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APPEAL TO PLANNING COMMISISON PARKLAND REQUIREMENT REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: SP-2019-0600C Parks Board: January 26, 2021

Planning Commission: February 9, 2021

CASE NAME: Wilder

DISTRICT: 3

ADDRESS: 4802 South Congress Avenue

ZONING: CS-MU-CO-NP

APPELLANT: Mike McHone

APPLICANT: Rivera Engineering (Michael Rivera)

OWNER: 4802 LLC (Mitch Ely)

NEIGHBOR-

-HOOD

PLAN: South Congress Combined (West Congress Neighborhood)

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD ACTION:

January 26, 2021: Board Member Mason-Murphy made a motion to recommend to the Planning Commission to deny the applicant's request to pay fee in lieu of land dedication for 4802 S. Congress (SP-2019-0600C) and uphold staff's recommendation for the dedication of parkland; Board Morgan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 9-1 with Board Member Luca voting nay and Vice Chair Farasat absent.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

To be heard on February 9, 2021

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

The applicant is proposing to construct 125 multifamily units in a multi-story building with an underground multi-level parking garage, driveway to South Congress Avenue, on-site storm water quality and detention pond, and site utilities.

APPEAL REQUEST:

The Appellant filed an appeal of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) decision to require land for this site plan, and requested to pay fee in lieu. This action is described in Land Development Code 25-1-605 (F); the appeal is to the Planning Commission, who will make the final decision. The case has already been heard by Park and Recreation Board, and a recommendation made (see above).

SP-2019-0600C

Staff recommends upholding PARD's original requirement to dedicate land as part of this site plan; and denial of the applicant's request to pay fee in lieu.

The criteria for the decision of whether to require land vs. fee in lieu are listed in 25-1-605.

- (B). In determining whether to require dedication of land under Section 25-1-602 (Dedication of Parkland) or allow payment of a fee in-lieu of dedication under this section, the director shall consider whether the subdivision or site plan:
 - (1) is located within the Deficient Park Area Map;
 - (2) is adjacent to existing parkland;
 - (3) has sufficient acreage to meet the standards for dedicated parkland under the Parkland Dedication Operating Procedures;
 - (4) is needed to address a critical need for parkland or to remedy a deficiency identified by the Deficient Park Area Map; or
 - (5) would provide increased connectivity with existing or planned parks or recreational amenities.

These criteria are applied, and responded to below:

- (1) is located within the Deficient Park Area Map.
 - True The great majority of the site is located with the Deficient Park Area map, particularly the area that PARD is requiring for dedication. This map is used to indicate the areas where the City is actively trying to acquire parkland, and is public on the City's Property Profile site.
- (2) is adjacent to existing parkland;
 - True The site is adjacent to the Williamson Creek Greenbelt. The intent of the criterion is so that existing parkland may be built upon, and additional access provided.
- (3) has sufficient acreage to meet the standards for dedicated parkland under the Parkland Dedication Operating Procedures;
 - True the standard in the Parkland Dedication Operating Procedures is ¼ acre, and the standard can be met on this site.
- (4) is needed to address a critical need for parkland or to remedy a deficiency identified by the Deficient Park Area Map;
 - True The parkland would address a critical need for a planned greenbelt in this location, would provide access to the public, and would also remedy the deficiency identified in the map.

S Ionaliana

(5) would provide increased connectivity with existing or planned parks or recreational amenities.

True – This parkland would increase connectivity and accessibility (on this section) for the long-planned Williamson Creek Greenbelt, which has recently been added to in the Central section; the long term vision is to provide a greenbelt connection from Oak Hill to Dove Springs and beyond.

Further, the applicant has stated that their primary motivation in making the appeal is that they do not want to allow for public access to the parkland through their site. Public access is an integral aspect of parkland, and is highlighted in several Code sections:

25-1-603 (A)

- (1) Parkland must be easily accessible to the public and open to public view so as to benefit area residents, enhance the visual character of the City, protect public safety, and minimize conflicts with adjacent land uses.
- (2) On-street and off-street connections between residential neighborhoods shall be provided, wherever possible, to provide reasonable access to parks and open space areas. 14.3.7. (A)
 - (5) Parkland should be accessible to those in the neighborhood, either by walking or by the provision of parking.

Per Code, public access to the greenbelt is required as part of the site plan. The site at 4802 S. Congress provides the only feasible entry and exit point to this section of the Central Williamson Creek Greenbelt, and will help fulfill the Council goal that a park be within walking distance (1/4 mile) of all residents of Austin. Adjacent sites have steep topography and would not be able to provide accessible entry points to the trail.

