

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Corona, Nicole](#)  
**Cc:** [Claire Hempel](#); [Montes, Gregory](#); [McNeeley, Kimberly](#)  
**Subject:** RE: April 13 Design Commission Meeting, Agenda Item 2 (Zilker Park Vision Plan)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 7:23:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [Zilker Park Vision Plan Draft, pp. 233-234.pdf](#)

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\*\*\* External Email - Exercise Caution \*\*\*

Greetings Honorable Design Commission Members (bcc'd) and Nicole Corona:

At recent board and commission meetings, there has been some “concern” that the Vision Plan is recommending a Zilker Park Umbrella Nonprofit Organization that would “commercialize” or “take over operations” at Zilker Park. However, *there is no such recommendation* to commercialize or cede control of the park to a nonprofit, as you can see from the specific plan recommendations. See, [Draft Vision Plan](#), pp. 209-214. Instead, the plan proposes a narrowly-defined, non-operational role which would be limited to advocacy for the plan, campaigning for public funds for capital improvements, advocacy for operation and maintenance funding and private fundraising for the park, streamlining communications with the park orgs, and some other non-operational roles. On this point, the plan clearly states that “PARD will maintain a strong management and planning presence in Zilker Park.” [Draft Vision Plan](#), p. 209.

While this important difference has not been clarified during the community discussions, the Vision Plan now includes a memo (attached) from the PARD Director which clarifies the various reasons for retaining the plan recommendations for an non-operational umbrella nonprofit organization, including the fact that city council policy and PARD long range planning priorities support the use of nonprofit partnerships as a sustainability strategy for developing, improving, maintaining and programming spaces in our parks. See, [Austin City Council Resolution 20200312-041](#).

Just sharing this for your background info.

For the Love of Zilker Park -  
Michael Cannatti  
Barton Springs Conservancy

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 11:10 AM  
**To:** 'Corona, Nicole' <Nicole.Corona@austintexas.gov>  
**Cc:** 'Claire Hempel' [REDACTED]; 'Montes, Gregory' <Gregory.Montes@austintexas.gov>; 'Kimberly McNeeley' <kimberly.mcneeley@austintexas.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Design Commission Meeting, Agenda Item 5 (Zilker Park Vision Plan)

Greetings Nicole Corona and Honorable Design Commission Members (bcc'd):

To visually summarize some highlights from the Zilker Park Vision Plan, Barton Springs Conservancy has prepared a short YouTube video which you can watch at

[https://youtu.be/0xeA9Nw48\\_Q](https://youtu.be/0xeA9Nw48_Q). Admittedly, it's not especially polished, but we selected key pages from the city design team's [Draft Vision Plan graphics](#), and added some annotations in green to emphasize the key design features regarding the ecological uplift, accessibility, and welcome center improvements from the Vision Plan.

For the Love of Zilker Park -  
Michael Cannatti  
Barton Springs Conservancy

PS - One correction to note from our video is that there is actually a sixth proposed ped/bike bridge in the plan as part of the Shared Use Path along MoPac that would connect across Barton Springs Road near the SW corner of the Botanical Gardens.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 8:20 AM  
**To:** 'Corona, Nicole' <[Nicole.Corona@austintexas.gov](mailto:Nicole.Corona@austintexas.gov)>  
**Cc:** Claire Hempel [REDACTED] 'Montes, Gregory' <[Gregory.Montes@austintexas.gov](mailto:Gregory.Montes@austintexas.gov)>; Kimberly McNeeley <[kimberly.mcneeley@austintexas.gov](mailto:kimberly.mcneeley@austintexas.gov)>  
**Subject:** Design Commission Meeting, Agenda Item 5 (Zilker Park Vision Plan)

Greetings Nicole Corona and Honorable Design Commission Members (bcc'd):

On behalf of Barton Springs Conservancy, we write in support of the Zilker Park Vision Plan because it promotes excellence in the design and development of the urban environment at Zilker Metropolitan Park. In addition to the reasons detailed in the attached letter, the excellence of the Vision Plan is confirmed by two additional facts.

