



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Interim Assistant City Manager/ Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: January 23, 2019

SUBJECT: Zilker Park Working Group Update -- Resolution 20180628-072

The Zilker Park Working Group was formed following the passage of Council Resolution 20180628-072 on June 28, 2018. In accordance with the standard working group model, the Zilker Park Working Group is member led, and receives coordination support and information from staff as requested. The November 19, 2018, memorandum to Mayor and City Council included information about the structure of the Zilker Park Working Group, which contains three sub-groups to focus on different aspects of the directives in the resolution.

The fifth Zilker Park Working Group meeting took place on January 5, 2019. The Zilker Park Working Group reviewed the draft for a community survey related to transit, parking, circulation and connectivity issues at the Zilker Metropolitan Park. Chris Herrington, Environmental Officer with Austin's Watershed Protection Department, gave a presentation regarding the Butler Landfill. Mr. Herrington provided an overview of the history, site conditions, environmental assessments, and discussed the interim improvement plans to fortify the landfill cap that were proposed by the Parks and Recreation Department in 2018. Nathan Wilkes, Engineer with the Active Transportation Division of the Austin Transportation Department, provided a presentation focused on active transportation planning and trends in Austin. The presentation included information on different models of transportation networks around the world and emphasized the need for a diverse set of solutions that provide park visitors with viable alternatives to driving.

The sub-groups continue to meet regularly and are currently developing draft proposals and recommendations. Specifically, the Short Term Parking and Traffic Solutions Sub-Group held their third meeting on January 3, 2019, and outlined draft recommendations. The Polo Fields Sub-Group held their second meeting on January 9, 2019, and reviewed first draft recommendations. The third meeting of the Butler Landfill Cap and Proposed Improvements Sub-Group took place on January 11, 2019, and the sub-group actively debated options and recommendations.

The work of these sub-groups will be discussed during the next Zilker Park Working Group meeting that will take place on Monday, February 4, 2019. The sub-group recommendations will also be reviewed by the Zilker Park Working Group Steering Committee before they are finalized. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) continues to develop the scope for the Zilker Park Master Plan, which will include comprehensive traffic, parking, circulation and connectivity studies. PARD anticipates that the Zilker Park Working Group will provide input that will further enhance the scope of work for the Zilker Park Master Plan.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (512) 974-6717.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Elaine Hart, Deputy City Manager