City Council Work Session Transcript – 11/17/2026

Title: ATXN-1 (24hr)
Channel: 1 - ATXN-1
Recorded On: 11/17/2026 6:00:00AM
Original Air Date: 11/17/2026
Transcript Generated by SnapStream
==========

Please note that the following transcript is for reference purposes and does not constitute the official record of actions taken during the meeting. For the official record of actions of the meeting, please refer to the Approved Minutes.

[8:59:06 AM]

Good morning everybody, it is 9:00 in the morning on November 17th, 2026. And I will call to order this work session of the Austin city council. We have a quorum of the city council present, and we are meeting in the city council chambers, which are located in city hall at 301 west second street in Austin, Texas.

[9:00:26 AM]

Members. What I want to do and for the members of the public as well, I'm going to walk through because we've got a couple of things set for today. We've, of course, got this work session. We also have a special called meeting of the Austin city council scheduled and set for 11:00 today. Here's the way I would like to proceed. What we're going to do first is have a presentation from city staff with regard to the briefing. That is item B one related to. Well, let's just the simple way of talking about is related to immunity. We're going to have their presentation first. Let council members ask questions if they have questions. And then what I'll do is we will go to the city clerk and start calling for speakers. The reason we're doing it that way is because I think it would be better for everybody to be able to hear what it is we're talking about. And maybe be able to accommodate their comments to the actual presentation and make sure we're talking about everybody's on the same page and we're talking about the same the same information at 11:00, wherever we are at 11:00, we are going to recess, and we will then we'll recess the work session, and I will call to order the regular meeting, the special meeting of the city council that is related to canvasing of the votes, and we'll take care of that. There's a short executive session tied to that, and I think it'll be a very short executive session. And then we'll come back in and we'll reconvene and finish of the work session. If that's if we we need to. That. After that, we will adjourn the city council work session, and we will go to the Austin energy utility oversight committee that will be chaired by the chair of that committee, the mayor pro tem. So unless there are any questions, I don't see any. I'm going to recognize the city manager for an introduction.

[9:02:21 AM]

>> Thank you, mayor, and good morning, mayor and members of the city council. Today, you will receive a briefing on the proposed amendments to the existing interlocal agreement between the city of Austin and the university of Texas regarding the Brackenridge tract, which establishes applicable land development regulations and the parties expectations related to the conveyance of lions municipal golf course, known as muni. The vacation of city rights of way. The creation of a regulating plan and the creation of a tax increment reinvestment zone. The briefing will be given by assistant city manager doctor Eric Johnson and division chief in the city attorney's office, Trish link, as well as the finance director, Kimberly Olivares. With that mayor, I'll turn it over to my team to begin the presentation.

[9:03:12 AM]

>> Great. Thank you, doctor Johnson, I recognize you.

[9:03:16 AM]

>> Yes. Good morning mayor council doctor Eric Johnson, assistant city manager. I'm here with Tricia link and Kim Olivares. Just quickly I'm just going to go through a quick review of the presentation agenda wise. We're going to go over background lions lease agreement. The Brackenridge 1989 agreement proposed amendments schedule and discussion. So from this point, I'm going to turn it over to Kim Olivares to get us started.

[9:03:43 AM]

>> Good morning, mayor. Council members Kim Olivares, director of financial services. It's a pleasure to be here today, as this is an historic moment for our community. The proposed agreement that is going before council today is not is did not come here easily. It did not come because of just a single entity. It came together because of decades of work by the austinites who love muni, the generosity of a donor, and the commitment of the UT and the city working together as true partners. So, through amending the existing 1989 agreement, the city receives permanent ownership of the municipal lions municipal golf course, rather than it being developed by UT. It also provides for extensive, improved environmental and development standards above the current 1989 terms. As Trish will review, in 1989, there basically were no environmental standards at that point. The current agreement does require the

city to pay for public infrastructure, and the proposed agreement that will come before you does as well.

[9:04:54 AM]

In order for us to meet that obligation. The amendment provides for the creation of the tirz. This allows for the site itself to pay for that infrastructure, as opposed to us having to utilize other resources that might impact all of our residents and taxpayers. So a bit of background, this goes all the way back to 1910, when George Brackenridge Brackenridge, who was the longest serving regent for the university of Texas, donated approximately 500 acres of land to the university and hence the the reference to the brack track, the Brackenridge tract. The site boundaries today are actually less than 500 acres. It's approximately 350 acres of both undeveloped and development developed land. You have the lions municipal golf course that represents about 141 acres, but you also have UT student housing the Brackenridge field laboratory, youth sports complex way and various commercial buildings.

[9:06:03 AM]

Some background on lions in the history. It, as I noted, occupies approximately 141 acres of university owned property. Its life as a golf course began back in 1924, when the lions club leased it to design and build the golf course. The city took over that lease between 1936 and 1937, and has operated it ever since. In 1950, muni became the first public golf course in the south to integrate. There is the. The. The long known story of the mayor of the time saying, let them play. When. What were some African American caddies. Game came onto the course to play and cause it raised quite a. Some attention at the time, but the mayor said, let them play in 1972 is when frank Erwin sought to cancel the lease. And it was at that point that the save muni campaign began. So over 50 years later, we are finally here today to save muni.

[9:07:10 AM]

For more than 50 years, the courses community of golfers, neighbors and students whom many of them are here with us today, have worked to save muni and preserve its role as a public course. Lions has a very significant role in the community. There's a folks have a have a view of what a golf course typically looks like. Lions is not that course. It is a diverse community of golfers of all ages, all backgrounds. It's and it's most used public course in Austin with approximately 75,000 rounds played each year, it also. It takes a significant role and takes it very seriously to make the game open and available to everybody in the community. It lowers barriers for seniors and juniors for with incredibly low rates to guarantee access. It is also an academic and youth pipeline. Austin high boys and girls teams are. Lions is their home as well as the Owen Henry middle school directly across the street. It hosts extensive after school

and summer youth programs. It also hosts the state two, a golf championship, southern Texas PGA junior tournaments and numerous other high school events throughout the year. It is also home to women's golf, the Austin women's public links golf association was founded at muni in 1940. It also is home to the Austin lpga amateur golf association, Austin women's city championship and girls that. Golf events lines is also a significant philanthropic hub for the community, as it hosts more charity tournaments than any other golf course in Austin, for example, and these are, in no particular order. Foundation for the homeless, Austin samaritans, special olympics, Texas children's hospital hospital, lulac scholarship and amigos and Azul. Every year host benefit tournaments. The lease agreement was actually struck in. The most recent version was struck in 1987. It is wholly separate from the development agreement. I think it's important to note that the development agreement as an interlocal is its own separate governing document. And then there is the lease agreement.

[9:09:33 AM]

The lease was set to terminate in 1990 unless the legislature adopted a land use plan acceptable for the property known as the Brackenridge tract, and hence the 1989 Brackenridge development agreement interlocal agreement. The lease has been amended and extended five times, the last time in may of 2020, and lions has been operating on a month to month basis ever since. So with this agreement as proposed, the university would transfer muni to the city for golf course purposes in exchange for the following vacating certain right of ways and those right of ways they have been identified. There is not a there's will be a very significant detailed process through the spring to understand fully what are the expectations and goals for each of those right of ways to understand the best, best method for them to be able to accomplish those goals, amending the lease to allow for additional uses. There's 11 acres in the Miller community that has been leased ground leased to the university for some some time now. It was intended to be used for life sciences purposes. That is, when the medical school was was predicted to be built in the Miller community. That is not what took place. So the request is for an amendment to that ground lease that allows for additional uses such as childcare, housing for faculty, students and the sort. It also authorizes increased development entitlements to the existing agreement. There it is. The current agreement is very 1989, and so it requires significant updates across the board. Finally, a private donor has come forward to contribute funds to the university for the sole purpose of transferring muni to the city for golf course purposes to, like I noted earlier, to facilitate construction of the infrastructure on the. The development site, the city will consider utilizing a tirz. As a result, the university will also then follow the affordable housing policy that is part of the. The city's overall terrorist policies. And then finally, the university will replace existing Brackenridge apartments on site. That is the graduate student housing located along lake Austin boulevard, so they would be expected to replace those. In addition to following the affordable housing policy. So at this point, I'm going to turn it over to Trish link to provide additional details on the agreement.

