

Absolutely, and that's clearly our.

Leffingwell: And thanks again for the wonderful work.

Mayor Wynn: Councilmember martinez.

Martinez: Can you explain the thought process behind not sending it to a board or commission? I could see where additional public input and some additional recommendations from some of our citizen advisory boards might be helpful in something that can be somewhat controversial to some of these groups.

Well, I suppose I could work closely with staff and try to determine which would be the most appropriate board or commission to come back to. The task force, the downtown street closure task force, in fact, their term has expired. And the thing to remember in the recommendation, the task force is recommending a new commission, and I'm not sure what it would be called, but the commission of special events as part of the recommendation. That will be the oversight after the recommendations, but prior to then I just can't think right off which would be the most appropriate commission to take it back to.

Martinez: And I can't either. That's why I asked you that question. So what time line are we looking at trying to get this back to council and in effect -- I guess what I'm trying to project for those folks who are paying attention is what races are going to be affected by this and what kind of time line are we looking at and should they be preparing for this.

I know there's a lot of work that goes into not only the races but all of the events that are already scheduled. My expectation would be anything that's already permitted or something that already has a traffic control plan and has moved forward, it would be very difficult, and probably in a sense unfair for us to try to retroactively implement something that would change their event. But to the extent that we could ask them to comply with some of the basic premises of the recommendations, my sense is that all the promoters would be welcome to do. That I can't see us making a recommendation to go retroactive and maybe somebody fit an event that would be difficult or costly for them to do.

Martinez: Thank you for all your hard work and thanks to the task force as well.

Mayor Wynn: Further questions of staff? Comment? Again, thank you all very much. All of our task force members and staff. Council, that takes us to our second briefing which is our waterfront overlay task force. I'll let staff set up that power point presentation. And welcome.

Thank you. Mayor, councilmembers, may night is mandy dealy and it was my pleasure to chair the water front overlay task force. The members of the task force are grateful to the city council for recognizing the need to revisit the waterfront overlay ordinance, for giving us the opportunity to review, the ability to analyzes the changes that are have been made to the waterfront overlay ordinance and to make the recommendations we bring to you today. The shores of lady bird lake on very fragile and can quickly be overwhelmed if development along its shores is not carefully planned and regulated. There's

got to be a balance between accommodating growth in the urban core and preserving the characters the river corridor and the lake front. The 1985 town lake corridor study and the 1986 waterfront overlay ordinance that grew out of that were necessary planning guidelines and land development tools that have provided harmonious development along the lake front. Recent development pressure, though, has really raised questions about whether everything we need is in place to protect and enhance the lake front. Having reviewed numerous documents, primarily the town lake corridor study, the 1986 ordinance and the 1999 rewrite and other pieces of current code, the essential findings from the task force in our eight-month review is that there really has been some significant changes made to the '86 ordinance. Some of these were supposed to have been nonsubstantive but in fact there have been some significant changes made. We have five priority issues which I'll go over in a minute. But we also have additional concerns that we've included and have detailed in the findings of the report. Your charge to us was to review the current code, determine the ambiguities in that and the '86 code and to make recommendations. That's been our objective. The strong recommendation that we forward is that the codes should be revised to remedy the issues that we've identified in the report. There were 15 members of the task force representing a variety, a real diversity of points of view, opinions, constituents, and we worked really diligently to come to an agreement and for the most part we did. The vote to approve the report we've sent to you was 9 votes for, 2 against, 2 abstaining and 2 members were absent. The sticking point was height and how difficult it should be to get. However, there's absolutely no disagreement that any additional height over the base zoning should be granted only in exchange for significant community benefit. And everything else we are solid and unanimous in our recommendations. The task force asks that the recommendation that we are sending forward today be translated into draft ordinances by the city staff. And while the charge of this committee is fulfilled with completion of our report, we respectfully request that the city council extend our term and return the draft ordinances to our work group for review and comment before forwarding them to appropriate boards and commissions for public input. So we'll go through the power point which explains in greater detail the recommendations that we're bringing forward today. These are the components of the report and the presentation. As I said, we had terrific members, terrific members who worked very hard. We started meeting every other week, and then in september started meeting every week, and by the end we had extended the time of our meetings from an hour and a half to three hours. So it really does represent hundreds and hundreds of hours of volunteer time. The boundary of the district we studied was from tom miller dam past the longhorn dam to the montopolis bridge. This area is divided into 16 separate distinct subdistricts. Here's the map that shows where those subdistricts are and how they are identified. Here they are listed. The purpose of the waterfront overlay was supposed to reflect the goals and policies that were established and set forth in the town lake corridor study, to provide a more harmonious interaction and transition between urban development and the park land and town lake and -- which is, sorry, lady bird lake. We should have changed that. And that there should be permitted uses, site development standards, design landscaping and other issues that were addressed in the town lake corridor study. The task force identified a number of major changes that have weakened the original intent of the ordinance, of the '86 ordinance. First was the dissolution of the waterfront planning advisory board, the removal of the building heights from the subdistrict. Removal of bonus provisions as they related to building height,. We identified a number of substantive wording changes. And removal of code provisions. These are the five recommendations -- well, let me flip over these so we can go really

