



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Date: September 23 2015

Agenda Item #: 5

Agenda Item: Shoal Creek Conservancy's Memorandum of Understanding with the City regarding the development, management, and operation of an open space plan for Shoal Creek.

Vote No vote was taken.

Sponsors/Department: CM Pool; Parks & Recreation Department

Summary of Discussion

Brian Block provided an overview of the Shoal Creek watershed and Shoal Creek Conservancy and how various City departments support these. Block also described the objectives of the original collaborative agreement, which include partnership, collaboration, and advocacy with the conservancy. Joanna Wolaver briefly described the roles and responsibilities determined by the partnership. Block then further described the current joint initiatives of the partnership with a focus on planning, implementation, and maintenance.

- *CM Pool commented on public-private partnerships*

CM Pool acknowledges that Austin has a great community of volunteers that enjoy getting involved. She further explains that she would like to use the Shoal Creek Conservancy partnership as a guide to expand public-private partnerships to the larger community. With budget and time constraints, public-private partnerships will enable the City to collaborate for other watershed and parks throughout the City. Furthermore, the collaboration that is occurring with the Shoal Creek Conservancy's Memorandum of Understanding can help setup the framework along with new ideas to help with similar efforts that that City would like to engage in.

- *CM Garza asked about donation limitations.*

Ms. Joanna Wolaver, Executive Director for the Shoal Creek Conservancy, explained that they do accept money from corporations in Austin and that there is no limit. When it comes to working on projects on City land, conservancies will sign partnership agreements. Mr. Block further explained that the City has a variety of tools to work with conservancies when helping them raise money for projects or for the conservancy to manage projects with their funding.

Public Comments

None

Direction

None

Recommendation

None