First, the Vision Plan is based in part on the "[Zilker Park Natural Resource Inventory and Management Guidelines](#)," an excellent and detailed environmental assessment of Zilker Park which was prepared by the Siglo Group. While you may know that the Siglo Group is recognized for their expertise in land use planning, design, and conservation, you may not know that the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) recognized the quality of this work with the ASLA 2022 Honor Award for the "Zilker Park Natural Resource Inventory & Management Guidelines."

An additional and noteworthy honor for the Zilker Park Vision Plan was that the planning process was featured in a presentation at the 2022 Annual Conference of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) regarding the community engagement efforts undertaken with the Zilker Park Vision Plan process. In a session entitled "[The Zilker Metropolitan Vision Plan. Inclusion Not Made Easy: Approaches in Addressing Traditional Power Structures](#)," the city's design team -- including representatives from the City of Austin PARD and Design Workshop -- was invited to discuss the challenges with conducting an equitable, accessible, and inclusive planning process and to describe the unique strategies being used to pass a plan that protects park access and recreation opportunities for all of Austin.

While there will always be loud voices opposing change, a nostalgic preference for neglect should not prevent our city from developing a visionary framework to guide the restoration

and future development of Zilker Metropolitan Park. **Therefore, we request your approval and support for the Zilker Park Vision Plan.**

For the Love of Zilker Park -  
Michael Cannatti  
Barton Springs Conservancy

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Carroll, David - BC](#); [Whatley, Bart - BC](#); [Meiners, Josue - BC](#); [Salinas, Jon - BC](#); [Rollason, Jessica - BC](#); [Luckens, Ben - BC](#); [Weaver, Jen - BC](#); [McKinney, Marissa - BC](#); [Anstead, Ben - BC](#)  
**Cc:** [Corona, Nicole](#); [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Notes to Design Commission: The Zilker Vision Plan is blind  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 10:43:15 AM

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\*\*\* External Email - Exercise Caution \*\*\*

To:

Jen Weaver, Chair  
Josue Meiners, Vice Chair  
David Carroll  
Jessica Rollason  
Jon Salinas  
Marissa McKinney  
Ben Anstead  
Bart Whatley  
Ben Luckens

Dear Design Commissioners,

I am writing to express my profound dismay over the plan to turn our beautiful Zilker Park into an entertainment center for the elite. Very fortunate to live close to the park, I rely on it daily for renewal and restoration from the man-made world of construction, technology, and commerce that personifies our city. Diving into the chill waters of Barton Springs and walking the green, leafy trails restores the souls of all of us. I work in the tech sector as a web developer and getting out for exercise in a natural environment is key to my health and well-being. I want to hear birds, feel the breeze, smell the earth after a rain, and not see or feel concrete. Information has been discovered that shows that ACL/C3/Live Nation/Ticketmaster interests have been deeply embedded throughout the process. The Collective supporting the plan and meeting behind closed doors comprises 16 organizations, including the Austin Parks Foundation, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden, the Barton Springs Conservancy, the Rowing Dock, and Zilker Hillside Theater, among others. Note: Austin Parks Foundation receives over half of its funding from C3 Presents and whose parent company is Live Nation. Zilker Vision plan promoters deny that C3 is at the table in the Austin Chronicle, December 16, 2022 article. See <https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2022-12-16/community-advocates-worry-commercial-interests-dominate-zilker-park-vision-plan/>

- If Barton Springs Rd is turned into a 2-lane road with parallel parking that green necklace in Southwest Austin, will be a chain of vehicles parked on the street as far as the eyes can see and it will cause terrible traffic jams.
- If three-story parking garages are built and the legal surface parking is removed, people will have to walk a torturous distances in the hot Texas sun to get from their vehicles to the pool. And for many years, the construction will be disruptive, ugly construction that