to these and review them in a little detail. Our first recommendation is that the town lake corridor study policies be reinstated as the basis for any development along lady bird lake and further on down the colorado river. The goals are no longer referenced as the basis for assessment and we hope that you all will reinstate these goals as policies. Next. We hope that you will appoint a new waterfront planning advisory board. The waterfront board was created to make sure that a comprehensive approach was taken to any development along the waterfront. That responsibility has been abandoned and really there is not a single body who is responsible for overseeing and making sure that development is cohesive and complimentary along the waterfront. So we hope you all will consider reinstating -- reappointing a new board. The subdistrict maximum building heights were removed from the '99 -- were removed in the '99 recodification. The maximum building heights in the '86 code were really an essential part of the overlay and were modified -- and they modified existing development rights including entitlements that would have led to greater building heights. So we hope you will reinstate the building heights into the subdistricts. Next. Wait. Go back one. Sorry. And this shows what the heights were allowed in the '86 ordinance. By subdistrict. Next. The bonus provisions in the '86 ordinance were removed. The one real flaw we found in the '86 ordinance was that there was not a clear methodology for awarding bonus provisions. It was clear what the public benefits sought were, but there was no clear definition of how those were to be granted. The -- and extra entitlements. With the community benefits that are provided. And the last is we think the waterfront overlay district ordinance should govern the -- the waterfront is really a unique part of austin and has special considerations. So we think that the waterfront overlay ordinance should trump other design regulations because in the case of a conflict really the importance is to protect waterfront. I mentioned what I hope our next -- your next steps will be to consider these recommendations. Ask staff to draft revisions to the waterfront overlay code. Send those back to our task force for review and comment before sending them out to their appropriate city boards and commissions. And we hope then that you will adopt the new regulations governing the development on the waterfront. So are there any questions? You have a long report, as you all know, that details specific findings in each of the subdistricts. More detailed recommendations that we made. But those -- but really, those are the main findings that we ask you all to consider adopting.

Leffingwell: Thank you, mandy.

Thank you.

Leffingwell: I'm just realizing here that by default we have no presiing officer and councilmember martinez pointed out that I'm the senior member here so I will try to fill in until we get somebody back. And I'll start off by saying thank you very much. Again, a lot of hard volunteer work. And did I understand you to say the task force needs to have its term extended?

Right. The term is over with the completion of our task, which is the presentation of this report. So we're asking that once the recommendations have been codified, that they be sent back to our group and give us the opportunity to review them and make sure that they really do represent the recommendations that we've brought.

Leffingwell: So the idea would be a council item, presumably at our next meeting WOULD BE

JANUARY 15th, TO Tend the term indefinitely -- we can't do it -- we could do it for five years. Would that five years --

oh, I'm sure it could be done in less time than five years. And we all really did enjoy working together. It was a terrific group of people. And given the broad range of interests, constituencies, and even personalities, the fact that we came to consensus on this with only that one tiny sticking point, I think shows how hard everybody worked.

Leffingwell: Well, i think we can probably among us we can arrange to have that item on the agenda to extend the term so that you can complete your work. And again, I think this is another one of these items before we attempt to take any action on council, I know that this will go through several boards and commissions.

Right, and that's our recommendation.

Leffingwell: But even when it comes back to he council again we should plan to follow that format of a public hearing without action followed by another meeting with the item on the agenda for council action. So any other members have questions? Councilmember martinez.

Martinez: Mandy, thank you so much.

Thank you very much. It was an honor to be able to do this.

Martinez: Eight, nine months of work. There's many task force members who are here in the audience present. But there are also stakeholders and groups that really were the impetus for this coming forward and that equally participated, and specifically I'm talking about wcs and the particular project that sparked this whole revisit of the waterfront overlay, but then again save town lake as a major stakeholder. Also state involving connected. But I also want to point out and give special thank you to my aide, andy moore.

He was terrific.

Martinez: Who attended almost all of the meetings if not all of them. [Applause]

he was great. He even brought us coffee at our first meeting. It was terrific.