In other cases, PARD has required trail access as part of parkland dedication. This access, typically, would be exclusively parkland, dedicated by deed, and would provide pedestrian and maintenance access. Although a separate trail facility, deeded as parkland is seen as ideal, this design would have a large impact on the proposed project, reducing units and parking. In an effort to not impact the development, PARD instead required a public access easement, which achieves the purpose of allowing the public to reach the parkland, and also overlaps and fulfills other City requirements.

SUMMARY COMMENTS ON SITE PLAN:

The 5.5 acre subject property is located along South Congress Avenue and backs up to a bend of Williamson Creek, approximately 0.8 miles south of U.S. Highway 290. The property is the site of a former car lot that is now vacant. The site plan proposes a building towards the front of the property, and the large area to the rear is proposed as open space with private amenities. This section will be fenced off from the parkland that is under discussion in this appeal.

A decision from Planning Commission will allow the applicant to move forward with either dedication of parkland or payment of fee in lieu, following PARD's process for whichever is decided. A decision for parkland dedication will allow the applicant to proceed with an

Wilder SP-2019-0600C

Environmental Site Assessment, survey, and getting assistance from the City's Real Estate group. A decision for fee in lieu will direct PARD to invoice the applicant for the calculated amount.

PROJECT INFORMATION

TOTAL SITE AREA	239,406 square	5.496 acres	
	feet		
EXISTING ZONING	CS-MU-CO-NP		
WATERSHED	Williamson Creek Watershed		
TRAFFIC IMPACT	Not required		
ANALYSIS			
CAPITOL VIEW CORRIDOR	None		
PROPOSED ACCESS	South Congress Avenue		
	Allowed	Existing	Proposed
FLOOR-AREA RATIO	1:1	0.01:1	0.14:1
BUILDING COVERAGE	80%	1%	14%
HEIGHT	60'	25'	60'
NUMBER OF UNITS	-	0	125

SURROUNDING CONDITIONS (ZONING/ LAND USE)

North: CS-MU-CO-NP / Veterinary Office, Pawn Shop

South: CS-MU-CO-NP / Auto Repair Shop

East: South Congress Ave, then CS-MU-CO-NP / Multifamily

West: P-NP / Williamson Creek Greenbelt

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS:

Homeless Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Empowerment Foundation

Austin Neighborhoods Council

Austin Independent School District

Go Austin! Vamos Austin!

South Congress Combined Neighborhood Plan

Battle Bend Springs Homeowners Association

Onion Creek Homeowners Assoc

Preservation Austin

South Austin Neighborhood Alliance (SANA)

Sierra Club, Austin Regional Group

Bike Austin

Friends Of Austin Neighborhoods

CASE MANAGER: Randall Rouda

Senior Planner

Randall.Rouda@austintexas.gov

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Scott Grantham Principal Planner

Scott.Grantham@austintexas.gov

EXHIBITS:

A. Slide Presentation

B. Correspondence with Applicant

C. Correspondence with Interested Parties

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Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Appeal of the Parkland Dedication Requirements for 4802 S. Congress (SP-2019-0600C)

Planning Commission

February 2021

Scott Grantham Principal Planner

Parks and Recreation Department





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Overview

 Consider an Appeal by an Applicant. PARD is requiring land dedication. The developer is asking to pay fee in lieu.

- On Jan 26, 2021, Parks Board heard the item and voted to support PARD's request for land dedication and deny the applicant's request to pay fee in lieu.
- PARD Recommendation to Planning Commission: Support PARD's request for land dedication and deny the applicant's request, to pay fee in lieu for this site plan.
 - Code Context
 - Site Plan Context
 - Application of Code Criteria
 - Other Factors
 - Recommendation



