

Public Comments from Mable Davis Public Meeting June 27, 2011

1. Why can't we have the baseball field back?

2. What are the water safety issues?

Chris H. – Watershed is comfortable with a 200' vegetated buffer from the creek to assure there are no water quality issues.

3. There are a lot of large unneutered dogs in the area

4. Who started this process? Who said that we wanted a dog park?

Ricardo – It is in the adopted neighborhood plan.

5. Loves the idea (from Chicago). We need to realize we are not a small town, we are a city and have to act like one. I rely on the off leash area because my dog cannot be trusted off leash outside of a fenced area.

6. Concerned that the park already has two intense uses. The rest of the park is already being used to walk the trail, meditation, painting. Thinks that the ola will increase traffic, noise, smells.

7. Concerned that being on a high spot it will drain into a neighbors yard.

8. Asked for the Cliff notes version of Bull Creek. How is it different than this site?

Chris H. – There are 3 big differences: Bull Creek is a popular swimming area, the ola abutted the creek and there was no vegetative buffer between the ola and the creek.

9. Can you tell me that if we get a heavy rain all of the waste from the ola will not run into my property?

Chris H. – With a 3" rain, anytime it rains anywhere in town no place is safe to swim. The natural bacteria always in the soil, contaminates the water. The fecal material is a drop in the bucket in comparison. We would be more concerned about lighter rains.

10. Is the water quality being monitored?

Chris H. – Not at this time.

11. Are there statistics on how many people actually pick up the poo after their dog? Who regulates it?

Bill ? - There is no reason why we cannot educate users to pick up after their dog.

12. Clair – The reality at Mary Moore Searight Park is that there were already off leash dog users in the park, the question was how do we manage them? The trail gives them an option. We tell people here is on leash but we have an off leash trail. Part of the project is educational, peer pressure, park manager communication has increased and there is better control of dogs, not less. The new trail has not created a jump in park use of parking issues.

13. I'm hearing there are environmental issues. Are there studies of other dog parks that have been put on landfills?

Chris H. – A portion of Lady Bird Lake is on a landfill.

Bill – If you google dog parks on landfills you will find there are many across the nation.

14. I'm opposed. I'm interested in what we want as a neighborhood. Why can't we vote?

15. What is the cap? When is it contaminated?

Chuck – The plan is to put a warning tarp or liner on top of the top soil then more soil and mulch.

16. The neighborhood has done trash pick ups but the piles have not been picked up by the Parks Dept., Brian Block and Joe? promised pick up.

Larry – I'll call Brian

17. Votes for a baseball field instead and a path around the pond.

18. Loves the idea of a dog park but not sure if it's the best choice of area, maybe a baseball or soccer field?

19. 311 does not respond to calls from the neighborhood.

20. Want to know how they can find the neighborhood plan.

21. What is the process for this to get approved?

Ricardo – Think this may take about a year

22. I'm a 26 year resident but was not notified of the meeting. How did I get dropped from the mailing list? I receive multiple notices all the time. This is not the same type of neighborhood as Norwood. There is a high criminal element, people will not follow the rules.

Chuck – Watershed will do an annual review of safety and will close the park if there is ever a safety issue. The site will also be monitored by the water utility dept.

23. Norwood became an eyesore, this will too.

24. Public ordinances are not enforceable. Incidents have to be witnessed by the Police for them to ticket. Know that the Parks dept. does not have the money for maintenance. This is the highest crime area in the city.

25. Clair – MMSR had a high problem with homeless. It is definitely better now, almost stopped altogether. The trail users are their own monitoring group, eyes on the trail and trail users.

26. Do not have a permanent restroom facility at the park.

27. Walks her dogs everyday but has only once seen someone not pick up after their dog.

28. Get a feeling it's a done deal. How do we make it not a done deal?

Larry – We would not be here if we had already made a decision.

29. I pay \$3 to use the pool each time. I do not want my money to go to the ola. I suggest a fee for the ola that would be used to monitor the ola.

30. I've talked to Brian Block about putting in a trail around the pond. Why aren't employees working on that rather than an ola that is not wanted?

Ricardo – We conducted a survey of the Norwood dog park users that only asked what zipcode the users came from. 90% of the Norwood dog park users come from this zipcode and Travis Heights.

31. This meeting took us by surprise. I am the president of the Burleson Parker Lane neighborhood association and we did not receive notification.

32. We need a playground for kids, a baseball field.

33. There should be a monthly fee and card for users. I came from Illinois where they had a system like that. The fee was \$60 a year and if you did not have your card it was a \$200 fine.