Martinez: But this really is significant work. Not just to those of us who may live near or who may run on the trails or who may reside in the urban core. We went on a visit to vancouver a while back and, you know, we were supposed to learn a lot of things about vancouver. I enjoyed it, thought it was a pretty city, the one thing i took away from it that was really significant is that those of you that know vancouver, it's almost like an island. It's connected by land, but only on a small portion. There are 14 miles of waterfront surrounding the core of vancouver. 11 Of those are public open space. It can be done. It can be done in a major urban city and it can be done correctly. And that was the one thing that was pointed

out to me actually before I went to vancouver, someone on your task force said take notice of this when you go there. They've done this right. And I did take notice and i actually tried to tour as much of the open space that existed while we were there. And it was true that it significantly impacts the vitality and the culture of the community. And so I know this document moving forward is going to help us achieve that here in austin even more so than we already have. So I just wanted to thank you all so much for the hard work.

Thank you. We all are in agreement that the waterfront, both lady bird lake and the colorado river beyond, really are one of our most significant community assets that need to be protected. So we hope we will have been able to assist in diagnose that. Thank you -- doing that.

Mayor Wynn: Thank you.

Cole: May I ask a question. Again, I also appreciate your work and the work of the task force, but I really wanted to focus on second on your height recommendations. You said to reestablish the subdistrict maximum heights and that the height was actually taken out in the 1999 recodification. I just want to get some sense from you of what you think about heights along the subdistricts. I know that has been a point of contention in the lawsuits and what the consensus was of the committee.

The height, as I mentioned, were taken out in the '99 rewrite. Each sub duct had maximum heights, and it was allowed within the subdistricts that additional height from the base height could be achieved or received as an entitlement if certain community benefits were offered. The height maximum was 96 feet that was in the original ordinance. This was the one sticking point, as I mentioned, in our deliberations about how difficult it should be to get to 96 feet and if it should even be possible to exceed it some degree. I don't think anybody is in favor of unlimited height, but there were three members who have attached a statement that supports everything that we've put forward except they would like to see a little flexibility there on height. Coal cole and when you talk about community benefits, give me an idea what you -- do you mean like improvements tore the trail or --

there were a number of community benefits outlined in the -- let me see if I can find really quickly the page that --. There were things like open space, view sheds, public access, pedestrian uses.

Cole: So just the standard. Okay.

Some residential. The point was to make the shoreline rich, vibrant and open to everybody. So that it would really be our waterfront. Our waterfront.

Cole: Okay. Thank you, handledy.

Thanks.

Mayor Wynn: Councilmember morrison.

Morrison: Briefly I just want to thank you and all the task force members and I especially appreciate the recommendation to keep yourselves alive to be available to review the changes that are proposed at the next level of detail because clearly with something like this it's very complicated, that the task force members are now the experts in the city, I'm sure, on all of this code and the changes. So I think that's a terrific recommendation. And I guess my question then is for staff, I guess, does it -- is this going to come back to us for moving it along to approve going forward or directing the city manager to go forward or -- is that the next --

that will be the next step.

> I think the most sort of orthodox way to proceed would be in a resolution extending the task force, initiating code amendments and that the law department would then work with zoning and watershed. Then the one sort of novel piece would be returning to it the task force for review and comment. So I think that could all be done efficiently with one action.

Morrison: Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Wynn: Again, further questions, comments? Again, as with before, we very much appreciate the task force members, the staff and all the hard work that got these recommendations to us. Thank you all. And then finally our last presentation this afternoon is a report on the lady bird lake trail enhancements as prepared I think technically by staff but with cooperation with the town lake trail foundation. I think now just known as the trail foundation. Welcome, Mr. Stuart Strong.

Good afternoon, Mayor and Council, City Manager. We are here because you charged us with working with the trail foundation to develop a hike and bike trail enhancement plan for Lady Bird Lake, to identify future trail projects, to refer this to the Parks Board for their review and comment, and then finally return it to you for your approval. In fact, we have done that. We went to the Parks Board in September. We will return at a later date for you to consider adopting the plan. We've worked with the trail foundation for a number of months to provide a coordinated, integrated plan and that's what we'll show to you. We -- we have this presentation in two parts. The first, which I will give on behalf of the Parks Department, and the second will be presented by the trail foundation. They are going to show you what is a gift of professional work by the RVI planning firm showing some futuristic designs for the trail. Of course, Susan Rankin is here representing the trail foundation as executive director. Barbara Austin is here for RVI. Reverend Smith has joined us who is the foundation chair as well. The first part of this presentation prepared by the Parks Department examines the existing standards for basic trail amenities. We therefore identified the gaps in our service. So our emphasis will be on identifying which amenities should be replaced or supplemented. And I'll present that information to you in the second part which Barbara will present will be a vision plan, which presents more long-term ideal improvements which would bring specific location to a much higher standard of service than we have today. I'll begin with the park presentation. This map represents, of course, the trail corridor, a 10-mile circuit from end to end. It's the envy of many cities. We have between a million and a million and a half runners and users of all sorts every year. It's been out there since the EARLY '70s. What we find is it's aging and it doesn't have all the amenities which should have been put in some years ago. Of course, it is also not continuous