[9:12:15 AM]

>> That the current pd is an interlocal agreement approved in 89 by the council, the board of regents and the legislature and the bda itself settled a dispute between the city and the university about our authority to regulate non university purposes development on university land. And it applies to the land known as the Brackenridge tracts and in the current agreement, established track specific development regulations and very limited environmental regulations. It limits the city's involvement in the development process, and it makes the city responsible for planning, funding and construction utility capacities, along with roadways, to serve the property. So as a reminder, this is the land we're talking about, and we have the different tracks in the current bda have names like the boat town, track park track, the safeway track, which is where the HEB is today. And then the balance of the land, which is south of lake Austin boulevard, which is the town lake track.

[9:13:20 AM]

So now I'm gonna talk about the current agreement versus the proposed amendments we would be bringing forward. And these, as a reminder, only apply to non university development. If the university is going to develop for university purposes. We have no jurisdiction over that.

[9:13:38 AM]

>> I'm sorry. Say that again.

[9:13:40 AM]

>> If it is developed for university purposes, the city has no jurisdiction. So we'll talk first about lot standards. If they're going to develop residential they will follow our current code for single family residential on the size of the lots currently in the bda, they're building coverage is 50% across the entirety of the tracks, and we are now moving it to 75% per site. And that's going to be at the development level, impervious cover, the old agreement. The current agreement, I should say, has some ranges in it. It goes between 30 and 60% for essentially for housing, and then 75 to 90 for commercial. And what we're going to what we're proposing is to have an overall maximum of 75% across 190 acres. And then for each area that's developed. So each site, the maximum impervious covers 85. And they can transfer impervious cover between developed areas.

[9:14:41 AM]

Environmental standards. In 1989, there were no TRE regulations. And so we are going to add heritage TRE requirements to this particular agreement. The university has a policy for heritage trees and we have our city code. We're going to marry those two together. There are no regulations for critical environmental features in the current bda. So what we've done is we've agreed to go assess what those critical environmental features are. And then once we know what they are, we will establish the setbacks. Today there are no drainage water quality requirements. And so they're going to follow current code. In the current bda. There is no limit on construction of slope or cut and fill limits. And that's going to carry forward. So setback standards if there's going to be a setback from the street, it is. Right now the agreement varies. I think somewhere between 10 and 35ft. What we're going to do is you make it uniform and it's 25ft from the right of way that exists at the time the bda is amended. Plus, we're going to incorporate streetscape improvements today. The setback from lady bird lake is 200ft.

[9:15:52 AM]

And we're going to carry that forward. And then we have now added a setback from the tributary that is on the site. And it's going to follow the minor waterway setbacks, which is 50ft on each side. And then there will be an allowance for crossing the waterway with a roadway if necessary. Density, multifamily and the current bda is limited to 22 units per acre. There will be no limit going forward if the proposed amendments are approved. Height the height ranges based on the tract, and it's generally kind of 4040ft to 65ft. Under this proposal, the buildings cannot be taller than 65ft when measured from lake Austin boulevard, so it will always be a straight line across the max height for buildings constructed along and north of lake Austin boulevard is 65ft. The max height for buildings that are constructed south of, but not along lake Austin boulevard will be 105ft because. As a reminder that land slopes down. And so they will go up.

[9:16:52 AM]

But it will never be taller than the buildings that are on lake Austin boulevard today. The Florida area ratio. In our current agreement, it ranges between 0.4 and 0.45, giving a total gross area of 1.71 point 7,000,000ft S. What we have agreed to with the university and we're proposing is 0.6 to 1 across the 190 acres, and that equals a total gross area of four point 9,000,000ft S in developing individual developments can exceed the 0.6 up to 5 to 1. And if they want to go beyond 5 to 1, they will need to come to council for additional floor area ratio. Administratively in the current bda, the city does not have a role in non-university non university purposes development. And so essentially what we have we have adjusted that in this proposal so that we will go back to being the permitting authority today. We essentially kind of rubber stamp what they do. We are not a decision maker. So we'd be changing that going forward. Also, if you read through the agreement, there's a variety of dispute resolutions. We're going to create a simple process with the university to address any disputes. So the allowable uses at the Brackenridge tracts. So the way the agreement is set up today, it says what you cannot do, which means basically anything else is fair game. And we're flipping that and we're proposing it so that it's everything

that is allowed. And so if it's not on the list of allowed uses, it is not allowed at all. And that actually kind of allows for if council if we have new uses that come online, they don't automatically get them under the way that we've proposed this. So we have divided the uses based on north of lake Austin boulevard and south of lake Austin boulevard, on all of the tracks, residential, commercial, civic and agricultural uses are allowed south of lake Austin.

[9:19:01 AM]

We are actually allowing for industrial. But custom manufacturing and light manufacturing only. So our schedule. So far we have. This has been before the environmental commission, the planning commission last month and this month, and then we have adjusted our timing for the vote for council to December 3rd. And then the board of regents is tentatively December as well. In 2027, we come back with another package of amendments, and it would essentially be to finalize the right of way vacations. We will have amended the Mueller ground lease. We will have a regulating plan that reflects the amended development agreement, and there will also be commission briefings and recommendations. We will develop the tirz preliminary project and financing plan, and then we will have council action on the regulating plan and the tirz. And then last but not least, the transfer of lions to the city of Austin. So the city and the university have been working collaboratively over several years to address the potential development within the Brackenridge tract. Today, current conditions, including the generosity of a donor, are aligned so that we can pursue a mutually beneficial agreement.

[9:20:15 AM]

In other words, if the donor was not in the conversation, we would not be sitting before you today. The amendments will enable both the city and the university to guide development in a way that improves development, standard, preserves green space and protects the civil rights landmark.

[9:20:41 AM]

>> We'll open up for any questions from council members.

[9:20:43 AM]

>> Okay. If you if you want to be recognized, let me know. Let me start with just a couple of simple questions. Number one is I want just for clarity purposes, there is a current agreement that we have been referring to generally is the 1989 agreement, right?

[9:21:01 AM]

>> Correct.

[9:21:01 AM]

>> And under that agreement, if nothing happens, if we don't do anything, if the council doesn't act. And so this proposal well, doesn't exist anymore. That land can be developed, but it would be developed under T agreement.

[9:21:20 AM]

>> Correct.

[9:21:21 AM]

>> So if someone opposes what we're doing here today, one of the things that that that puts them in is in a situation where they're opposing an update of that agreement such that the land can be developed, but it would be developed without the TRE protections.

[9:21:43 AM]

>> Correct.

[9:21:44 AM]

>> It'd be developed without the critical environmental protections. Correct. It would be developed without the updated water quality protections, those sorts of things.

[9:21:53 AM]

>> Correct.

[9:21:54 AM]

>> What happens to the golf course if this all goes away?

[9:22:02 AM]

>> It would be in the hands of the university, the board of regents and the Texas legislature.

[9:22:07 AM]

>> And the board. In the past, there's been efforts to develop that golf course.

[9:22:12 AM]

>> Yes.

