



APPENDIX D

PUBLIC MEETING NO. 3 REPORT



PUBLIC MEETING REPORT

July 16, 2016

Public Meeting Summary

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department held a public meeting on July 16, 2016 at Emma Long Metropolitan Park to share the proposed Vision Plan for the park. The meeting was an open house and the project team gave a presentation on the project area and the role of public input in the development of the Vision Plan.



Meeting Exhibits

Boards illustrating improvements to specific zones of the park were laid out for attendees to review and discuss with project team members. Areas of focus included: Boat Ramp and Water Access; Central Lawn, Swimming, and Day Use; Secondary Lawn and Passive Shore Line; and Circulation and Camping Areas. Improvements were organized based on level of priority.

Attendees enjoyed refreshments and a rolling exhibit provided by the Colorado River Alliance. The exhibit allowed attendees to learn about water usage and conservation in a fun and interactive environment.

Summary of Input Collected

Following the presentation was a short question and answer session. Attendees were encouraged to share additional feedback on the proposed Vision Plan with project team members through written comments or email before the final deadline of August 16, 2016.

- 24 Attendees Signed In
- 4 Written Comments
- 10 Emailed Comments

Question and Answer Themes

During the question and answer session several items were brought up by attendees which included:

Funding and Pay Structure

- Funding for potential improvements during Phase 1 could come from the 2012 General Obligation Bond and the general fund
- Austin Parks Foundation can help with efforts to raise funds specifically for the park
- The park entry fee could change to a per person fee structure, about \$5.00 per person
- The Parks Board and City Council need to determine whether annual passes will be offered and more details will be available in the Business Plan section of the Vision Plan

Crowd Control and Park Maintenance

- Additional staff has been hired for both the weekend and the weekdays. Additional staff working during the week float between parks
- Park users could possibly receive a trash bag upon entry to discourage littering
- Improvements will not affect the number of cars allowed into Emma Long Metropolitan Park due to fire code restrictions
- Proposed improvements to the boat launch area do not include adding facilities, boat traffic should not increase

From: [PARD Emma Long Park](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Comments
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2016 10:07:39 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

See below

Kevin Johnson

Project Coordinator | CIP Project Management
 City of Austin | Parks and Recreation Department
 (512) 974-9506 | kevin.johnson@austintexas.gov

From: PARD Emma Long Park
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 10:07 AM
To: Blew, Stephanie [REDACTED] PARD Emma Long Park
 <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>
Subject: RE: Comments

Hi Stephanie, thank you for your comments and interest in the project.

We are indeed keeping the existing utility campsites in the waterfront location as you recommend. While we explored relocating those to the bluff line in order to lessen the intensity of use near the critical water quality zone, we ultimately decided against it – in large part due to the significant amount of feedback we heard. Additionally, we are proposing that utilities be extended to the bluff line sites that could accommodate RV or tent camp use.

I am sorry to hear about the theft you experienced at the park. I'll be sure to pass your comments along to our park supervisor, so at the very least he is aware of the issue.

If I can provide any additional information please let me know.

Regards,

Kevin Johnson

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From: Blew, Stephanie [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 9:47 AM
To: PARD Emma Long Park <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Comments

I was very disappointed to see the utility campsites no longer have waterfront spaces, only primitive campsites have this access. Our family camps regularly at the park and we bring our camper and our boat. With the current utility campsite location this allows us to have line of sight to our boat when we are

at the camper. With the proposed location of the utility campsites, there is no line of site to the water. This means we will have to remove our boat from the water when not in use, and leave it on the trailer in the boat ramp area, again not in line of site from our camper, as no boat parking is available. Earlier this summer we had a generator stolen from our campsite while we were away on the boat. We've been camping at the park for the past 10 years and haven't had any problems with thefts, until recently. The proposed relocation of utility campsite forces the utility campers to access the water within the day use areas only. This is not why my family and I camp at the park. We come to have a quiet get away with our camper and boat to unplug from the crowds and fast paced world we live in. We want privacy and a shaded area where we can enjoy the lake without all of the day use folks in our area. The current configuration has the utility campers at the end of the park, off of the main circulation path for traffic, providing for separation from the day use area, and line of sight to our boats on the water. The proposed configuration does away with all of these positive features. Many other (most) utility campers bring their boats, just as we do. The current plan does not include any provisions for boat storage within line of sight of utility campsites. In my opinion this is a **major** flaw in the plan, along with only having access to the water in the day use area. I want to keep the privacy the current utility campsites provide. I strongly recommend the 20 existing waterfront campsites remain as utility campsites. Additional utility campsites along the bluffs is fine, but keep the existing 20 waterfront utility sites. If this means reduced power is available (30 A rather than 50A) then so be it, but **please** keep the waterfront access for those of us with campers and boats.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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From: [PARD Emma Long Park](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 2:44:25 PM

I received 3 more emails before the close of comment period.