- will cause untold damage to the environment. The planned admission charged for the garages will segregate the population of park users to those who can afford such fees.
- If a visitor center (a giant semi-circle of concrete) will be constructed, it will replace the natural woods that line Barton Creek. I witnessed how Splash! was designed to be a visitors center and it was so badly promoted that visitors never knew it was there and what they could learn and do in it. We don't need another interpretive center. Let people just experience the PARK. Keep it a park, not an expanded venue for private concerts that close the park to the public for months at a time.
  - If the free Hillside theater is moved, it will remove the opportunity to cool off at the pool before shows and during intermissions and give C3 and place to charge admission and operate year-round.
  - If control of the park is given to a private not-for-profit, the public will lose control of one of our most valuable natural environments.
  - If \$200 million is spent on this project, other parks around the city will suffer in favor of a park in an elite neighborhood.
  - If you believe the opinions of the "collective" of organizations getting funds from Live Nation and C3, you will have sold Austin's Crown Jewel to the highest bidder.
  - If you approve this plan, you will betray the trust of the public, which has clearly voiced a strong for natural, green environments where we can get away from commercialism and concrete.

Please support the plans recommended by Rewild Zilker (<https://rewildzilker.org>), endorsed by SOS Alliance and the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC), representing over 80 neighborhoods across every quadrant of our city.

Due to a professional commitment, I cannot attend your meeting recently announced for Thursday April 13, so I hope you will please enter these written comments into your record of that meeting.

Sincerely,

KK

Karen Kreps



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Corona, Nicole](#)  
**Cc:** [Claire Hempel](#); [Montes, Gregory](#); [McNeeley, Kimberly](#)  
**Subject:** Zilker 351: New Zilker nonprofit organization  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 3:02:03 PM

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Greetings, Nicole Corona and members of the Design Commission (bcc'd) -

I'm writing to let you know that on Monday, April 3, a 10-member community board of directors announced the formation of [Zilker 351](#), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the mission to honor, preserve and enhance the natural, cultural and recreational treasures of 351-acre Zilker Metropolitan Park for all. The community board of directors includes:

Jesús Aguirre - CEO, Waterloo Greenway  
Heidi Anderson - CEO, The Trail Conservancy  
Karen Brimble - Cofounder, One Skye Foundation  
Mike Cannatti - Partner, Terrile, Cannatti & Chambers, LLP  
Jason Cheng - Director, DTJ DESIGN, Inc.  
Deena Estrada Salinas - Producer, DeepWell DTX  
Rich Garza - Partner, Giant Noise  
Rachel Green - Global Diversity and Recognition Program Manager, Cloud Go-To-Market  
Evan Taniguchi - Principal/Owner, Taniguchi Architects  
Colin Wallis - CEO, Austin Parks Foundation

Zilker 351 also includes an advisory board with representation from 16 nonprofit organizations and vendors that operate within and adjacent to Zilker Park, providing programs, amenities, events, and summer camps for kids without the barrier of cost. Advisory board member organizations include:

ABC Kite Festival	Rowing Dock
Austin Parks Foundation	The Trail Conservancy
Austin Sunshine Camps	Trail of Lights Foundation
Barton Springs Conservancy	UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum
Friends of the Austin Nature and Science Center	Waterloo Disc Golf Club
Friends of Barton Springs Pool	Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy
Girl Scouts Zilker Cabin	Zilker Park Boat Rentals
Hill Country Conservancy	Zilker Theatre Productions

You have received letters from some of these organizations describing aspects of the Vision

Plan they support. They are members of the Zilker Collective Impact Working Group, which came together in 2021 to discuss and advocate for park needs and worked together to establish Zilker 351 as a nonprofit organization.

Despite concerns you may have heard from some community members, Zilker 351 will not "take over" Zilker Park or oversee its operations. PARD will continue to oversee Zilker Park operations.

