

Auditorium Shores Improvements Project
Community Meeting Notes – October 8, 2013

- I. Introductions – Marty Stump, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department
- II. Design Presentation – Brian Ott, TBG Partners
- III. Public Comments
 - a. Speaker 1 – opposes the change/reduction of Auditorium Shores and questions the involvement of C3 Presents
 - b. Speaker 2 – supports the improvements to the off-leash area
 - c. Speaker 3 – design lacks enough ADA parking
 - d. Speaker 4 – new off-leash area too far from current parking lot
 - e. Speaker 5 – new area not big enough to support Austin’s growing population
 - f. Speaker 6 – wanted to know the City’s rules on public/private partnerships and discussed concerns at Red Bud Isle Park
 - g. Speaker 7 – changes were driven by C3 Presents
 - i. Clarifications were made by City Staff that C3 was not driving the changes
 - h. Speaker 8 – too much reduction in size to the off-leash area
 - i. Speaker 9 – allow for more open space in the off-leash area
 - j. Speaker 10 – new off-leash area too small, parking access a huge issue
 - k. Speaker 11 – don’t alter the trail route
 - l. Speaker 12 – requested data on safety issues and users of the park
 - m. Speaker 13 – reduction of off-leash areas are happening throughout the park system, it needs to stop
 - n. Speaker 14 – what is C3 going to get for their donation? The proposed off-leash area too small
 - i. City Staff informed audience that C3 Presents will not receive any special accommodations for the donation
 - o. Speaker 15 – keep auditorium shores leash-free
 - p. Speaker 16 – requested information on percentage of dogs that go from the shores to the water
 - q. Speaker 17 – most of the dogs don’t go into the water, need more open space than water access
 - r. Speaker 18 – divert trail users around entire park/off-leash area, the new off-leash area is too small
 - s. Speaker 19 – W. Bouldin Creek Outlet is disgusting – can’t expect dogs to swim there, doesn’t agree with new location of off-leash area
 - t. Speaker 20 – Safety concerns for dogs because new area is too small, doesn’t believe Staff is taking the public comments seriously
 - u. Speaker 21 – supportive of project, accessibility needs must be met
 - v. Speaker 22 – seems like a lot of people are being displaced for a small problem

- w. Speaker 23 – people should be able to slow down thru entire off-leash area, Bouldin Creek is gross and the proposed usage is not balanced
 - x. Speaker 24 – project driven by C3 Presents, bikers can avoid dogs, 1 ½ year closure displaces a lot of people, dust bowl caused by drought
 - i. Clarification was made that off-leash areas would be available at the park throughout construction
 - y. Speaker 25 – design looks great, the off-leash designation policy not right, the water is gross
 - z. Speaker 26 – athletes can adjust pace along trail, stay true to what Austin is about
 - aa. Speaker 27 – C3 Presents has had to step in with their donation because the City hasn't paid for the improvements as required by the venue/car tax fund
 - bb. Speaker 28 – small off-leash area will increase dog aggression and safety issues
 - cc. Speaker 29 – plan doesn't balance park use
 - dd. Speaker 30 – not a good plan – way too small, other users can re-route away from off-leash area
 - ee. Speaker 31 – sustainability issues a real concern, park should cater to daily users
 - ff. Speaker 32 – dogs need room to run, space is important
 - gg. Speaker 33 – Is this the final plan?
 - i. Clarification was made that the final design will have to go to the Parks and Recreation Board and City Council for approval.
 - hh. Speaker 34 – Red Bud Isle and Auditorium Shores only central off-leash options, bring all users together
 - ii. Speaker 35 – off-leash portion of trail allows dogs to socialize, don't want Austin to lose no-kill status
 - jj. Speaker 36 – re-route the trail, don't limit the off-leash area, find more off-leash sites with water access
 - kk. Speaker 37 – losing space is not acceptable, train noise can scare dogs
 - ll. Speaker 38 – wants entire park to be an off-leash area
 - mm. Speaker 39 – feels not enough people know of the community meetings around this project
 - nn. Speaker 40 – allow for more area to be off-leash, the park can be better without reducing it
 - oo. Speaker 41 – people had equal opportunity to come out and share opinion
 - pp. Speaker 42 – What is the everyday vision of the middle and event lawn?
 - i. Staff vision family picnics, pick-up games of soccer, children playing, etc.
 - qq. Speaker 43 – policy issue around designation of off-leash area is a council decision, it can be changed if folks talk to the Council and request they change it back
- IV. Wrap- Up – Marty Stump, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department
- a. Final design will go to the Parks and Recreation Board and then to Council. Each of these meetings allow for citizen comments. Dates have not been determined for these meetings, but when they are available they will be posted to the project website.