Will send each your way.

Kevin Johnson
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-----Original Message-----

From: Tori Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 12:23 PM
To: PARD Emma Long Park <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Comments

Any thoughts about putting in gas pumps for the boat traffic? This could be a revenue source for the park and the city.

~~~~~  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
~~~~~

From: [PARD Emma Long Park](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 2:44:35 PM

2/3

Kevin Johnson

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From: Lauren Shaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 2:35 PM
To: PARD Emma Long Park <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Comments

Great job on making camping more available and accessible. Especially like the new restroom facilities.

Nothing was reported on the issue of the reservations system. It is a huge concern that the main benefit of these improvements is going to go to people who do not live in Austin and who are paying for these improvements. As of now, there is no priority system and the best spots go to people who are willing to pay for an entire week or two so they can get the prime weekend time. I would really like to see them go to city residents first, and only be released to non-residents on a space-available basis.

How is PARD going to prioritize access to the campsites?
Is there going to be a price differential between residents and non-residents?

Is there going to be a price differential for general admissions?

Thanks for all your hard work!!

Lauren Shaw

From: [PARD Emma Long Park](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 2:44:45 PM

3/3

Kevin Johnson
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-----Original Message-----

From: Francine Webb [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 2:44 PM
To: PARD Emma Long Park <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Comments

I think that the Park should invest in maintaining the grounds, roads and not spend a fortune on anything else so it lose it's charm and become like a Disney Land! Not to mention the cost!
Thank you,

From: [Johnson, Kevin](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: comments on the final plan
Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 3:05:17 PM

And #2

Kevin Johnson

Project Coordinator | CIP Project Management
City of Austin | Parks and Recreation Department
(512) 974-9506 | kevin.johnson@austintexas.gov

From: PARD Emma Long Park
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 2:49 PM
To: 'Carol Lee' [REDACTED]
Cc: Perez, Alberto <Alberto.Perez@austintexas.gov>; Thayer, Nate <Nate.Thayer@austintexas.gov>
Subject: RE: comments on the final plan

Carol, thank you for your feedback and your continued interest in the project.

I'll be sure your comments are documented in the public meeting report and shared with appropriate staff. You are correct that our proposed solution was intended to increase flexibility of use in the camping areas. By improving utility service & providing electrical pedestals to sites that RVs use, the intent is both to respond to demand for additional improved camp spaces and to remove the need for generators altogether.

The "mix-n-match" issue you refer to can be addressed operationally – as staff can assign campsites based on the camper's intended use, and adjust seasonally as uses fluctuate. I'm copying Alberto and Nate on the response so these conversations can take place well in advance of any improvements.

Lastly – as you noticed, we are proposing a new area be developed purely for primitive tent campers at the furthest end of the shoreline area. Further design work will have to take place to pin down an exact number of sites in this area, but it seems to have great potential for a remote, waterfront experience.

Thank you again for sharing your input. Feel free to reach out with any additional feedback, or let me know if I can provide any other information.

Kevin Johnson

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From: Carol Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2016 6:42 PM

To: PARD Emma Long Park <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>

Subject: comments on the final plan

Kevin and other involved Staff,

Thanks for your overall great work on the Vision Plan for Emma Long Metro Park. It's obvious that you put a lot of research, thought, and energy into this plan and I really appreciate that. This used to be a fabulous park and can be again.

I am however very disappointed that the final plan moves the RV camping back to the shoreline. Tent camping is not compatible with RV generators! (Have you camped next to a generator running all night? It is NOT peaceful and significantly distracts from experiencing the outdoors and natural night sounds that tent camping should allow.) Locating the RV camping nearer the trees and middle of the park, as reflected in the prior plan, would help dampen the noise and absorb pollutants whereas the opposite is true near the water where sound carries. I know you are trying to reflect the feedback from RV campers, but I think the "flex-space" whoever-gets-there-first mix-n-match of passive camping with RV generators is a bad idea. Please increase the opportunity for tent camping---8 sites is not nearly adequate, or a fair proportion to the RV spaces. This has turned into an RV park with the final plan.

