

#53

DiGiuseppe, Paul

From: DiGiuseppe, Paul
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 10:14 AM
To: 'Mary Arnold'; Michael R. Cannatti; August W. Harris III
Cc: Haywood, Carol; Guernsey, Greg; wang-board@westaustinnng.com; Michael Curry
Subject: RE: CWANP Parks Open Space and Environment Chapter

Hi Mary:

Thank you for pointing this out and will include as part of the late backup. As with the East Riverside/Oltorf Plan, the Central West Plan also has text regarding the golf course (particularly the language drafted by the neighborhood and supported by Planning Commission as well as the Neighborhood In Context chapter).

See you this afternoon.

Paul

Late Backup

Paul DiGiuseppe, Principal Planner
 City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department
 505 Barton Springs Rd., 5th floor
 Austin, TX 78704
 paul.digiuseppe@ci.austin.tx.us
 Phone: (512) 974-2865
 Fax: (512) 974-6054
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767

From: Mary Arnold [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2010 4:51 PM
To: DiGiuseppe, Paul; Michael R. Cannatti; August W. Harris III
Cc: Haywood, Carol; Guernsey, Greg; wang-board@westaustinnng.com; Michael Curry
Subject: Re: CWANP Parks Open Space and Environment Chapter

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your reply to my e-mail.

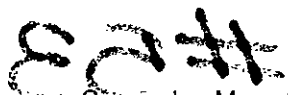
With regard to the East Riverside Drive Neighborhood Plan, I would like to point out that even though the ACC/Riverside Golf Course tract was omitted from the FLUM, the ordinance adopting the NP included as one of the NP 13 major goals, "Preserve and enhance existing parks, the 18-hole Riverside Golf Course and other open spaces and create opportunities for additional public open space."

Quite a number of pages in the plan itself were devoted to the Riverside Golf Course and its history. On page 123 of the plan is "Map 11: Desired Greenspace Map (developed by the Advisory Committee)". The map includes the golf course as part of the "desired greenspace".

In the NP Appendices, Riverside Golf Course is listed as being identified in the Neighborhood Survey as an important historic place that deserves special recognition and preservation.

The staff recommendation, even with the callout box, does not, in my opinion, adequately present the strong neighborhood sentiments and recommendations expressed during the neighborhood planning process. I regret that we did not get an opportunity to discuss the staff draft changes well before the final open house.

8/19/2010


Sincerely, Mary Arnold

----- Original Message -----

From: DiGiuseppe, Paul
To: Mary Arnold ; Michael R. Cannatti ; August W. Harris III
Cc: Haywood, Carol ; Guernsey, Greg ; wang-board@westaustinng.com ; Michael Curry
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2010 10:31 AM
Subject: RE: CWANP Parks Open Space and Environment Chapter

Dear Mary, August and Michael:

Thank you for your e-mails. The changes you identified relate to the previous draft versions of the Parks, Open Space and Environment Chapter specifically pertaining to the Brackenridge Tract. As the University is in a state of flux over the future of the tract, the two City Resolutions stating the City will work cooperatively with stakeholders regarding the future of the Tract, and the City's previous decision to exclude the ACC-Riverside golf course from the East Riverside/Oltorf Plan, the Department decided to remove these recommendations and go with our recommended language for Land Use Objective 7 and Recommendation 7.1 as well as the callout box. This version of the Parks Chapter without the Brackenridge objective was included as part of the Final Open House (March 4, 2010) and has been available on the website since the Final Open House. Also note that your language in the Land Use Chapter for Brackenridge which was recommended by Planning Commission addresses the same purposes as the previous Parks recommendations. Please see Objectives 7 and 8 and recommendations L.7.1, L.7.3, L.7.4, L.7.5, L.7.6, L.8.2, L.8.3, and L.8.4. I will make sure that all of your e-mails on this subject are given to Council as backup. While it is too late for me to make changes, especially as Planning Commission has made its recommendation, please feel free to identify this as an issue during the public comment portion of tomorrow's public hearing.

Regarding Mary's point about the objectives not stating the word "preserve," the objectives and recommendations imply preservation of parks.

I'm still having to update the motion sheet and will not have it available until the public hearing. Also, as stated in an e-mail from me on 7/23, there is staff policy not to release the motion sheet until it has been submitted to Council so I cannot provide it to you. The motion sheets for neighborhood plans typically are given to council members at the public hearing. However, I will make extra copies for you. I understand your need to organize and suggest you use the completed motion sheet from the Planning Commission's June 22nd meeting as a guide.