PARD has been directed by Austin City Council to establish beneficial relationships with nonprofit partners. Zilker 351 has not yet negotiated an agreement about how our organization might support PARD's oversight of Zilker Park. Such an agreement would be negotiated through PARD's PARKnership program, which also includes public input. Examples of support that Zilker 351 might provide include advocacy, programming, ecological conservation, and fundraising to support park-wide capital projects.

Zilker 351 supports the goals and general direction of the Zilker Metropolitan Vision Plan. If and when the Austin City Council approves any changes to Zilker Park, Zilker 351 will be prepared to assist throughout implementation.

Sincerely,

**Karen Blizzard**

**Interim Executive Director, Zilker 351  
and Project Manager, Zilker Collective Impact Working Group**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Carroll David - BC](#); [Whately Bart - BC](#); [Meiners Josue - BC](#); [Salinas Jon - BC](#); [Rollason Jessica - BC](#); [Luckens Ben - BC](#); [Weaver Jen - BC](#); [McKinney Marissa - BC](#); [Anstead Ben - BC](#); [Corona Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** ZILKER PARK  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 12:14:36 PM

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Jen Weaver, Chair  
Josue Meiners, Vice Chair  
David Carroll  
Jessica Rollason  
Jon Salinas  
Marissa McKinney  
Ben Anstead  
Bart Whately  
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Dear Design Commissioners,

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that ACL/C3/Live Nation/Ticketmaster interests have been deeply embedded throughout the process. The Collective supporting the plan and meeting behind closed doors comprises 16 organizations, including the Austin Parks Foundation, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden, the Barton Springs Conservancy, the Rowing Dock, and Zilker Hillside Theater, among others. Note: Austin Parks Foundation receives over half of its funding from C3 Presents and whose parent company is Live Nation. Zilker Vision plan promoters deny that C3 is at the table in the Austin Chronicle, December 16, 2022 article. See <https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2022-12-16/community-advocates-worry-commercial-interests-dominate-zilker-park-vision-plan/>

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- If you approve this plan, you will betray the trust of the public, which has clearly voiced a strong preference for natural, green environments where we can get away from commercialism and concrete.

Please support the plans recommended by Rewild Zilker (<https://rewildzilker.org>), endorsed by SOS Alliance and the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC), representing over 80 neighborhoods across every quadrant of our city.

Respectfully,  
Marcia Lucas



[Redacted]

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Marcia Lucas

[Redacted]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Weaver, Jen - BC](#); [Rollason, Jessica - BC](#); [Meiners, Josue - BC](#); [Corona, Nicole](#); [bartonsprings@groups.io](#); [Whatley, Bart - BC](#); [Luckens, Ben - BC](#); [Carroll, David - BC](#); [Anstead, Ben - BC](#); [Salinas, Jon - BC](#); [McKinney, Marissa - BC](#)  
**Subject:** Attention Design Commission - NO to parking garage at Azie Morton  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:11:19 PM

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Jen Weaver, Chair  
Josue Meiners, Vice Chair  
David Carroll  
Jessica Rollason  
Jon Salinas  
Marissa McKinney  
Ben Anstead  
Bart Whatley  
Ben Luckens

Dear Design Commissioners,  
I DO NOT support constructing a parking garage at Azie Morton!!!

ACL/C3/Live Nation/Ticketmaster interests have been unfairly represented! The Collective supporting the plan and meeting behind closed doors comprises 16 organizations, including the Austin Parks Foundation, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden, the Barton Springs Conservancy, the Rowing Dock, and Zilker Hillside Theater, among others.

Note: Austin Parks Foundation receives over half of its funding from C3 Presents and whose parent company is Live Nation.

Zilker Vision plan promoters deny that C3 is at the table in the Austin Chronicle, December 16, 2022 article. See <https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2022-12-16/community-advocates-worry-commercial-interests-dominate-zilker-park-vision-plan/>

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I cannot attend your meeting so terribly recently announced for Thursday April 13, so please enter these comments into your record of that meeting.


Sincerely,  
Maraba DiRaddo



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Maraba DiRaddo

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