

Zilker Neighborhood Association Meeting
Monday, 29 July 2019
1426 Toomey Road Austin, TX 78704

7pm Meeting called to order by Dave Piper, President

Treasurer's Report and Membership Report presented by Bruce Wiland, Treasurer

Number of attendees: 40

Membership: 301 members (126 current, 176 grace)

Bill Bunch presented Unconventional Austin's position on the convention center expansion.

Bruce Wiland presented Zilker Park Working Group briefing (below).

Dave Piper presented an update on the Land Development Code.

Solar Education talk by Joe Lopez of Austin Energy.

8:10pm Meeting adjourned

SUMMARY OF THE ZILKER PARK WORKING GROUP

TIMELINE:

June 28, 2018: Working Group created by City of Austin Resolution No. 20180628072. Comprised of 38 members.

September 5, 2018 - June 13, 2019: Working Group met 10 times. Three sub-groups met a total of 15 times.

May 30, 2019: Vote taken on final recommendations.

June 14, 2019: Final recommendations submitted to Council by PARD.

July 29, 2019: City Council has taken no action to-date.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ZILKER PARK WORKING GROUP

Short-Term Parking and Traffic

Goal: Evaluate immediate options for parking outside the Park and reducing traffic inside the Park.

Recommendations:

1. Implement a pilot shuttle system for summer 2019.
2. Implement and enforce paid parking at peak times for lots on Azie Morton Road.
3. Partner with nearby parking facilities, outside park boundaries, for use during peak days.
4. Increase frequency of #30 Cap Metro bus line to every 15 minutes and evaluate current stops.¹
¹New this summer (2019): you can get \$2 off admission to Barton Springs or Zilker Botanical Garden when you take Route 30 to Zilker Park. In addition, PARD is working on a pilot to increase bus service on weekends (Sat and Sun) and July 4th holiday.
5. Encourage active transportation and dockless mobility strategies (walking, biking, e-scooters).
6. Increase marketing of the City's other metropolitan parks to reduce demand on Zilker Park.
7. Implement outreach campaign on various methods of transportation to Zilker Park.

Polo Fields

Goal: Remove parking on the Polo Fields, with strategies to reduce parking demand.

Recommendations:

1. Phase reduction of parking that accommodates the replacement of lost parking.
2. Improve parking enforcement.
3. Restrict parking uses to specific calendar dates or events.
4. Identify alternative parking options, both short-term and long-term.
5. Implement Transportation Demand Management Strategies, such as additional/separated bike lanes, bus/rail shuttle service, pedestrian crossing improvements, Butler Trail connectivity improvements; rideshare and scooter access; and public education campaign.

Butler Landfill/Stratford Drive

Goal: Determine viability of proposed improvements and make recommendations to fortify landfill cap.

Recommendations: City staff will:

1. Allow existing rock to remain on the Stratford Field until the end of the Master Plan process.
2. Develop a plan by Sept. 1, 2019 to clear the PARD junkyard (aka, the boneyard) and implement ASAP.
3. By April 1, 2020 (or 2021 as necessary) implement a short-term solution for the Butler Landfill prior to the Master Plan process that protects the integrity of the landfill, avoids major infrastructure expenses, and includes but is not limited to drainage and pedestrian safety issues on Stratford Drive.

NEXT STEPS

1. Council Action. If the City Council should decide to act on the ZPWG recommendations, a resolution will be developed providing clear policy direction to the City Manager. To date (July 29, 2019), Council has not directed the City Manager to implement any specific aspect of the Zilker Park Working Group report.

2. Zilker Park Master Plan. City staff have identified initial funding to develop a Master Plan for Zilker Metropolitan Park. The planning process may be initiated by the end of 2019. All three Sub-Groups, in addition to the near-term recommendations (above) also made recommendations for the scoping of the Master Plan process. The Working Group left many of the most difficult decisions to be resolved in the Master Plan.