Sincerely,

Paul

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From: Michael R. Cannatti [mailto:mcannatti@hamiltonerrile.com]

8/19/2010

Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 2:11 PM

To: DiGiuseppe, Paul

Cc: wang-board@westaustinnng.com; Michael Curry

Subject: RE: CWANP Parks Open Space and Environment Chapter

Hi Paul. Mary is correct. Your re-draft of this chapter has removed the specific "consensus" decisions in the Parks chapter which specifically referenced the Brack and State School Tracts. As reviewed in the chronology below, these consensus decisions were approved by the stakeholders and included in the original drafts for the Parks chapter. I see no explanation in the "matrix" of comments for this chapter of why or when they were removed. **Please explain what happened here, why were we not notified of this deletion, and why the deletion was made.**

Chronology

In your Sept. 24, 2007 memo to the Planning Commission entitled "Status Report for Central West Austin Neighborhood Plan," you noted that:

Finally, this planning area contains several large properties that could be redeveloped in the future – the Austin State School at 35th & MoPac and the University of Texas land (Brackenridge Tract) on Lake Austin Boulevard. Discussion of the neighborhood's desired development goals for these projects will be a major part of the planning process.

At the Sept. 27, 2007 meeting where stakeholders provided input on the parks and open spaces issues, your minutes (ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/npzd/cwa/Previous%20Meeting%20Materials/Parks%2007-09-27_web/cwa_Meeting_Notes_September_27.pdf) show that we worked out a "working goal" as follows:

Meeting Notes

September 27 Parks and Open Space Meeting

McFadden Auditorium at Seton Medical Complex

Parks Goal

Stakeholders provided feedback on a working goal for parks. Stakeholders accepted the following working goal: "**Preserve and enhance** existing parks and recreational areas in the Central West Austin Planning Area, as well as open space on large properties (e.g., **State School, Brackenridge Tract**, etc.). Create opportunities for additional public open space such as trails, pocket parks, and landscaped traffic islands."

On Oct. 10, 2007, I notified you by email that there was an error in your meeting notes, and that the stakeholders had requested that the goal be revised to include creating open space and parks on large properties to serve as a buffer to protect existing single family homes in the neighborhood:

Stakeholder Revisions to Parks Working Goal

"Preserve and enhance existing parks and recreational areas in the Central West Austin Planning Area, as well as open space on large properties (e.g., State School, Brackenridge Tract, etc.). ~~Create opportunities for~~ additional public open space such as trails, pocket parks, and landscaped traffic islands, as well as parks and recreational areas on large properties."

In the draft "Parks, Open Space, and Environment Draft" dated January 9, 2008 that you presented (ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/npzd/cwa/Previous%20Meeting%20Materials/Process_Checkup%2008-01-09_web/CWA_Jan9_Parks.pdf), our revised goal (above) was included. In addition, you included the following Objective 4 and Recommendations R.4.1 to R.4.3:

OBJECTIVE 4: Should the Brackenridge Tract and Austin State School be redeveloped, the redevelopment should preserve open space, provide more park and civic space, and use open space to protect nearby single-family homes from incompatible uses.

R.4.1 Lions Golf Course should remain a public golf course.

R.4.2 Prioritize park types, such as urban plazas and civic areas, that are currently missing from Central West Austin.

R.4.3 Preserve open space for use as buffers wherever more intense development occurs adjacent to existing single-family home neighborhoods.

In the April 26, 2008 Mid Process Review, your draft of the "Parks, Open Space, and Environment" chapter (ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/npzd/cwa/Previous%20Meeting%20Materials/Process_Checkup%2008-01-09_web/CWA_Jan9_Parks.pdf) included the same statement of Objectives and Recommendations for the Brackenridge Tract and Austin State School.

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R.3.2

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R.3.3

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R.3.4

Prioritize park types, such as urban plazas and civic areas, that are currently missing from Central West Austin.

R.3.5

Preserve open space for use as buffers wherever more intense development of the Brackenridge Tract, Austin State Tract, Austin State School, or Camp Mabry occurs adjacent to existing single-family home neighborhoods.

From: Mary Arnold
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2010 4:47 PM
To: Paul.DiGiuseppe@ci.austin.tx.us
Cc: August W. Harris III; Michael R. Cannatti
Subject: CWANP Parks Open Space and Environment Chapter

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Thanks, Mary

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DiGiuseppe, Paul

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Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2010 10:32 AM
To: 'Mary Arnold'; 'Michael R. Cannatti'; 'August W. Harris III'
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 Mailing address: P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767

From: Michael R. Cannatti [mailto:mrcannatti@ci.austin.tx.us]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 2:11 PM
To: DiGiuseppe, Paul
Cc: wang-board@westaustinng.com; Michael Curry
Subject: RE: CWANP Parks Open Space and Environment Chapter

8/18/2010

82#

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Stakeholder Revisions to Parks Working Goal

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R.4.2 Prioritize park types, such as urban plazas and civic areas, that are currently missing from Central West Austin.