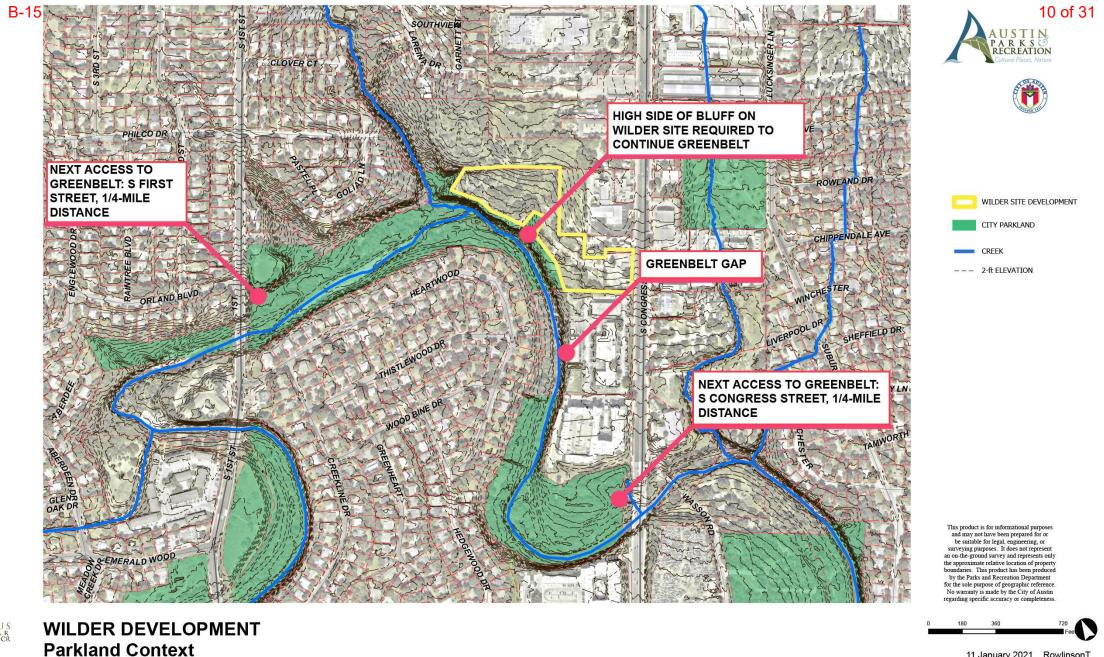


Code Context

- City Code 25-1-605 (B) lists **criteria** for PARD's requirement to dedicate parkland vs. pay fee in lieu.
- City Code 25-1-605 (F) indicates that PARD's decision may be appealed to Planning Commission, and that PARD shall first present the case to the Parks Board for a recommendation. Applicant has appealed the decision.
- On Jan 26, Parks Board voted to support PARD's requirement and to deny the applicant's request to pay fee in lieu.
- Planning Commission makes the final decision.







Application of Code Criteria

City Code 25-1-605 (B)

- 1. is located within the Deficient Park Area Map;
- 2. is adjacent to existing parkland;
- has sufficient acreage to meet the standards for dedicated parkland under the Parkland Dedication Operating Procedures;
- 4. is needed to address a critical need for parkland or to remedy a deficiency identified by the Deficient Park Area Map; or
- 5. would provide increased connectivity with existing or planned parks or recreational amenities.

Based on these criteria, PARD must require land, and does not have the authority to accept fee in lieu.

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Application of Code Criteria

City Code 25-1-603 (A) Standards for Dedicated Parkland

- "...land to be dedicated must meet the requirements of this subsection."
- (1) Parkland must be **easily accessible to the public** and open to public view so as to benefit area residents, enhance the visual character of the City, protect public safety, and minimize conflicts with adjacent land uses.
- (2) On-street and off-street connections between residential neighborhoods shall be provided, wherever possible, to provide reasonable access to parks and open space areas.





Application of Code Criteria

PDOP Supplemental Park Design Standards 14.3.7.A:

- (1) The interior of a park should be visible from an existing or proposed public right-of-way. Exceptions to the recommended frontage may be acceptable to accommodate ...; a park that serves mainly as a greenbelt;....
- (5) Parkland should be accessible to those in the neighborhood, either by walking or by the provision of parking.

Parkland should be accessible to the public. In order to achieve that, it must be connected to the ROW.









PROPOSED TRAIL

WILDER SITE DEVELOPMENT

CITY PARKLAND

CREEK

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. If does not represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries. This product has been produced by the Parks and Recreation Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