Sincere thanks for your work,

Carol Lee



From: [Johnson, Kevin](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Comments
Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 3:05:03 PM

My response below

Kevin Johnson

Project Coordinator | CIP Project Management
City of Austin | Parks and Recreation Department
(512) 974-9506 | kevin.johnson@austintexas.gov

From: PARD Emma Long Park
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 3:05 PM
To: 'James Bradley' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Comments

Mr. Bradley, thank you for your comments and your interest in the park. I'll be sure that your feedback is shared with the project team.

A bit of feedback on a few of the items you mentioned:

While the scope of our current project is limited just to the shoreline area, our team has looked at some issues that extend beyond the park entry gates. You might be aware that much of Emma Long Park sits within the Balcones Canyonland Preserve, which is a federally-protected wildlife habitat that is co-managed by the City and County. So, development of additional hiking trails or any new infrastructure in that area is restricted. If you want to find out more about that, let me know and I can put you in touch with the right person.

You'll be happy to hear our proposal does reflect all your comments about camping: an online reservation system is now available [here](#); we are proposing utility extensions to all bluffline campsites; and all campsites will be reservable for use as either tent or RV.

Thanks again for the feedback. Feel free to reach out if there's anything else I can clarify or help out with.

Kevin Johnson

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From: James Bradley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2016 8:02 AM
To: PARD Emma Long Park <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Comments

I have a few comments related to the proposed improvements. I live near the park and use it regularly for boating, RV camping, mountain biking, and hiking Turkey Creek.

Trails

1. This is a huge park. Too much of it is under-utilized because it has never been developed.
2. Walnut Creek or Cameron Park (Waco, TX) should be models for developing hike/bike/running trails in the mid-park area (below the motorcycle park). This could be built around the Turkey Creek hiker only trail system.
3. A trail path system, crossing roads and linking all the sections of the park should be created.
4. The motorcycle park is awesome. It's just too technical for the average mountain biker. While the highly-technical, challenging aspects of the trails should remain, alternative, less-technical paths should be added for non-expert mountain bikers.
5. Bike lanes should be created throughout the parking and all the way down to 2222.

Camping/RV improvements

1. An online reservation system should be added.
2. I like the proposed RV sites added near the cliff line. It would be great if they would also add full hookups to these sites. Higher pricing should reflect the added convenience.
3. The existing RV campsites should continue to allow for both tent camping and/or RV camping.

The Archery Range and Motorcycle park are really unique features. While I don't use either (currently), I think these are very important to the park and citizens that enjoy these types of activities.

Hope the input helps and isn't too late. Feel free to contact me if there's anything else I can add.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Johnson, Kevin](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Park Input - remove stickers
Date: Monday, July 18, 2016 1:39:13 PM

#2

Kevin Johnson

Project Coordinator | CIP Project Management
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(512) 974-9506 | kevin.johnson@austintexas.gov

From: PARC Emma Long Park
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 9:32 AM
To: 'Leslie Currens' [REDACTED]
Cc: Perez, Alberto <Alberto.Perez@austintexas.gov>
Subject: RE: Park Input - remove stickers

Hi Leslie, thank you for your email and your interest in the park.

The stickers are certainly a problem we heard a lot about throughout the process. As part of the long term improvements associated with the Vision Plan, our team proposes amendment of the soils and irrigation of the Central Lawn - which will deter the stickers from growing.

But, in the short term, our district staff is coordinating with the Austin Fire Department (Wildlands Division) to conduct a prescribed burn of the grass area. That will take place in the early fall, and will rid the lawn of stickers for a period of time. I've copied the district manager, Alberto Perez, who can provide you more information about that if you're interested.

I'll make sure your comment gets reflected in our meeting report, and let me know if I can help with anything else!

Take care,

Kevin Johnson

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From: Leslie Currens [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 8:58 AM
To: PARC Emma Long Park <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Park Input - remove stickers

Last time I was at the park, the grassy areas were ruined by painful stickers, making it impossible to walk barefoot. I would ask as part of the park upgrades that the stickers be

removed and sticker management be put in place to keep the grassy areas free of stickers.