R.4.3 Preserve open space for use as buffers wherever more intense development occurs adjacent to existing single-family home neighborhoods.

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R.3.3

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R.3.5

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From: Mary Arnold [mailto:wdmarnold@austin.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2010 4:47 PM

8/18/2010

To: Paul.DiGiuseppe@ci.austin.tx.us
Cc: August W. Harris III; Michael R. Cannatti
Subject: CWANP Parks Open Space and Environment Chapter

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Thanks, Mary

8/18/2010

DiGiuseppe, Paul

From: August W. Harris III
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 5:41 PM
To: DiGiuseppe, Paul
Cc: wang-board@westaustinng.com; 'Michael Curry'
Subject: Motion Sheet

Paul, I looked quickly through Council backup for Thursday and did not see the Motion Sheet. Now that further discrepancies have been found in the text by Mary, that would appear to leave us with yet more contested items.

August W. Harris III
Covenant Financial Solutions, LLC
P.O. Box 302317
Austin, Texas 78703
Phone 512.320.8808
Fax 512.320.8684
www.cfs-texas.com

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8/18/2010

DiGiuseppe, Paul

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Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2010 4:47 PM
To: DiGiuseppe, Paul
Cc: August W. Harris III; Michael Rocco Cannatti
Subject: CWANP Parks Open Space and Environment Chapter
Attachments: 8 5 10 Changes in CWA Parks goals.doc

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Thanks, Mary

8 5 10 Changes in CWA Parks goals

Sept. 27, 2007 Parks Responses: **Parks and Open Space** Neighborhood Responses

Retain and preserve existing neighborhood parks, WAYA, and Lions Golf Course

- Create additional parks and jogging trails along river
- Create a canoe/kayak launch area along lake
- Create public lake access
- Create more parks with playground facilities within walking distance of residential areas
- Create more recreational facilities
- Improve existing parks
- Increase maintenance of parks, trails, and other public spaces Zone parks as public
- Create additional parking at parks
- Permit landowners to take possession of parkland behind lots between Hartford/MoPac and Jefferson
- Create a rope-swing park along lake
- Develop Shoal Creek and Johnson Creek greenbelts to be continuous throughout the neighborhood to the lake
- Create open spaces as a buffer between new development in State School/Brackenridge and existing residential areas
- Protect urban tree canopy

Goals from a handout – not sure of date: probably April, 2008

Parks and Open Space Goal—“Preserve, connect and enhance existing parks and recreational areas and facilities in the Central West Austin Planning Area, as well as open space on large properties (e.g., Austin State School, Brackenridge Tract, etc.) Create additional public open space such as trails, pocket parks, and landscaped traffic islands, as well as parks and recreational areas and facilities on large properties.”

Objective 1: Ensure access to a range of parks and open space for a range of people.

Objective 2: Program existing parks to promote recreation and wellness, public art, and gathering places for all ages.

Objective 3: Use parks and open spaces to define the neighborhood, connect to Austin’s natural heritage, and improve key environmental qualities. (Now under Environment...)

Objective 4: Should the Brackenridge Tract and Austin State School be re-developed, the redevelopment should preserve open space, provide more park and civic space, and use open space to protect nearby single-family homes from incompatible uses.

R.4.1 Lions golf course should remain a public golf course.

R.4.2 Prioritize park types, such as urban plazas and civic areas that are currently missing from Central West Austin.

R.4.3 Preserve open space for use as buffers wherever more intense development occurs adjacent to existing single-family home neighborhoods.

April 2008 Mid-Process Review

Two of these chapters have been previously given out: the full Transportation chapter, and the Parks and Open space section of the Parks, Open Space, and Environment chapter. In these two chapters, anything that has a single-underline is a change made in response to stakeholder comments. Anything that has a double-underline is a change made by staff, due to: changing circumstances, further consideration, suggestions from other departments, or comments from stakeholders in a different meeting (such as a comment from the community life meeting that was added to the Transportation chapter).

“Preserve, connect and enhance existing parks and recreational areas and facilities in the Central West Austin Planning Area, as well as open space on large properties (e.g., Austin State School and the Brackenridge Tract). Create opportunities for additional public open space such as trails, pocket parks, and landscaped traffic islands, as well as parks and recreational areas and facilities on large properties. ”

Objective 1: Ensure access to a range of parks and open space for a range of people.