WILDER DEVELOPMENT Parkland Concept







PROPOSED TRAIL

WILDER SITE DEVELOPMENT

CITY PARKLAND

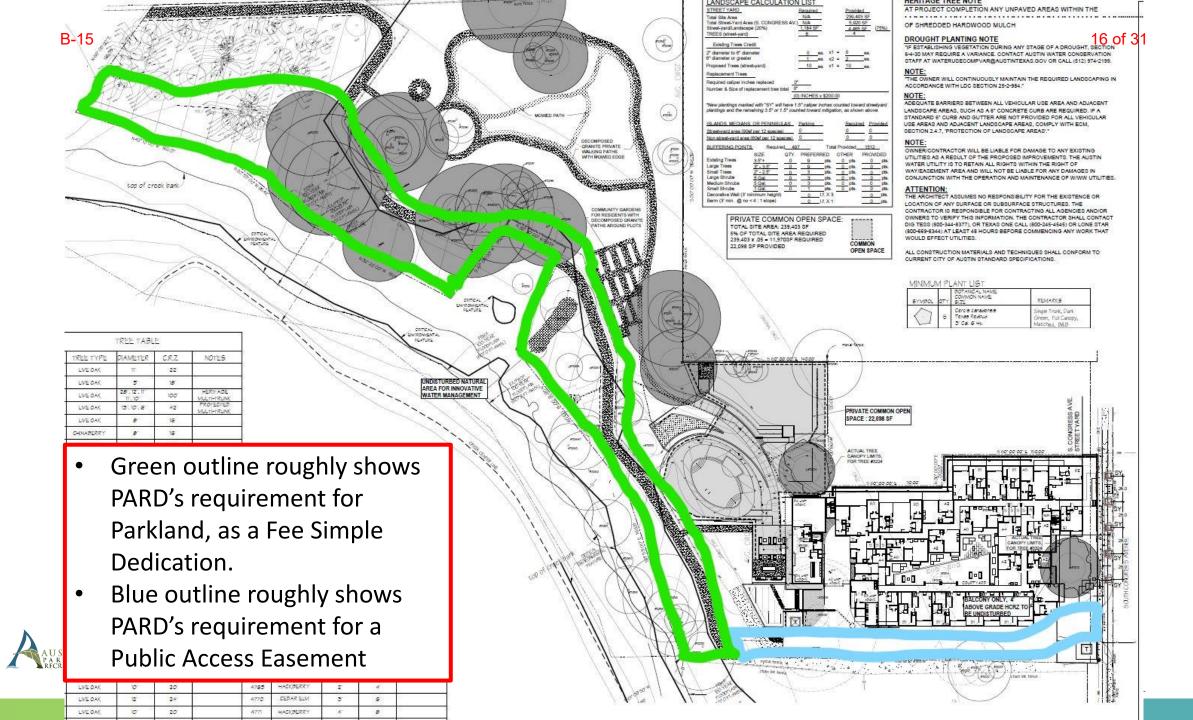
PARK DEFICIENCY

CREEK

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries. This product has been produced by the Parks and Recreation Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.







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Other aspects

- Fire Lane: "This easement is acceptable to AFD, provided that one sentence be changed to indicate that there shall be no modifications to the fire lane in the future." – Constantino Mendoza, Austin Fire Department
- Urban Trails Master Plan Identified as a Tier II Trail; emphasizes connections to public sidewalks. Sidewalks + Urban Trails = Complete Pedestrian Network.
- Central Williamson Creek Greenway Plan community engagement resulting in recommendations for accessibility and connectivity.
- Previous parkland donation occurred in 1977, prior to any Parkland Dedication Ordinances, and unrelated to this residential site plan.





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Similar Cases

• 1515 S. Lamar (SP-2018-0595C) – Code requires safe access to a trail to the rear of the site, achieved with a Public Access easement that runs along an existing sidewalk. Access doesn't have to be wide or change appearance; ensures that the trail is not alienated from the public in this location.

- 1311 S. Lamar (SP-2018-0296C) Similar to above. Access to primary trail along Union Pacific railroad via a Public Access Easement to South Lamar; access from ROW also serves as a pedestrianized driveway. Varied surfacing serves as traffic calming for pedestrians. Code applied to site plan review individually, not dependent on other sites.
- **Tech Ridge (SP-2019-0262C 12217 N. IH 35)** Parkland dedication satisfied by deeded land and a park easement that will provide the community with a needed connection between ROW and a Park.
- Cameron Rd Park (SP-2019-0416C 5900 Cameron Rd) Site configuration will involve two separate parks, and a Public Access easement. Applicant has agreed to the easement and project is moving forward.





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PARD Recommendation

 Recommend to support PARD's request for land dedication and deny the applicant's request to pay fee in lieu of land dedication for 4802 S. Congress (SP-2019-0600C).



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Grantham, Scott

From: Mike McHone <mchone1234@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:47 AM

To: Grantham, Scott

Cc:Scott, Randy; 'Mike McHone'Subject:4802 S Congress; SP 2019-0600 C

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Dear Mr. Grantham,

This email shall serve as the required notification of the above project's request for the payment of a "Fee-in-Lieu" payment as compliance with the Parkland Dedication requirement. This site is very irregular with most of the property located behind existing lots on Congress Ave. and adjacent to the existing Williamson Creek Greenbelt. This project's frontage on Congress is limited and this is the only buildable area.