[9:22:13 AM]

>> Okay. One of the things that hadn't been mentioned here today, and I'm going to ask you why it hadn't been mentioned, but but is the west Austin youth association land? Talk about what this proposal does with the west Austin youth association land.

[9:22:28 AM]

>> So there's a portion of that is attached to the golf course that is being currently used by the west Austin youth association. Under the proposal, the land would be transferred. That particular piece of land would be transferred to Huy.

[9:22:45 AM]

>> And what the donor has indicated is that they want the land that is the the 18 hole golf course to be conveyed to the city of Austin. And they want the way a campus, for lack of a better term, to be transferred and conveyed in fee. Simple to to the west Austin youth association.

[9:23:06 AM]

>> Correct.

[9:23:07 AM]

>> And. The donor has indicated what they want to happen there. And so what they've indicated is they're willing to put up the money that makes all this work. If the golf course is an 18 hole golf course, is that right?

[9:23:25 AM]

>> Correct.

[9:23:25 AM]

>> They have indicated that they're not willing to make the contribution. If that's not what happens.

[9:23:31 AM]

>> Correct.

[9:23:32 AM]

>> Okay. Questions. Do you want to say something, councilmember?

[9:23:40 AM]

>> I've got a lot of comments on this, but I'd rather hear a lot from the.

[9:23:44 AM]

>> Okay.

[9:23:44 AM]

>> Fair enough. Speakers first.

[9:23:46 AM]

>> Good. All right. How about you? Okay. Very good. Well let's do how about you, councilmember Fuentes?

[9:23:52 AM]

>> Sorry, I was a few minutes late. Are we doing questions on the briefing now or doing.

[9:23:56 AM]

>> We can do them after as well. What I wanted to do was get the briefing out there. I just wanted to make sure there was clarity about the briefing before we went to the speakers. Okay. So you you want to wait?

[9:24:07 AM]

>> I think I'll wait. I'll hear.

[9:24:09 AM]

>> Good news first. All right. Well, in that case, thank you all. And what we'll do is I'll turn to the city clerk and ask that you start calling people's names. For those that have not participated in this process. Welcome. We're glad to have you here. And the way we do this is everybody gets two minutes and but she will call. She'll call out three, four, five names at a time. And when your name is called, please go ahead and rise and come down. And if you can take one of these seats up front and that way we'll know you're here. We'll know you want to speak, and we can move in an orderly fashion. And some of that is, is in order to make sure that not only do we know that you're here to speak, but others that are going to be behind you and having to wait to speak, they'll, they'll get their turn a little bit quicker. So with that being said, I'll turn to the city clerk.

[9:25:03 AM]

>> Thank you, mayor, for item B one. We're going to start with remote speakers. We have Elena Adams.

[9:25:15 AM]

>> Good morning, council members. My name is Elena Adams. I was an undergraduate and staff person at UT Austin for about seven years, working extensively at the Brackenridge field laboratory, and I'm currently pursuing a phd in urban ecology and conservation. I have seen many supporters of the muni sale rejoice at the opportunity to preserve the green space at the golf course provides. As an urban ecologist, I deeply resonate with this call to preserve green space, a resource that is so quickly dwindling in our urban surroundings. It is for this exact reason that I must ask the city council to be very critical of this proposal until and unless it provides more complete protection for the nearby Brackenridge field lab in preserving muni, we cannot trade away yet another piece of central Austin green space which may be cut up and paved over. That is not ideal to celebrate. It's a false dichotomy and a meaningless sacrifice

of sensitive habitat, which we are being asked to accept without asking any questions. Unfortunately, the thing about researchers is that we really like to ask questions.

[9:26:13 AM]

If UT does not have plans to develop any part of the Breckenridge field lab, then they can simply state as much within the development agreement without explicit permanent protections for the field station in its entirety. This extremely valuable and sensitive habitat will always be under threat. It is imperative to the soul of our city and its natural resources that we don't make this manufactured sacrifice. We can choose to save both of these historical green spaces for all to enjoy and benefit from for years to come. Because of the speed at which this deal has developed, we have not had enough time to advocate within the university and understand uc's intentions for the field station. In the long term, I urge the city council to please delay the vote on this agreement until at least June of 2027, to allow all stakeholders time to carefully consider the immense consequences of this decision. Brackenridge field lab celebrates its 60th anniversary in April of next year, and we would all like the opportunity to celebrate its future rather than mourn its loss. Thank you.

[9:27:11 AM]

>> Next we have tasnim ehsanullah.

[9:27:18 AM]

>> Good morning council. My name is tasnim and I was born and raised in Austin, Texas. Next week I'm getting married in Austin, and part of the reason I wanted to get married here is because of the connection I have to many of her natural places, especially Breckenridge field laboratory or bfl. I was first introduced to bfl through the bugs and bugs research program at UT. For my research project, I studied the gut bacteria of wild fruit flies and discovered species that had never been discovered in fruit flies before. This discovery contributed to a published scientific paper on which I am an author. The invaluable research experience I gained at bfl helped prepare me for my master's degree in environmental management at duke university. At duke, I learned the importance of including all stakeholders in environmental decision making. I am concerned that the current pace of this interlocal agreement does not allow enough time for everyone affected to participate and ask for, and I'm asking for this decision to be postponed to June 2027. Some of my fondest memories at bfl are of walking its trails with friends and looking for wildlife. My friend Jennifer Schlauch even discovered a new species of ant on bfl that has never been documented anywhere else on Earth. Not many universities have access to land with such incredible biodiversity and potential for groundbreaking research, you might be thinking developing a little bit of bfl won't hurt, but if we don't even know the ranges of some of these

species, like the rodeo ant, we could potentially be wiping out whole species. As someone who grew up in Austin, I understand that our city is growing and changing, but growth also comes with a responsibility to protect important places. We often take things like clean drinking water for granted and ignore things like flooding until it affects us. Bsl absorbs water from storm runoff and prevents contaminants from entering our rivers for free without asking for anything in return. I'm here the week before my wedding to ask that you protect all 82 acres of bfl in perpetuity, because I couldn't imagine getting married in an Austin that doesn't have the bfl. I know and love.

[9:29:27 AM]

>> Laura Sabino.

[9:29:31 AM]

>> Hi, this is Laura Sabino, district nine. I'm a native austinite and a UT alum twice over. I'm also a master naturalist, but I'm speaking for myself. On Saturday, I helped plant over 900 native saplings with TRE folks along country club creek in Roy Guerrero park on the east side of town, along with 770 other volunteers of all ages. Why do we need to do this? Because in the 70s, an apartment complex was allowed to channelize that creek, causing massive erosion and loss of TRE canopy. The city has since spent over $50 million, 25 million on the watershed, and another 25 million rebuilding a washed out park bridge. As a master naturalist, I see this pattern constantly citizens donating their time to undo ecological damage. The Breckenridge field laboratory is over 80 acres of wild land and a world class research facility. Its biodiversity cannot be replicated, and its ecological services, clean water and air pollinators. Erosion control for the river are invaluable. I also volunteer on the bsl in a greenhouse run by a plant rescue group that propagates rare native plants. And losing that resource would devastate a shoestring operation with outsized impact. Austin has adopted goals for 50% TRE canopy, climate mitigation, biodiversity and the reindeer river watershed guidance. And yet development agreements with ndas and a checklist based review process don't come close to preserving our natural lands.

[9:31:22 AM]

The mitigation species list I recently saw for another approved project doesn't even approach preserving existing biodiversity. As a citizen and volunteer, I ask you to include the strong.

[9:31:37 AM]

>> Gen slash.

