Item#37

Late Backup



MEMORANDUM

TO:

Mayor and City Council

FROM:

Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE:

January 30, 2014

SUBJECT:

Holly Shores/Edward Rendon Sr. Park Master Plan

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Council with an overview of the extensive Holly Shores/Edward Rendon Sr. Park Master Plan community input process, and to apprise Council of the East Town Lake Citizens Association (ETLCA) request for postponement of Council action on this plan.

At the December 12, 2013 City Council meeting, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. Landscape Architects, consulting firm, presented the "Draft Holly Shores/Edward Rendon Sr. Park Master Plan." Council postponed action on the plan until January 30, 2014 upon the request of ETLCA members who expressed concerns regarding the plan.

On January 22, 2014, members of the ETLCA met with Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) Assistant Director Cora Wright and PARD staff to discuss their overall concerns about the community input process and certain elements of the plan recommendations. The ETCLA requested an additional 90-day postponement on Council action to allow them additional time to reach out to the community who they believe were not able to participate fully, and to prepare and submit a list of specific concerns and recommendations for a plan revision.

Overview of the Community Input Process (See Details Attachments)

The extensive community outreach and stakeholder input process for the Holly Shores/Edward Rendon Sr. Park Master Plan included the following:

- Community Outreach and Communication Strategies
 - Saldaña Public Relations a sub-contractor of MVVA designed and conducted professional community outreach services including facilitating 8 "Platicas" (small community group input sessions).
 - o Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. Landscape Architects (MVVA) provided 4 community workshops and 3 Youth Events tailored to gather youth oriented input on the plan.

 Press Releases and Media Coverage was provided by COA-PARD, Despierta Austin, Univision, KXAN and KUT.

o On-line Communication Tools included Speak Up Austin Forum, Austin Notes, PARD Facebook and a dedicated web-site on the planning process updated after each Community Workshop.

o Meeting-In-A-Box Community Input (non-traditional outreach) was gathered

at 4 locations within the community and at City Hall.

o 4,150 Door to Door Meeting Announcements were disturbed through "Every Door Direct" flyer delivery service to 2 Zip Codes announcing scheduled Community Workshops.

o 600 meeting notice flyers were distributed through neighborhood

representatives.

O Street Banners were installed at 7th Street and Riverside Drive at Congress Ave. announcing the community workshops.

o Email notices sent to interested stakeholders upon request.

Community and Stakeholder Participation

 Over 700 stakeholders participated during the 18 month long Holly Shores/Edward Rendon Sr. Park Master Plan planning process.

o Approximately 60 Community Organizations actively participated throughout

the process including members of the ETLCA.

Department Response to ETLCA Request

Despite the extensive and inclusive community outreach and participation in the master planning process, as described above, the department has requested an additional 30-day postponement to allow them additional time to reach out to the community who they believe were not able to fully participate in the planning process.

Next Steps

The proposed Holly Shores/Edward Rendon Sr. Park Master Plan was an 18-month long planning process that resulted in an overwhelming level of community support for the comprehensive future vision for the park. The department is prepared to present the plan results to Council on February 27, 2014 along with an overview of all community stakeholder input received to date for Council consideration and action.

Should you have any additional questions or require more information, please contact me or Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager at 512 974-9452.

cc: Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Cora D. Wright, Assistant Director, Austin Parks and Recreation
Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, Austin Parks and Recreation
Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, Austin Parks and Recreation



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