LDC 25-1-603 (A) (1) & (2) requires public accessibility and public view; and on and off street connections between residential neighborhoods to be provided whenever possible to provide reasonable access.

This project cannot meet these requirements and is therefore requesting the fee-in-lieu option as provided by the LDC. Best regards,

Mike McHone, authorized agent

January 8, 2021

Michael McHone Authorized Agent mchone1234@sbcglobal.net

Dear Mr. McHone:

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is in receipt of your December 3, 2020 request to pay a fee in lieu of dedicating parkland in connection with the pending site plan for the property located at 4802 S. Congress Avenue (Wilder SP-2019-0600C) (the "Site Plan") This letter serves as a denial of your request.

City Code § 25-1-605 governs the Parks and Recreation Department's (PARD) determination of whether to allow payment in fee in lieu of the dedication of parkland. Specifically,

- (A) The director [of PARD] may require or allow a subdivision or site plan applicant to deposit with the City a fee in-lieu of parkland dedication under Section 25-1-605 (*Dedication of Parkland*) if:
 - (1) the director determines that payment of a fee in-lieu of dedication is justified under the criteria in Subsection (B) of this section; and
 - (2) the following additional requirements are met:
 - (a) less than six acres is required to be dedicated under Section 25-1-602 (*Dedication of Parkland*); or
 - (b) the land available for dedication does not comply with the standards for dedication under Section 25-1-603 (*Standards for Dedicated Parkland*).

Because the land to be dedicated is less than six acres, the Site Plan satisfies the requirements of § 25-1-605(A). Therefore, the question is whether it also satisfies the requirements of § 25-1-605(B):

- (B) In determining whether to require dedication of land under Section 25-1-602 (*Dedication of Parkland*) or allow payment of a fee in-lieu of dedication under this section, the director shall consider whether the subdivision or site plan:
 - (1) is located within the Deficient Park Area Map;

200 South Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78704 (2) is adjacent to existing parkland;

the Parkland Dedication Operating Procedures;

- (3) has sufficient acreage to meet the standards for dedicated parkland under
- (4) is needed to address a critical need for parkland or to remedy a deficiency identified by the Deficient Park Area Map; or
- (5) would provide increased connectivity with existing or planned parks or recreational amenities.

With regard to the Site Plan, the answer to each of these criteria is "yes": the Site Plan is located within the Deficient Park Area Map; is adjacent to existing parkland; has sufficient acreage to meet the standards for dedicated parkland under the Parkland Dedication Operating Procedures; is needed to address a critical need for parkland or to remedy a deficiency; and would provide increased connectivity with existing or planned parks or recreational amenities. In sum, none of the criteria justifies a decision by PARD to allow payment of a fee in lieu as to this Site Plan, and PARD thus does not have the authority to allow such payment. Rather, the only thing that the Code authorizes PARD to do is to require the dedication of parkland.

Please be advised that you are entitled to appeal PARD's decision deny your request to pay a fee in lieu:

If the director rejects a request to pay a fee in-lieu of dedication under Subsection (B) of this section, the applicant may appeal the director's decision to the Land Use Commission consistent with the procedures in Article 7, Division 1 (*Appeals*) of this chapter. Before the Land Use Commission considers the appeal, the director shall present the case to the Parks Board for a recommendation, but failure by the Parks Board to act shall not prohibit the Land Use Commission from considering the appeal.

City Code § 25-1-605(f). The appeals procedure that both parties must follow is set forth in §§ 25-1-181 through 25-1-192. Please note that § 25-1-182 provides that you have 20 days from the date of this letter to initiate an appeal and § 25-1-183 describes the information you must include in your appeal.

Best regards,

Scott Grantham, PARD, Principal Planner Cc: Randal Scott, PARD, Program Manager Notice of Appeal of Administrative Decision of "payment of Fee-in-Lieu of Parkland for 4802 S. Congress Ave; SP-2019-0600C as notified by letter dated 1/8/2021 from Parks and Recreation Dept. (PARD)

Per Land Development Code (LDC) 25-1-183:

I (Michael R. McHone) am the authorized representative for the above referenced project also known as (Wilder). The required information for this appeal of this administrative decision is as follows:

1. Michael R. McHone (mike McHone Real Estate)

P. O. Box 8142

Austin, TX 78713-8142

Phone: 512-554-8440

2. Wilder (project name) 4802 S. Congress

- 3. Denial of Fee-in-Lieu of Parkland (LDC 25-1-605)
- 4. Administrative letter of 1/8/2021
- 5. Consultant retained to negotiate PARD issues.
- 6. Reasons appellant (McHone) believes the decision does not comply with the requirement of this title:
- a) A Deficient Park Area Map was not provided; however, the attached Tax map (TCAD) was submitted with the application indicating park land near the site. (See exhibit 1)
- b) Additional dedication of land is not the issue as much of the site is in the critical water quality zone of Williamson Creek. The project cannot reasonable comply with the Public Access Easement (LDC 25-1-603 (A) (1), (2)). The site is very irregular the buildable area is too limited in size, shape, and street frontage to be an acceptable Public Access easement.

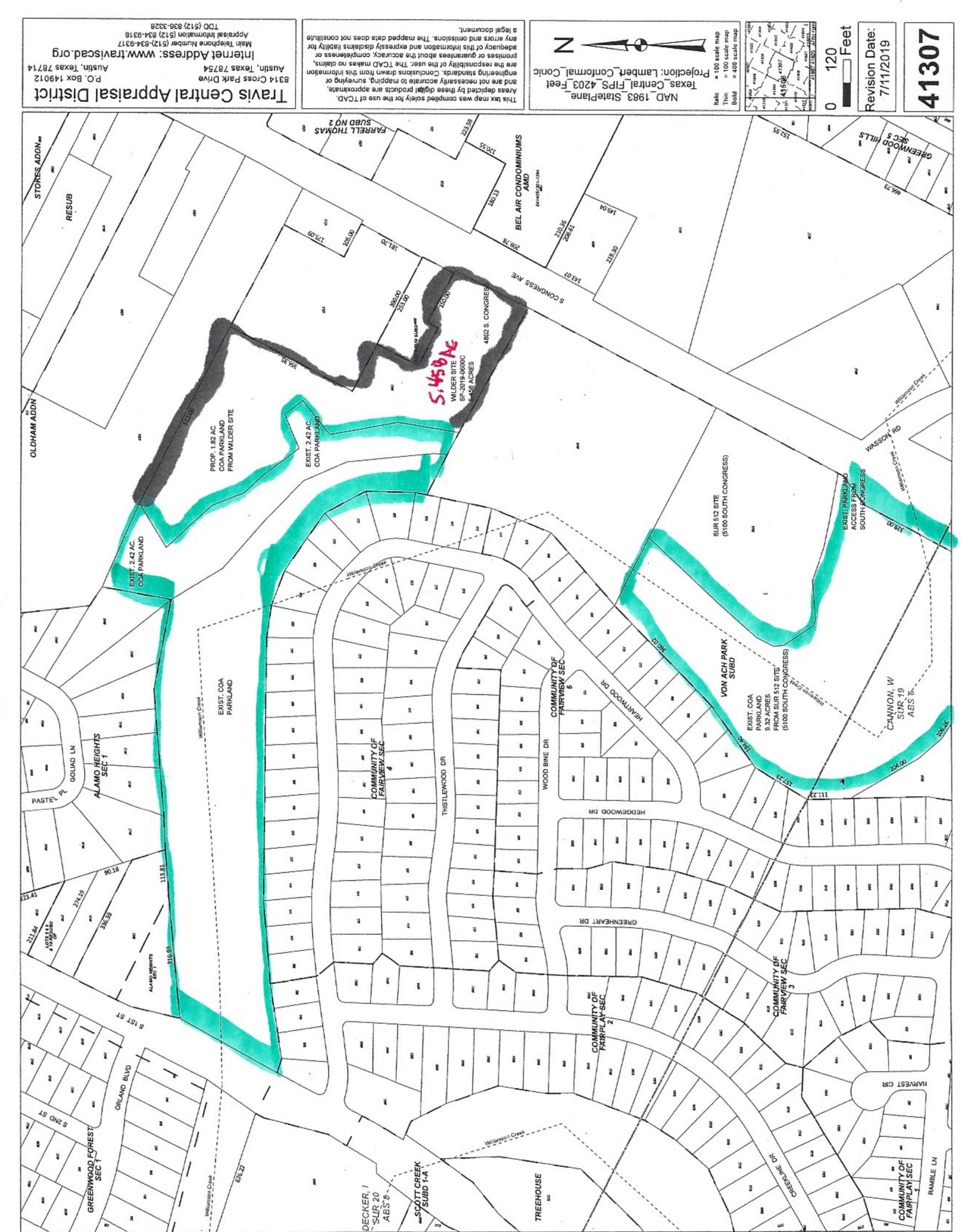
PARD has stated that the easement maintenance will be a project expense and responsibility. PARD has not been able to provide and liability insurance indemnifying Wilder from any accident or claim arising from an "incident" that might occur in the Public Access Easement that PARD is proposing. PARD proposes to use the narrow driveway to the required off street parking garage which is also the require Fire Lane for the Public Access Easement: Wilder believes such a Public Access Easement places an unacceptable liability on the project and the subsequent condominium owners.