[9:31:43 AM]

>> Hi. Good morning. My name is Jen Schlauch. I'm currently an ecology phd student at the university of California, Irvine, but I am a Texan who received my undergraduate degree from UT in 2019. Today I want to emphasize Brackenridge field lab's value as an accessible field site for students with disabilities. This is the only field station accessible from its main campus by bus. I rode the bus multiple times a week to be able to attend classes and explore the grounds. As a young woman with severe hearing loss, I had never before had a place where it was truly safe for me to hike alone. Having this protected, protected refuge to explore my interests opened my world up beyond my wildest imagination and changed my career path. Many others have benefited from vfl's transit access and multimodal trails. The specific location of vfl matters for the accessibility and for the site's biodiversity. I'm one of the two people who discovered one of two rare species found only here and nowhere else on the planet. Development of this property would cause the death of thousands of animals and destroyed decades long research projects. Vfl is one of the most unique assets of Utah college of natural sciences.

[9:32:52 AM]

The field labs, programs, tours, and research shape the lives of thousands of Texans and a global body of research. A petition I started two weeks ago has nearly 3000 signatures in support of the preservation of vfl's 82 acres in perpetuity. I am grateful to the city council members who have taken the time to hear our concerns and visit the field lab. At the least, I am urging the city to delay the Brackenridge tract final decision until the 60th anniversary of vfl in June 2027. I also hope the city can encourage you to consider the asset it has on vfl, and confirm in writing that vfl's acreage is protected from development. Thank you for your time.

[9:33:31 AM]

>> Next, we have Allison Gosney.

[9:33:36 AM]

>> Good morning, mayor and members of the city council. My name is Allison Gosney. Thank you each for your time and graciousness. To hear our love and gratitude for muni Marc and I live at the corner of

eighth and Norwalk. You open our front door and you look straight down. Eight and you see muni at the end of it. It is a true blessing to its creatures and beauty to view. My father was a coach and educator in Texas for 45 years. He brought many teens to Austin for uil, state basketball, state track and golf. Through those experiences since 1974, I have seen Austin change from dkr to Meyer stadium for track, Gregory gym to the drum and now moody center. All the while, lions municipal has stayed a constant in the world of golf. It has touched so many student athletes from around the state that hold it near and dear to their heart. Lions is truly a destination for many outside of Austin. In closing, I thank you for saving a beautiful part of the Texas hill country. Thank you for saving the enormous history that lions possesses.

[9:34:58 AM]

And thank you from the 78703 for making a hole in one. By voting yes and putting your name in the lions record book. Be like me and be a blessing to all. Thank you for your time.

[9:35:17 AM]

>> Continuing with remote speakers, we have Susan Sanders.

[9:35:24 AM]

>> Hi. Good morning, mayor and council members. My name is Susan Sanders. I've lived in Austin since 1991, which is pretty much my entire adult life, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to call in and voice my support for these proposed amendments to the bda. We all know the history and the importance of lions municipal golf course. For more than 100 years, it's been a symbol of all that is right and good about our city. I don't need to tell you more about its impact or its historical significance. As the first desegregated golf course in the south, and I don't think I need to tell you that in times like these, preserving this kind of historic place and everything it stands for matters more than ever. Like so many of you, I've played the course with friends, I've attended charity tournaments. I've enjoyed this beautiful space. I've proudly supported the effort to save muni for good for a really long time. But it's about more than just golf, and I strongly believe that Austin's green spaces are its heart and soul, and we desperately need to preserve them. This space is especially meaningful because it's open and welcoming to everyone, no matter who you are or where you're from, or how much you make or how good you are at golf. Muni is there for good. The choice before you today isn't between the proposed deal and a perfect one.

[9:36:41 AM]

The choice is between this deal and the 1989 agreement, which would allow UT to develop muni however it wants to. Along with the rest of this tract. Private donors are making this possible now, but we risk losing the opportunity if the deal is rejected or delayed. As a lawyer, I know that the best deals happen when everyone with skin in the game gives up a little something, but also gets something. I applaud the city. I love Scottie and Ben and the entire save muni conservancy and my cherished Alma mater, the university of Texas, for finding the flex points that allow everyone to get something important while making sure our community benefits so that no one is left without muni. This is a once in a lifetime chance. As my.

[9:37:26 AM]

>> Thank you very much.

[9:37:31 AM]

>> Continuing with remote speakers, we have Carolina Richardson.

[9:37:37 AM]

>> Hi. Good morning council. This is Richardson speaking. I'm a UT graduate. I graduated in 2020 with my bachelor's in molecular biology. I'm currently secretary at bear grotto, and I'm also currently treasurer at Texas geological association. I spent time at Brackenridge field lab and it's helped me a lot as a scientist. I would call it. I call it my training ground. That's where I first went in my early 20s to learn how to be outside, basically. And it's very important to me, develop me quite a lot. I'm very disappointed to hear that Brackenridge field lab isn't fully protected permanently. When you're young, you assume that all the adults around you are solving everything around you. And now I've grown up and I'm in my 30s, and I'm realizing I have to come back and talk about how we need to save this place, and I have to fulfill my civic duty and stand before you today and ask that you guys protect Brackenridge field lab and how important it is to ecological diversity. My Alma mater, our our slogan is what starts here changes the world. So I've tried to fulfill that to the best of my ability.

[9:38:55 AM]

And I'm here today to ask you guys to please protect Brackenridge field lab in its entirety. It's very important. And it's a very big green space that we can't lose. In closing, thank you so much for having me speak today. I yield my time. Thank you.

[9:39:13 AM]

>> Thank you.

[9:39:15 AM]

>> Next we have Kaylee Zazula.

[9:39:20 AM]

>> My name is Kaylee Zazula, and I'm here speaking on behalf of the board of directors of Travis audubon, a local nonprofit that inspires conservation through birding. We also advocate for biodiversity and the protection of land and water and often and beyond. Our members live here, recreate here, and are champions for quality of life that is rooted in a clean and healthy environment for all, including wildlife. Travis audubon encourages the council to not approve this agreement. Not because we don't support saving money we do, but because we also support saving Brackenridge field lab, pitting the future of these two city treasures against each other is a raw deal that the city does not have to accept. Our organization has a close connection to Brackenridge, and our volunteers regularly lead group birding walks there. It is an ecologically rich habitat right in downtown and one of, if not the only, undeveloped riverfront tracks providing invaluable habitat for a variety of birds and other species. It also offers unparalleled opportunities for students to learn and do field work. All of that will be at risk if you approve this. Where trees once sheltered wildlife and cleaned our air, there will be pavement and glass windows for birds to collide into where birdsong once rang out. There will be construction noise, dust and pollution, and where people once connected with nature and learn more about themselves and the world around them. To the benefit of all austinites, there will be a lifeless, lifeless skyscrapers and retail development devoid of greenery. That's a losing proposition for our city, especially when you factor in the unnecessary tax giveaway that is the tax increment reinvestment zone. So please save money, yes, but not at the cost that is currently being proposed. Slow down and negotiate a better deal that doesn't sacrifice a place that makes often truly special.

[9:41:09 AM]

Thank you.

[9:41:12 AM]

>> Amanii. Chris. Annie. Chris.

[9:41:23 AM]

>> Council. Thank you for scheduling this work session and for the opportunity to speak today and for your consideration of bfl. My name is Annie Kress and I am a phd candidate at UT, and all of my comments on my own and are not representative of the university field stations like back in the field. Laboratories serve as a gathering place to learn from the natural world, advance environmental field research, engage students in scientific discovery, and provide information needed to understand and sustain ecosystem from local to global scales. Bfl is especially unique as it is incredibly accessible to students, something that is not true of most field stations at other universities, and something that really sets UT apart. Over the last few weeks, the amazing support of the protection of bfl from not only past and current students, but also volunteers and community members, is proof that involvement in real research at field stations is incredibly meaningful and valuable to students, and has a lasting impact on all of its visitors. This is especially true when it comes to community engagement.

