

APPENDIX I

PARD MEMO TO PARB

Appendix I: PARD Memorandum to Parks and Recreation Board – Pease Park Master Plan Update

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: February 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Pease Park Master Plan Update

The Pease District Park Master Plan process is off to an excellent start with more than 500 people providing input through the planning process. The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department will host the second public input meeting for the Pease Park Master Plan on **Thursday, February 27, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at the Lamar Senior Activity Center at 2874 Shoal Crest Avenue. The design team will review the input received to date and will present initial concepts and options that reflect the community's desire to protect and enhance one of the city's oldest parks.

The Pease Park Conservancy has raised funds for the master plan, which will be developed by Wallace, Roberts & Todd, LLC (WRT). WRT and the Pease Park Conservancy are undertaking the master plan process in close partnership with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

As a part of the public input phase, PARD has received a great deal of feedback from the Austin community about their vision for the future of Pease Park. PARD has also received feedback from the disc golf community about their desire to see disc golf reintroduced in Pease Park. Disc golf was removed from Pease Park in late 2011 after several years of study and discussions with Urban Forestry Division and the Watershed Protection Department about the park's ecological degradation including severe erosion and tree health issues. The decision to remove disc golf was made after much deliberation and at least two public meetings were held with concerned stakeholders. To mitigate the loss of the Pease Park disc golf course, PARD developed an 18-hole golf course at Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Metropolitan Park. The \$300,000 course opened in June, 2012, and has been a great success. Currently, improvements such as erosion control, revegetation and enhanced amenities are also being made in the Zilker Metropolitan Park Disc Golf Course and are slated to be completed in Summer, 2014. In recent years, PARD has made improvements to disc golf courses at Slaughter Creek Metropolitan Park and Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park.

As part of continuing community engagement throughout the Pease Park Master Plan process, PARD may continue to hear requests for disc golf to be returned to Pease Park. We value this input as it informs our future planning with respect to the community's recreational needs. Further, PARD can look for ways to better market our many disc golf courses throughout the city. At this time, PARD does not recommend the reintroduction of disc golf in Pease Park.

In 2014, the Watershed Protection Department will embark on a major restoration project in Pease Park and Shoal Creek. The project will include erosion control, invasive plant removal, planting new trees and plants, adding water gardens and relocating the portions of the sewer drain currently located inside the creek. This project is just the beginning of efforts by the City of Austin and the Pease Park Conservancy to restore ecological balance to Pease Park.

A third public engagement meeting will be held in this summer to present a draft of the Pease Park Master Plan. The City of Austin held a well-attended public meeting in November, 2013, and conducted public surveys to solicit input from community members in the formulation of the Master Plan, which should be completed in the early fall of 2014. The Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Austin Parks and Recreation Board and City Council must review and approve the Master Plan before its presentation to the City of Council for final approval.

For updated information about the master plan process, please visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/pease-district-park-master-plan>.

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