- c) The site has sufficient acreage for partial dedication which PARD will accept along with a cash payment for the balance. As stated in (b) the disagreement is the Public Access Easement. Historically the Wilder site donated 2.4 acres of land in exchange for rezoning the property. These 2.4 acres established an original segment of the Williamson Creek Greenbelt.
- d) As stated in (a) the applicant has not seen any "official" PARD map identifying this area as "Parkland Deficient".
- e) The connectivity will not be increased as the proposed dedication will simply add width to the previously gifted 2.4 acres. (See exhibit 2) Connectivity currently exists along Williamson Creek to the north and west all the way to South First Street. An additional 9 acres was dedicated by anew project to the south which extend all the way to S. Congress and Ramble Lane.

This letter shall serve as our request to appear at a public hearing of the City of Austin Parks Board on January 26, 2021.

Respectfully, Reliefor

Michael R. McHone, Authorized agent

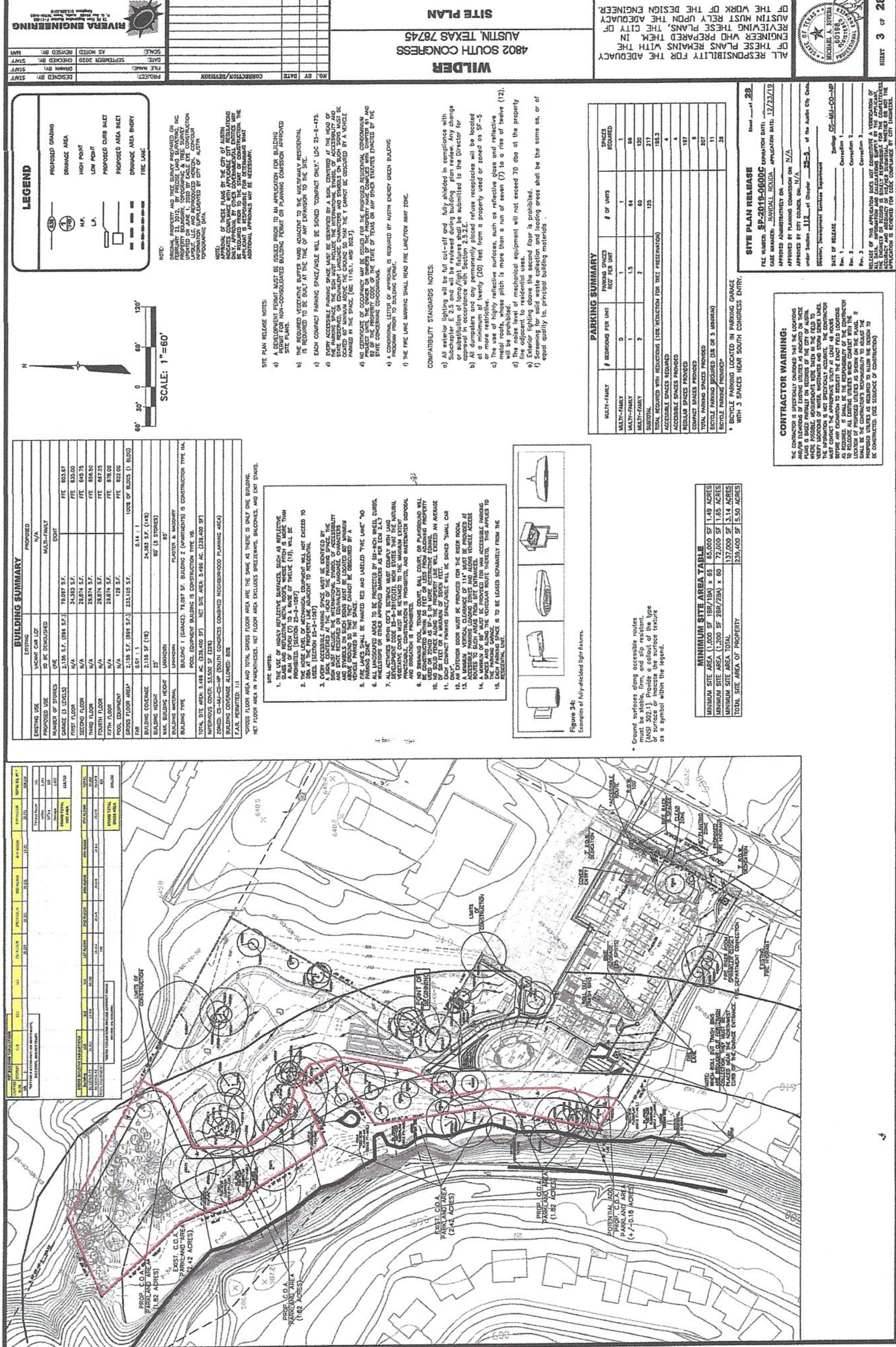


PIVERA ENGINEERING

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PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

the opportunity to speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed develop that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighbo change. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental org hearing, you are not required to attend. However, if you do attend, Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to attend

time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days During a public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or the application. If the board or commission announces a specific an application's hearing to a later date, or recommend approval or announcement, no further notice is required.

the decision. The body holding a public hearing on an appeal will det A board or commission's decision may be appealed by a person with to appeal, or an interested party that is identified as a person who can whether a person has standing to appeal the decision

A zoning ordinance amendment may include a conditional overla would include conditions approved by the Land Use Commission or Council. If final approval is by a City Council's action, there is no the Land Use Commission's action.

An interested party is defined as a person who is the applicant or reco of the subject property, or who communicates an interest to a board or commission by:

- delivering a written statement to the board or commission before or the public hearing that generally identifies the issues of concern (i) delivered to the contact listed on a notice); or
- appearing and speaking for the record at the public hearing;

- occupies a primary residence that is within 500 feet of the subject or proposed development;
 - is the record owner of property within 500 feet of the subject prop proposed development; or
- is an officer of an environmental or neighborhood organization the interest in or whose declared boundaries are within 500 feet of the property or proposed development.