[9:42:23 AM]

Bfl is home to numerous public events such as science under the stars, bfl, open house and the bioblitz, all which will elicit an opportunity to communicate science with people of all different backgrounds, ages and education levels. These events are always well attended and have been even, even been incorporated into the curriculum of many local high schools. If you've ever been, you would know that these events are important to the local community as they allow austinites to experience the incredible biodiversity within our city. I am urging the council to delay the vote on the bda and to help protect this irreplaceable library of biodiversity by adopting the amendments recommended by the environmental and planning commission. Thank you.

[9:43:09 AM]

>> Next, we have Marc Williams. Marc Williams.

[9:43:14 AM]

>> Good morning. My name is Marc Williams. Good morning. My name is Marc Williams. I apologize I couldn't be there in person. Thank you to the mayor and council, the donors, UT for putting this deal together. It is a complex situation. I my family plays there, my kids play there. We've been part of this community for a long time, but what I remember when I was first involved in this in a major way was when I was on waya board, and we got at that time, it was about the 2009 Brackenridge development agreement that was being developed, and it was a lot of UT could do whatever they wanted, and they hired a firm, brought a huge development plan in, and the city was not involved. And what I remember about that, and listening to the speakers ahead of me, is that the Brackenridge field lab was really a UT property, and they could do what they wanted to it at that time. And the Dean of the college of natural sciences was the one that was advocating for it. And I feel like at this point, we've come up with this incredible deal to save money, to save. Well, something seems reasonable that the city is now involved in that. And I think that field lab is a remarkable place. It feels like the argument for that is with UT, not the city of Austin. And I can't thank the city enough and the team for putting together a deal that really tries to preserve what's in the city's control and then lets UT kind of address what's under their control. Again, thank you for the time. Thank you for all the work that's been done. And I know there'll be a lot more speakers who talk a lot more about the property going forward. So again, thank you for all your efforts on this project.

[9:44:56 AM]

>> Moving to in-person speakers now for item B one, we're starting with Shannon provost with donated time. Shannon, are you here? Okay. And Judy provost and Samantha sayers, are you both here?

[9:45:09 AM]

>> You need are you here? Okay. She called two names. Okay. Very good.

[9:45:17 AM]

>> Great. So Shannon will have six minutes and we'll be followed by holly. Reid. Holly, are you here? Yes.

[9:45:24 AM]

>> Please come forward.

[9:45:25 AM]

>> And holly has donated time from Darcy gardiner. Are you here? Darcy?

[9:45:29 AM]

>> She's indicating she's here.

[9:45:30 AM]

>> Great. So holly will have four minutes. On deck will be Sean Dickerson and Sabrina brown.

[9:45:43 AM]

>> Please, miss provost, go ahead and begin. Just state your name for the record.

[9:45:47 AM]

>> Yes, I was just waiting for our slide deck to appear.

[9:45:50 AM]

>> Okay.

[9:45:50 AM]

>> My name is Shannon provost. I'm the executive director of the muhyee conservancy and also on the faculty at the Mccombs school of business at UT Austin. And it's an honor to be here today to speak with you about lions municipal golf course and this unprecedented opportunity to save it in perpetuity. Muni sits on 141 acres of green space just two miles from the state capitol. Last year, 75,735 rounds were played there. The gift was from colonel George Washington. Brackenridge in 1910, was to be used for advancing education, as is that of the current anonymous donors who have presented this opportunity to preserve the course. A little history lesson. Muni was established in 1924 by the Austin lions club members with a vision for a modern, inclusive public space. A lease for part of the Brackenridge tract was executed in may 31st, 1924, between the UT board of regents and the lions club association. It was the first public course in Austin and would remain so until 1949.

[9:46:57 AM]

Muni's opening puts it among the first five public courses in the state, following Brackenridge park and three muni's in Dallas. Then and now. Austinites appreciate the course for its natural beauty a local gym, as is Pease park, Barton springs and mount Bonnell. Construction of the back nine holes was completed in the course by September 1925. We see some articles from 102 years ago tomorrow. High school golfers soon to play on the municipal course, and we have many Austin high school golfers here today to testify to what the course means to them. Lots of rich history. The clubhouse was completed. Here we go. Now we're moving in the right direction. I really like this quote from Theo bellmont. I think it very happy that they have solved the problem of affording businessmen outdoor recreational facilities who, because of expenses, would not be able to join the country club. You'll hear a lot more about that today from our other speakers. The lions club completed the clubhouse by 1930.

[9:48:05 AM]

The clubhouse was designed by local architect Edwin Kreisel, his grand nephew. Here in the room today is among our board of directors. The city transferred the lease. Excuse me. The lions club transferred the lease to the city of Austin in 1936. They also deeded a groundskeeper, a house as well as a mule shed and two mules. This plaque remains today on the iconic statue on muni's practice. Green. So in December of 36, the lease was transferred to the city of Austin, who has managed the course since then to today. After assuming the lease, the city initiated a series of improvements to the course and the grounds during 1936 to 39. Albert Roig Tillinghast world golf hall of fame course architect, visited the course and contributed to its design. He expanded the watered hazards on the current back nine and emboldened what is now muni's famed signature hole, known as hogan's hole. So he made this one even more difficult, and hogan famously commented on this hole during an exhibition match in 1950, saying, where's the fairway? Although he went on to birdie the hole. So during its long history, muni has drawn praise from numerous distinguished golfers. After the exhibition match, hogan apparently signed a few autographs and commented that the course was so good. It makes you think you're not in Texas. One month later, he would win the U.S. Open at marion, his fourth major championship. The course was

also praised by Byron Nelson and Tillinghast. Design suggestions. New fairways and a sprinkler system were implemented during 1937 to 39, with support of funds and labor from the federal works progress administration program, and they had allotted 10.5 million in emergency relief funds to build and improve municipal courses across the nation, including lions. The university of Texas golf team first competed at the southwest conference in may 28th at a tournament held at lions municipal. Tom Penick, inaugural coach, earned two conference titles and went on to be the head pro at lions from 1927 to 61. Tom was succeeded by his brother, Harvey Penick, legendary golf coach and little red book author who earned 20 NCAA conference titles. Lions would remain a hometown favorite course for the UT golf team, and you still see players there today. The intricacies of the greens and features of interest gave them a decisive home advantage. So many golfers have graced the fairways at lions that it's too many. To name a few would be Betsy Rawls, Sandra Haynie, Barbara Pewitt, Kathy Whitworth, Cindy figg-currier, ferris o'keefe and Bentley cotton. World golf hall of famer Ben crenshaw grew up in Austin, just blocks from lions municipal, and credits lions as being instrumental in

[9:51:03 AM]

his development. He still returns to play at muni, where he shared the course record in 2015. Ben has been very involved in the effort to save the course, as has local golfer Sergio Garcia. This place is about a lot more than golf, so while steeped in Texas golf history and monumental in our hearts, the course is also a landmark for civil rights history. As the site of the first desegregated play in the south in 1950, it was the birthplace of equal access golf in the south. And you'll hear a lot more about this today from our other speakers. Bob Oser and Ken Tiemann led a comprehensive search of city council minutes, historical archives, and oral histories to show that Lyons was the first documented case of African Americans having unfettered access to the city. Golf south of the mason-dixon line.

[9:51:54 AM]

>> Thank you very much, miss reed.