Leslie Currens



From: [PARD Emma Long Park](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: proposed improvements
Date: Monday, July 18, 2016 9:50:54 AM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: james webb [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2016 11:31 AM
To: PARD Emma Long Park <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>
Subject: proposed improvements

This message is from James Webb. [REDACTED]

My family is pretty much the park's closest neighbor; my sister and brother-in-law's driveway is directly across from the pay gate...our property backs up to the Turkey Shelter area...I'd appreciate being added to your email list re the improvement process and progress...moving "shut-down" gate to mesquite flats should help with current problems at Pearce and City Park Rd on busy days...only passing reference to motorcycle trails, there should be something about that in usage statistics...thanks, Lee Webb

From: [PARD Emma Long Park](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Thanks you !
Date: Monday, July 18, 2016 1:40:45 PM

And this one has a shout out for everyone involved. Great work all! Please share w/ the others on your team as well.

Thanks,

Kevin Johnson
Project Coordinator | CIP Project Management
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(512) 974-9506 | kevin.johnson@austintexas.gov

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

From: Guerrero [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2016 1:46 PM
To: PARC Emma Long Park <EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov>
Cc: Hensley, Sara <Sara.Hensley@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Thanks you !

The team was outstanding during the process. The staff and team listened to the community needs and incorporated many suggestions.

I want to thank the project team and Park staff for implementing significant recommendations from the Lake Austin Task Force.

The consultants were extremely impressive and considerate of both Open Space and Active Space for such a significant and important COA public Park.

Kevin, you ensured that the project was on track and reflected sensitivity to the environment for plants, animals and people!

Viva El Parque de Emma Long !

Linda

Linda Guerrero
[REDACTED]

From Tomas Pantin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

07/16/2016

Re: Emma Long Metropolitan Park Vision Plan.

I would like to thank the City, PARD, and the Consultant Teams for their work and their outreach to the stakeholders.

Because of my public involvement with the Motorcycle Park I have been approached several times about the Vision Plan

Two points I would like touch on:

I don't think it is fair to exclude some visitors by increasing the entrance fees. One recommendation I make is to alter the fee structure to per car and per person format...this would solve one of the problems we have now of parking cars outside the park and many visitors jumping in to one to vehicle to take advantage of the present per car fee structure. Have the experts decide the maximum number of cars and visitors the park could handle, and follow those guidelines.

Another feedback made by frequent visitors is that they feel that crowd management is more important than the proposed improvements. They feel that helping the Park Rangers do their jobs with crowd management is money much better spent. In several occasions, they have experienced abuse by other visitors. When they have mentioned this to the Park Rangers, the Rangers were intimidated by the abusive groups, but were reluctant to engage APD. The recommendation is to spend the monies assisting the park rangers. Staffing would make a much better park experience. It was also mentioned that this change could start now.

Thank you

Tomás Pantin



Name: Chandler Wiley
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin Zip: 78750
Email: [REDACTED]

Please share your input on the Emma Long Park Vision Plan. Comments can be submitted today, mailed to P.O. Box 5459, Austin, TX 78763, or emailed to EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov

I use this park 10-12 times per year. I'm concerned about the reservation system. I can not plan 6 months in advance. I don't see how I/we will be able to get a utility site moving forward.

Maybe have several 1st come 1st served sites?



Name: Carol Long
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Leander, TX Zip: 78641
Email: [REDACTED]

Please share your input on the Emma Long Park Vision Plan. Comments can be submitted today, mailed to P.O. Box 5459, Austin, TX 78763, or emailed to EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov

Reservation systems typically will keep the park full & limit our visits ~~and~~
Reservation cancellations should prompt a notification to people to have the opportunity to book
A small amount of spaces should be left open for first come basis



Name: SIMON DUNNING
 Address: [REDACTED]
 City: AUSTIN Zip: 78730
 Email: [REDACTED] Phone: _____

Please share your input on the Emma Long Park Vision Plan. Comments can be submitted today, mailed to P.O. Box 5459, Austin, TX 78763, or emailed to EmmaLongPark@austintexas.gov

BOAT RAMP. LIKE THE "BEAUTIFICATION". CONCERNED IF THE PROPOSAL INCREASES CAPACITY. THIS CORNER OF LAKE AUSTIN IS NARROW & GETS CONGESTED ALREADY (JETSKI'S WHO DON'T KNOW LAWS, WAKEBOAT'S WITH SURFERS, INFLATABLES, ETC...) HAVE STUDIES BEEN DONE TO ASSESS BEFORE & AFTER LAKE TRAFFIC & SAFETY ?)

VERY SUPPORTIVE OF REST PLAN.