A notice of appeal must be filed with the director of the res department no later than 14 days after the decision. An appeal form available from the responsible department.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development visit our web site: www.austintexas.gov/devservices.

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Grantham, Scott

From: Katerina Dittemore <>

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:06 AM

To: Grantham, Scott

Cc: Norman Rice; 'Faye Beck'

Subject: Case SP-2019-0600C Appeal denied

Attachments: Appeal denied 4802.pdf

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Goo morning Mr Grantham

I am responding to the Notice of Public Hearing Site Plan Appeal Case SP-2019-0600C Please record in the official public hearing comments that I object to the appeal.

Specifically, I agree with the recommendation of the Parks Commission to dedicate parkland as part of this development project. We badly need more greenspace in this area of town.

Please contact me with any questions. 512/707-0455

Thank you Katerina R Dittemore 4081 S Congress Ave Unit R-4 Austin, TX 78745

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Grantham, Scott

From: Pam Lynn <>

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 1:03 PM

To: Grantham, Scott

Subject: Exemption Case #SP-2019-0600C OBJECTION

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Mr. Grantham,

In the matter of Exemption Case #SP-2019-0600C, I wish to let you know that I **OBJECT** to the exemption.

I live opposite (across the greenbelt) of the proposed development at 4802 South Congress. As the Congress corridor continues to grow in density, I think park land near the development is necessary to the health and wellbeing of nearby citizens.

Thank You, Pamela Lynn 4605 Goliad Ln. Austin TX

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Grantham, Scott

From: Jacob Noack <>

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 7:30 PM

To: Grantham, Scott

Subject: 4802 Congress Ave Objection

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Hi Scott,

I object to the exemption application for 4802 Congress Ave (case # SP-2019-0600C). As a homeowner in the West Congress (Fairview) neighborhood and a native Austinite, I strongly believe the greenbelts should be open and inclusive of everyone.

Jacob Noack jacobnoack@me.com 830-385-6863

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Grantham, Scott

From: James Millard <>

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 9:13 PM

To: Grantham, Scott

Subject: Objection to Exemption, Case SP-2019-0600C

Follow Up Flag: Follow up **Flag Status:** Flagged

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Hi Scott,

I object to the developer's application for an exemption on case # SP-2019-0600C. Green space is not only vital to the neighborhood, but to maintaining the surrounding Williamson Creek area and green belt, especially with further development on the horizon.

Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

James Millard

Sent from my iPhone