[9:52:14 AM]

>> Good morning, mayor Watson and council members. My name is holly reed. I live in district ten, and I'm speaking to you on behalf of the west Austin neighborhood group. We respectfully ask that you support the university of Texas's conveyance of lions municipal golf course to the city of Austin and the university's amendments to the Brackenridge development agreement, as presented by city staff today, the west Austin neighborhood group has been involved in negotiations with the university of Texas and city of Austin regarding the preservation of muni and the Brackenridge tract since 1973. We are all here today discussing this extraordinary opportunity. Because of over 50 years of work that has preceded this

moment, work to recognize and honor the courageous act of a young boy named Alvin props, who integrated the lions municipal golf course in 1950.

[9:53:18 AM]

Work by doctor general Marshall and doctor William bacon, who grew up in Clarksville, helped integrate muni as boys and fought for its preservation and recognition as a civil rights landmark. A lifetime of work by Mary Arnold, a community and civil rights activist and environmental preservationist who began to the fight to save muni in 1973, worked by young people, students, seniors, teachers, pastors, veterans, musicians and journalists, worked by the saved muni team. The save historic muni district, the muni conservancy and the naacp worked by public officials, including mayors and council members, board members, commissioners, senators, representatives and members of congress work by so many people from all over Austin, the state of Texas and our nation to preserve this place that has done so much to unify a historically segregated city.

[9:54:34 AM]

Their years of hard work has brought us here today to this once in a lifetime opportunity, whereby the university of Texas at Austin and the UT system board of regents are willing to permanently preserve and convey to our city these 141 acres of land. That is such an incredible part of Austin's and our nation's history. As you consider this proposal by the university of Texas, please remember the tremendous efforts of all the people who have come before us and who are here today. We have thoroughly reviewed the university's proposed amendments to the Brackenridge development agreement as presented by city staff. We have listened to our neighbors, stakeholders, the public and weighed the impacts on transportation, schools, residents, trees, wildlife, the environment and lady bird lake. Our conclusion is that the proposed amendments are balanced. The university could retain its existing uses on the Brackenridge tract if it chooses to do so, while still achieving the level of non-university development proposed. That's very important. This balance is what makes this agreement work. It is fragile. Increasing entitlements would remove that flexibility and put at risk the agreement now shared by the neighborhood, the university and the city. We respectfully ask you to approve the amendments as proposed. In doing so, you secure a historic opportunity to save muni, and you will have the neighborhood as a committed partner in the work ahead.

[9:56:18 AM]

>> Thank you.

[9:56:19 AM]

>> Thank you.

[9:56:26 AM]

>> Meg moss, J. Weintraub, brant Matson, Alan Cecile, Justin Cho. If I've said your name, please come down and state your name for the record.

[9:56:38 AM]

>> Please come forward. If your name has already been called. Just find a seat anywhere. Tell you what. Why don't we start? We'll start with you, and then we'll work our way down the line. Just state your name for the record, please.

[9:57:11 AM]

>> I'm meg moss, and this is Mary Margaret. We're here on behalf of Huy. And most specifically, we a preschool that is very special to our family. I'm a born and bred austinite mother of five. All of my children have attended way preschool and it has provided a very firm foundation for their future academic success. But also maybe more important is the magic and memorable programing from gymnastics to sports ball and maybe our very favorite music teacher, Mr. Will, who's in the back. We wouldn't be who we are as a family without way of preschool in the foundation it's provided us. Do you want to say anything? No. Way. It takes care of us like family. And so we're here to help ensure its legacy moving forward.

[9:58:05 AM]

>> We appreciate you being here. Thank you very much. We'll just go down the line here.

[9:58:11 AM]

>> Good morning. My name is Jay Weintraub. I'm the president of western hills little league, a nonprofit organization that has provided youth baseball to central and west Austin for over 40 years. This spring season, more than 900 kids will proudly put on a western hills uniform for 40 years. Our partnership with way has made this possible for western hills to serve Austin family. For 35 of those years. Joseph field, located at the campus and a long home run from lions municipal golf course, has served as our flagship facility, the home base for our league and the cornerstone of our community presence. A partnership like way and western hills is rare, and it's lasted because both organizations share the same goal, giving families in our community a safe, welcoming place to play. Western hills is a 100% volunteer run organization. Our coaches, board members, and parents dedicate their time because they believe in the community and what way in western hills has meant to their players and families over decades. This is why we need you to vote yes on December 3rd. 900 kids and their families are counting on Joseph field this spring. We'd like to keep that going for the next 40 years and ensure this piece of Austin history is preserved for generations to come. Thank you for your time.

[9:59:19 AM]

>> Thank you. Please.

[9:59:23 AM]

>> Mayor, council members, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Shawn Dickerson, and I am here as board president of the west Austin youth association. More importantly, I am a mom to two boys ages 11 and 13. My kids have been enrolled in way programing since preschool, even though I knew signing up for four year old soccer wouldn't be super productive and look more like herding cats, I knew we were starting an important precedent in our family. We would always prioritize being active and outside over screens and electronics over the years through soccer, basketball, flag football and little league, my children have had the opportunity to learn the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and creating community and friendships with kids from all over our awesome city. Two years into our time at Huy, I felt so strongly about this organization that was giving so much to my family that I knew I wanted to

[10:00:19 AM]

>> Lean in and give back. I reached out to a friend on the board and said, put me in coach. I first volunteered for a few years before joining the board and now serving as board president. We do and offer so much at Huy. We aren't just for the sporty kids, we have coding classes, chess club, cooking. We serve thousands of kids from 47 zip codes around Austin, and we do so much good for our youth. But we could do even more if we had permanence. We could offer more programing, serve more kids, and

make more of an impact in Austin. I encourage you all to vote yes on December 3rd and ensure that vela and muhyee are forever. Thank you.

[10:01:00 AM]

>> Thank you. Miss brown.

[10:01:04 AM]

>> Good morning, mayor and council members. My name is Sabrina brown. I live in district ten and I am speaking in favor of item b1. I'm here today as a west Austin resident and a mom to express my strong support for the interlocal agreement between the city of Austin and the university of Texas. This has been a long time coming. I urge you to finalize this partnership as it was presented today by your staff. My own kids, who are teenagers now participated in youth sports at way from basketball to soccer. Baseball. They did it all. And what makes way a unique is it's not about select leagues. It is a place for all kids where all kids can participate and learn about being on a team. My kids now as teenagers, have the opportunity to go back and to volunteer and to help the younger kids, which is incredibly important. This place has been a home for our family for many years. And it's a real neighborhood treasure, honestly. As you move forward on this interlocal agreement, please support what your staff presented today. I think, again, it's been a long time coming.

[10:02:18 AM]

It has been a negotiated agreement between the city and the university. And as you will hear today, lots of different participants. As you know, Austin is growing and places where the kids have opportunity to go outside and be in green space are pretty limited. So preserving this unique treasure that the city has is crucial. So I thank you for everything that you're doing on this and for your support of this interlocal agreement. Thank you.

[10:02:49 AM]

>> Thank you. Yes, sir.

[10:02:56 AM]

>> Good evening council. My name is Alan Cecile. I'm a citizen here of Austin. I moved here in 1963. I was 19 years old. So if you make a few simple calculations, you can surmise. I've seen quite a few changes here in the city, and many of them have been very beneficial, such as the save Barton springs initiative back in 1990. But there were some other tragic changes, such as the conversion of nine holes of an 18 hole full size golf course known as Hancock municipal at 38th and red river, and it was converted into a parking lot and a shopping center. That beautiful green space will never be returned, and people will never reap the benefits of the clean air that was once generated from that green space. It is difficult, but I can remember and visualize what it was like before it was destroyed and replaced with the shopping center that actually failed as originally planned. What were they thinking? I don't know.

