the Roy Guerrero Park be joined with the 28 acres for the new disc golf course. The Parks Department is requesting that 35 acres be made available for disc golf.

The Parks Department decided to have a community meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> at the Montopolis Recreation Center without consulting with the Montopolis Neighborhood Plan Contact Team. There are two reasons why Montopolis residents were not present at that meeting: 1). We had already met on May 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park, and 2) Two separate community meetings were already scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup>. I am attaching the flyer that was sent out for the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting by PARD. This flyer does not inform the community that this is a meeting to discuss the disc golf coming to the Roy Guerrero Park and zoning issues. We feel that the Parks Department is trying to stack the meetings with pro-disc golf supporters in order to report support for disc golf. There were 31 members present at the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Five (5) were members of the Parks Department, one (1) member of the Parks Advisory Board, 15 non-resident members (not part of EROC or MNPCT), two (2) members of EROC, and eight members (8) of the MNPCT (see attached sign up list).

The Parks Department then held another meeting on October 6, 2010 at Dan Ruiz Library to talk about the disc golf coming to Roy Guerrero Park. On that date, members of the MNPCT held a press conference denouncing moving Pease Park Disc Golf Course to Roy Guerrero Park. For years residents worked on developing a Master Plan for the Roy Guerrero Park and that plan never requested a disc golf course. A public hearing on amending the Roy Guerrero Colorado River Park Master Plan will need to take place for the seven (7) acres PARD is requesting. Again, the Parks Department did not consult

with the MNPCT on setting this meeting date. The Parks Department stacked that meeting with disc golf supporters. There were a total of twenty- five (25) people at the October 6th meeting, maybe more because staff did not sign the Sign-in Sheet. So we are unable to tell you how many staff members were present. Sixteen (16) participants were non-resident members (meaning not members of EROC or MNPCT), four (4) were members of MNPCT, and five people lived within the EROC area (see attached list).

When Sara Hensley states in her memo that a majority of attendees at the meeting were supportive of developing disc golf, we feel that this statement can only be made because area residents were excluded from full participation in the meetings. She states, "A dissenting minority felt that the property would be better suited for affordable housing and were concerned about the process in acquiring the 28 public acres." Had the MNPCT community members been involved in setting these meetings and been told the truth as to why these meetings were being held that minority representation would have been a majority.

Another point, Ms. Hensley states, "PARD strongly supports the recently acquired property adjacent to Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Metro Park as an ideal location for a new disc golf course....." Let's state the real facts, this was not a recent purchase, this land was purchased in November 2007 for \$3,960,000 from Greif Yount Partnership. At the time of purchase the land was zoned and is still zoned today GO-MU-CO-NP and RR-CO-NP. The typical process in purchasing property by the City or other developers is to first acquire the zoning and then make the purchase. In 2000 the community lost a battle to keep the land zoned SF-3 and the property was rezoned to GO-CO & RR-CO (ordinance #001012-14). In 2006, the property was rezoned to GO-MU-CO (Ordinance #20060302-054). The surrounding Montopolis area organizations were not informed about the acquisition of this property for park land.

The Montopolis community and other area residents can not accept the PARD's decision that the Roy Guerrero Colorado River Park is the only location suited for disc golf. We request a full report on all other locations that were considered and the analysis they used to discount those sites for disc golf.

We are requesting that the 28 acre zoning case #C14-2010-0131 go before the Environmental Board for review. This area has huge pecan and heritage trees and tributaries (environmentally sensitive areas). We also request that this case go before the Urban Forestry Board review. I am also requesting that this case be brought before the Community Development Commission for discussion.

Sincerely,

*Susana Almanza*

Susana Almanza, Chair

Montopolis Neighborhood Plan Contact Team

1406 Vargas Road

Austin, TX 78741

512/472-9921 wk. email: poder.austin@gmail.com



*People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources*

January 9, 2011

Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department  
City of Austin  
P O Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767

via email & registered mail

**RE: Open Records Request**

Dear Ms. Hensley:

This is an open records request under the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552, and Texas Government Code. Please produce the documents listed in the numbered requests below. By way of explanation and background:

- a. The City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department has initiated a zoning change request for the property located at 700 Grove Boulevard (C14-2010-0131). The property is within 500 feet of the Montopolis Neighborhood Plan Area.
- b. The purpose of the zoning change request is to accommodate a new disc golf course (to replace the closure of the Pease Park Disc Golf Course).
- c. Some members of the Montopolis Neighborhood Planning Contact Team and PODER attended a City PARD's sponsored meetings where limited information was disclosed regarding alternate disc golf course sites.