Objective 2: Program existing parks to promote recreation and wellness, public art, and gathering places for all ages.

Objective 3: Should the Brackenridge Tract and Austin State School be redeveloped, the redevelopment should preserve open space and provide more park and civic space. Use open space to protect nearby single-family homes from incompatible uses.

R.3.1

Lions Golf Course should remain as a public golf course.

R.3.2

Extend the Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike Trail to Red Bud Trail without impacting the environmentally sensitive habitat located within the Biological Field Lab Tract.

R.3.3

Encourage the City and University to expand Eilers Park into the Brackenridge Tract.

R.3.4

Prioritize park types, such as urban plazas and civic areas, that are currently missing from

Central West Austin.

R.3.5

Preserve open space for use as buffers wherever more intense development of the Brackenridge Tract, Austin State School, or Camp Mabry occurs adjacent to existing single-family home neighborhoods.

R.6.4

Should the Brackenridge Tract or Austin State School redevelop, no additional storm water should flow from these properties. Water quality devices should be installed to minimize pollution. These two large tracts are located in sensitive areas: Brackenridge is within the suburban water supply zone, and the Austin State School is split between the supply zone and high in the headwaters of Johnson Creek. These systems should also incorporate recreational opportunities for the public, such as walking trails around detention ponds.

January 4, 2010 Draft Parks Open Space

Objective 3: Should the Brackenridge Tract, Camp Mabry and Austin State School be redeveloped, the redevelopment should preserve open space and provide more park and civic space. Use open space to protect nearby single-family homes from incompatible uses.

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Lions Golf Course should remain as a public golf course.

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Extend the Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike Trail to Red Bud Trail without impacting the environmentally sensitive habitat located within the Biological Field Lab Tract.

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Encourage the City and University to expand Eilers Park into the Brackenridge Tract.

R.3.4

Prioritize and create park types, such as urban plazas and civic areas, that are currently missing from Central West Austin.

R.3.5

Preserve open space for use as buffers wherever more intense development of the Brackenridge Tract, Austin State School, or Camp Mabry occurs adjacent to existing single-family home neighborhoods.

R.3.6 Create more public use space with access to the river as part of any development at Lady Bird Lake or Lake Austin.

OBJECTIVE 4: Improve landscaping and maintenance. (What happened to this one in later drafts?????)

February 15, 2010 final draft:

Only two Parks Objectives...not Four....

After Environment Goal, then

Objective 3: Increase and diversify Central West Austin's urban forest.

Objective 4: Reduce local flooding in the neighborhood.

Objective 5: Protect Central West Austin's waterways from pollution and erosion.

Objective 6: Use parks, open space, and vegetation to define the neighborhood, connect the neighborhood's natural and social heritage, and improve key environmental qualities.

Final Open House Draft – Parks, Environment

2 Parks Objectives, then Environment Goal and

Objective 3: Increase and diversify Central West Austin's urban forest.

Objective 4: Reduce local flooding in the neighborhood

Objective 5: Protect Central West Austin's waterways from pollution and erosion.

Objective 6: Use parks, open space, and vegetation to define the neighborhood, connect the neighborhood's natural and social heritage, and improve key environmental qualities.

Draft Parks, Open Space, & Environment Chapter (7 29 10 Council backup)

Goal Statement and Introduction

Preserve, connect and enhance existing parks and recreational areas and facilities in the Central West Austin Planning Area, as well as open-space on large properties (e.g., Austin State School and the Brackenridge Tract) for the health, recreational and historical benefits they bring to the community. Create opportunities for additional public open space such as trails, pocket parks, and

landscaped traffic islands, as well as parks and recreational areas and facilities on large properties.

....."Potential development of existing greenspace and parkland has created concern for the neighborhoods. The Brackenridge Tract and Austin State School currently provide recreational opportunities that could be impaired should they be developed. Also, Camp Mabry, located just north of the planning area, has been used as a park but has also had rumors about its being developed. Keeping these areas as parks and greenspace is desirable because of their beauty and the fact that they provide natural habitat and recreation in an urban area."

NOTE: The Parks and Open Space GOAL, and language in the introduction, speak of the desirability of PRESERVING our CWANP parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities... yet the two "objectives" under the Goal, make no specific mention of "preserving".....

The Objective 3 and the recommendations for that objective that were omitted in the February 2010 draft of Parks and Open Space, should be reinstated.