[10:03:56 AM]

Today I speak not as a golfer, but specifically of the 140 acres of green grass. Research shows that just one acre of grass will produce enough oxygen for approximately 45 to 70 people per day. This may not sound like much, but when you make it 100 acres, it will produce enough oxygen for an estimated 6 to 7000 people per day. And we are probably breathing some of that oxygen that's being generated by that land at this very moment. And in addition to oxygen, carbon dioxide is being absorbed and sent into the ground through the root system. And in short, grass not only produces oxygen, it absorbs and stores carbon dioxide. So I come here to ask you to remember that this is a green space as well as a golf course, and we should thank the many save many conservancy for their also their time and for years. Thank you very much.

[10:04:48 AM]

>> Thank you, Mr. Siegel. Yes, sir. Please.

[10:04:53 AM]

>> Good morning, mayor and city council members. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Justin Cho. I'm a father of three boys aged 14, 11 and four, and I'm a decorated equipment manager for multiple way three on three basketball teams as well. We moved to Austin.

[10:05:11 AM]

>> You should have moved that to the top.

[10:05:13 AM]

>> Yeah. Should have. We moved to Texas and in 20 2012 and we were new parents at the time. And I think a lot of new parents here probably know being new parents without a network and without family around is quite difficult. And I think for us, we was really the difference maker when we got here. And I know a lot of families feel the same way. It gave us a place to meet some of our dearest friends, some of which we're still incredibly close with today. It's allowed our, you know, our four year old surprise baby to also meet some amazing friends and build his network. And I think for us, it's just been such a special and welcoming place for everyone, whether you're multiple generations in Austin, whether you're moving from out of town, I think way is such a special place to bring together folks from various districts. And so I know whether you're new to Austin or just a new parent, we is some place that will be very special way is someplace that's incredibly influential. And I urge you all to vote yes in support for my kids, kids, for other kids that will go through way, because I do think that it's something that we all cherish and something that we all appreciated.

[10:06:17 AM]

>> Thank you. Good job.

[10:06:27 AM]

>> Ben crenshaw. Are you here?

[10:06:30 AM]

>> Yes.

[10:06:31 AM]

>> Ben has donated time by Julie crenshaw and will Wilson. Are you both here? Yes. Okay, so that'll be six minutes for Ben.

[10:06:41 AM]

>> Your name has been called, though. Thank you. Mayor. We're here for Mr. Crenshaw. Why don't you go ahead?

[10:06:47 AM]

>> Do you want to go ahead? Go ahead. Okay. Mayor, council members, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is brant Mecham, and for the last 16 years, we have been woven into the fabric of my family's life. My wife, Shelly, and I first arrived at way as parents. Our three children played sports here. But what kept us coming back wasn't the games of the scores. It was the sense of community. We found a place where children were encouraged, families connected, and volunteers invested their time to help young people grow. For ten years, I volunteered as a coach, working with more than 300 children. At the end of every soccer game, I handed out colored patches. These weren't awards for scoring the most goals. They were recognition for effort, growth, teamwork, kindness, and perseverance. Before each game, I would ask each child to set a personal goal. Maybe it was making a good pass, encouraging a teammate, or simply trying something new. After the game, we would sit together and talk about what they accomplished.

[10:07:47 AM]

Those moments taught children that success isn't always measured on the scoreboard. It's measured by character. Today, one of my own children still talks about the soccer practice we had, where we replaced all the cones with pumpkins, and each player took one home afterwards. Years later, that's what they remember. Not the score, not the standings, the joy, the friendships, and the feeling of belonging. I've also had the privilege of serving on the uua board for ten years, alongside volunteers like Sammy Joseph, who has dedicated 46 years of service for helping children learn and grow. Today, as CEO of Huy, I see the impact on an even larger scale. Last year alone, 16,411 young people participated in way programs. Families from 47 zip codes and 15 150 schools came together through sport, preschool and inclusive programs like champs league. I vote in favor of.

[10:08:46 AM]

Please vote in favor of item 50 to permanently preserve a community institution that has shaped so many generations.

[10:08:52 AM]

>> Thank you sir. Mr. Crenshaw. Mayor, mayor and council members. I'm Ben crenshaw, co-chair of the save muni conservancy and a proud longhorn. I'm asking you to recognize the lasting value of lions municipal golf course muni to Austin muni is is far more than a golf course. For 100 years, it has been a public green space and a quiet respite in a city that is growing and changing around it. It gives people room to slow down, enjoy the outdoors and spend time together. Places like this matter to the health and character of a city, and once they're lost, they're difficult to replace. Public golf makes the game accessible to people who might otherwise never have had the chance to play at muni.

[10:09:56 AM]

Young people can learn golf while learning patience, honesty, respect, perseverance and how to handle both success and disappointment. Those lessons last well beyond the course, which I can attest to personally. They've served me well throughout my entire career as a PGA professional. Golf goes back 500 years, and which is a testament to the sport because you learn so many things about it. It's a lifetime of learning. The game has a way of molding character. I know muni helped mold mine. Muni happens to be the first desegregated golf course in the south. That decision further reinforces the thought that everyone should be able to play. The historical significance of that decision cannot be denied, and in fact, was listed on the national register of historic places in 2016. For generations of austinites, muni has been the setting for first swings, family outings, friendships and memories that stay with people for a lifetime. I, too, have so many memories. As a young boy growing up in Austin, muni belongs to the public and its value reaches far beyond the game itself. I urge you to save muni for Austin's green space and for the people who cherish it today and more importantly, for the next generation who deserve the chance to make their own memories their. I can't thank you enough. Mayor and the university of Texas, for putting this forward.

[10:11:47 AM]

>> Thank you.

[10:11:49 AM]

>> Thank you.

[10:11:54 AM]

>> Jessica Sharits. Jessica will be followed by Scottie sayers with donated time. Scottie, are you here? And Julie sayers, are you here? And sherry sayers. Perfect. Scottie will have six minutes.

[10:12:17 AM]

>> Good morning. Mayor and council members. I'm Scottie sayers and along with my long time friend Ben, I serve as co-chair of the muni conservancy. Forgive me if some of my statements are redundant, but I think they're all worth stating. You know, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. And through city staff negotiations with the university of Texas and generous donors, Austin has a chance to save all 141 acres at muni. The donor requirement is at muni remain an 18 hole golf course in perpetuity. Lyons is the busiest, affordable and accessible municipal course in Austin and has served the city for 102 years as a beautiful piece of recreational green space. The civil rights history is so significant in Austin. It led to the integration of many other things, including our police department, our fire department, our public libraries, just to name a few.

[10:13:21 AM]

It's a priceless piece of land. And along with zilker park, Barton springs peace park and the hike and bike trail, it's an irreplaceable part of Austin. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity and move this forward. Keeping the timeline intact is critical. Since the approval of the amended Brackenridge development agreement requires legislative approval, there's a need to get a bill filed and on the calendar for the upcoming session. Austin is a great city, and this is a great piece of green space enjoyed by people from all over the city. Travis county, the state, and the entire nation. In fact, people of all races, all ages, all economic backgrounds gather there. I've had the chance to visit public courses all over the world, and I'm not sure I've ever seen a more diverse group or more passionate people than we have here at Lyons. And you can just look around the room here today and see. Nearly 20,000 supporters have signed our petition, and a survey at the core showed that only 12% of the visitors are from the oh three and four six zip codes.