Therefore, PODER respectfully request production of the following documents:

1. Maps and addresses of proposed disc golf course locations that were rejected and any analyses conducted for each location.
2. Copies of correspondence regarding the new proposed disc golf project at any stage, including electronic correspondence, or records of phone conversations, as well as written.
3. Copies of photographs, maps, or other visual information pertaining to the new proposed disc golf project.
4. Copies of any agreements the City or PARD with owner of property located at 700 Grove Blvd.
5. Copies of budgeting documents for the new proposed disc golf, to include any funds spent so far on new proposed disc golf at 700 Grove Blvd.

In the interest of expediency, please forward any requested information that is in electronic format to me via email at the email address listed below. I am also available to personally examine the relevant records as soon as possible and am prepared to make any reproductions I required at personal expense on-site.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Susana Almanza*

Susana Almanza-Co-Directo/PODER &  
Chair MNPCT

Cc: City Manager Marc Ott  
Bert Lumbreras, Assistance City Manager  
Austin City Council Members  
Kelly Snook, ASLA Assistant Director PAD

*PODER P.O. Box 6237 Austin, TX 78762 512/472-9921 email: [poder.austin@gmail.com](mailto:poder.austin@gmail.com)*

## **Minutes**

### **Montopolis Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting: September 13th, 2010 @ 6:00 pm**

**Montopolis Recreation Center, 1200 Montopolis Drive**

**Contact Team Members Present:** Susana Almanza/Chair, Larry Gross/Vice Chair, Monica Allen/Secretary, Frank Monreal/member, Delwin Goss/Member, Marilyn Jackson/member, and Margaret Malangalila/Member. List of community residents present at meeting are attached.

#### **Agenda**

I. Meeting was brought to order by Chair person Susana Almanza. Meeting co-facilitated by Larry Gross-Vice Chair and Susana Almanza, Chair

#### **II. Agenda: Discussion and Action Items**

1. Zoning case #C14-2010-0143 - 1418 Frontier Valley Drive from SF-3-NP (Single Family Residential Neighborhood Plan) to MH (Mobile Home Residence)

After much discussion and review of the meeting held on March 17, 2010 regarding the first request for zoning change in the above case, the Montopolis Neighborhood Contact Team and residents voted to deny the request for a zoning change. The voting results were: 13 opposing the zoning change, 1 for zoning change request and 7 abstentions.

2. Zoning Case C14-2010-0131 - 900 Grove Blvd from RR-CO-NP (Rural Residence low density/Conditional Overlay/Neighborhood Plan), GO-MU-CO-NP (General Office District/Mix Use/Neighborhood Plan), to P-NP (Public district/Neighborhood Plan).

After a long discussion the Montopolis Contact Team and residents voted to deny the zoning change from RR-CO-NP & GO-MU-CO-NP to P-NP. The voting results were: 11 opposing zoning change, 0 for and 3 abstentions.

3. 2201 Grove Blvd Case C14-2010-0134 - GR-MU-CO-NP (Community Commercial/Mix Use/Condition Overlay/Neighborhood Plan), to P-NP (Public district/Neighborhood Plan). After much discussion and review of questions and letters to and from Dan Pedersen from City of Austin, the Montopolis Contact Team and residents voted to deny the zoning change. The voting results were: 14 opposing zoning change, 0 for and 1 abstention.

#### **4. Old Business**

Maggie Malangalila gave an update report on tree planting in October for the Montopolis Community.

#### **5. New Business**

Up date report was given on the Burdett Cemetery cleanup and possible historic zoning.

Report on Urban Forestry Board and Riverside Corridor Plan