[10:14:38 AM]

Now, I want to emphasize that because muni is a city wide gathering place, and for many reasons other than golf. It's more than a golf course. It's green space. It's a wildlife sanctuary. It's history. It's just part of our fabric. So thank you. And please remember, because of this generous donation, we have the opportunity that will resonate in our city for future generations. And some of you may have never been to muni before or spent time there, but come out and watch the sunset and watch the youth out there in the afternoons. It'll it'll tug at your heart. I'm glad to answer any questions at my office or here today. And in the meantime, I think this video will tell you a little bit more about our course.

[10:15:31 AM]

>> Hello friends, it's Jim Nantz of CBS sports. You know, my friends in Austin asked me to say a few words about the importance of public golf and preserving lions municipal golf course. I just want to say this golf is a game for a lifetime. And in the last few years it has enjoyed tremendous growth all across our country and saving all 18 holes at lions will impact today's golfers and future generations. And without places such as muni, that future is threatened. I wish you every success in saving this historic gem that says, right in the heart of the great city of Austin.

[10:16:12 AM]

>> The past year has been remarkable for lions. Over 200,000 patrons have visited the course and played more than 83,000 rounds.

[10:16:20 AM]

>> Hey.

[10:16:22 AM]

>> It's the home of the Austin golf academy, where hundreds of junior golfers practiced the game and, just as important, teaches that they learn manners and etiquette, establishing lifetime values. Lions also serves as the home course for ten men's and women's golf teams and host Texas U. I L competitions. We want muni to be in the best shape possible for golfers as we look to the future.

[10:16:47 AM]

>> Anybody who could ever think that they could develop this property must be out of their minds.

[10:16:53 AM]

>> The 80 year old 4th of July firecracker open remains one of Texas's leading amateur events, and we will continue to support this event, as well as other tournaments to promote the history of muni. The Texas golf hall of fame has honored muni with an invitation for a satellite location at lions respecting muni's 102 year legacy, not to mention muni's contribution to the civil rights movement.

[10:17:20 AM]

>> This golf course is significant. It demonstrates the journey by which we have come. They come all over the state of Texas to this golf course because they can play here. They can play anywhere in the state of Texas. How about that?

[10:17:37 AM]

>> There are few places like muni in Austin. It's remained a priceless asset to our town for more than a century and is older than zilker park. It's a community gathering place and one of the most beautiful pieces of parkland in Austin. A recent poll indicated that nearly 90% of residents in Austin are in favor of saving lions, a measure that is overwhelming. Support great cities. Save the great spaces. Let's continue the effort to save muni.

[10:18:06 AM]

>> Save you day now. It's good for us all. Now is the time and you need to always in place.

[10:18:23 AM]

>> Thank you.

[10:18:29 AM]

>> Continuing with speakers for item B one, we have Dylan Davis, David Fawcett, Brian Gregg, Sammy Joseph junior, buck Armstrong.

[10:18:40 AM]

>> If your name has been called, please come forward. We'll start with you and we'll work our way. That direction. Please begin.

[10:18:56 AM]

>> Howdy.

[10:18:56 AM]

>> My name is Dylan Davis. Lions municipal golf course. Muni municipal, by definition, means being owned and operated by a town. However, I think of municipal as being open to all. And when paired with golf, which can be very exclusionary at times, it means a conduit for those to have access to a pursuit that would not happen without it. This is exactly what happened in 1950. We all know how this special place broke an unfortunate barrier that, years before brown versus board of education forced this country to reckon with this most original flaw. Lions to this day still provides that unique opportunity to this community, affordable access to recreation in an ever more growing, unaffordable city. This is exceedingly rare for a place so close to campus for students and downtown for austinites. In a new Austin of qr codes, parking, validation and pay to stay. Muniz. A portal for Austin nostalgia that so many have been priced out of. Tens of thousands of people come through muni every year. It provides a green space for a city that every year loses more trees to bulldozers, grass to pavement and creeks to culverts. A meeting place for neighbors and friends. A safe place for kids and their parents who know they can be dropped off without any worry.

[10:20:06 AM]

It is a place that has shaped the lives of some of the greatest who have played the game, but more importantly, it has been in place for countless others to introduce and learn the game. It is a place

where strangers become fellow austinites, and where a tee time isn't decided by your bank account, lineage or zip code. It is a place for future generations to spend time outside with a game that teaches such character building attributes as integrity, stewardship, responsibility, and courtesy. These are all traits that I want my city, a place where I call home to be instilled in our fellow citizens and posterity. Lions municipal can do just that. Let's save this place for history's sake. Let's save it for the 141 acres of green space. And let's save it for the students and the next generation of austinites. But most importantly, let's save it because it's the right thing to do. Thank you.

[10:20:52 AM]

>> Thank you.

[10:20:55 AM]

>> Please. My name is David Fossett. You're going to need to put that microphone closer to your mouth. All right. My name is David Fossett, and I live in tarrytown. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak about lions municipal golf course. The reason I got involved in the effort to save money as a golf course is because it is the best way to preserve the area from being developed. Also, the 140 acres needs to be preserved for many historical environmental reasons, which I include the health of the citizens of Austin, thousands of old and young people have benefited greatly from the opportunity to exercise and for our children to develop many more. Thousands will also benefit from muni if it is maintained as a golf course. Annually, young children, teenagers, high school students from many schools interacting and learning. Muni is the place I taught my son and his friends to play. And now where my daughter is taking up the game, adults have the opportunity to get out and to not spend a fortune on green. It is a place where you go and can meet and enjoy people from all over. We need to keep it as a golf course and home to the many deers, ducks and geese. We all cannot be members or afford private country clubs. Muni is for the average people of Austin. The trees and the wildlife are awesome. You don't want to lose the geese and the turtles. We don't need 140 acres turn into a heat generating concrete that the wildlife call home. Thank you. Thank you.

[10:22:37 AM]

>> Yes, sir. Mayor. Council members. My name is Sammy Joseph junior. I'm a fifth generation austinite. 55 years ago. Harold Brumley, Neil Kosiorek and myself saw the need for a youth center in west Austin as there was not one at that time. We approached the mayor and we were told, as you can well understand, there was no money in the budget for a center like that, and if we wanted to have something like that would be up to ourselves to, to make it happen. And that's exactly what we did. It took 4 or 5 years for us to get to that point. But 50 years later, today, we is still operating to be the best

youth center in the city of Austin. And it's that because of the fact there's so much involvement from the community and from the people in west Austin to make this happen. Not only does what I teach sports, but there's also an accredited preschool there, and they have a, a champs league program, which is a program for special needs children that's run by passed away kids who have been involved in the program. But these activities were just a little bit about what makes way what it is, what makes may what it is, or the coaches who volunteer not so much as coaches, because that's what they do, but as role models.

[10:24:12 AM]

And as we all know, in this day and age, role models are sorely missed for the kids growing up nowadays. So I appreciate all of your help. I appreciate your concern and I hope you will consider leaving with the crown jewel that it is in the city of Austin. Thank you for your time.

[10:24:31 AM]

>> Thank you.

[10:24:34 AM]

>> Mayor. Council members. My name is buck Armstrong and I'm an Austin native and have plenty of stories about way and lions, but I wanted to use my time to play a video for someone who was not able to attend today's session.

[10:24:49 AM]

>> Okay, so golf saved my life. It really did. I got out of Iraq in 2005, the first place that my dad took me when he saw that I was having problems was lions municipal golf course. He knew I was getting a history degree, and so he knew a way that I would get really hooked on this game is by telling me all the history. And so we started playing hole number one. And by hole number 18, I was, you know, in love with it. So it means a lot to me personally. But to the city of Austin, its history, like way beyond, way beyond just my rounds of golf that me and my dad have played out here. It means a lot to me. And so, you know, I really think the city of Austin and the university of Texas needs to realize that you could put condos all over this town and it won't be Austin anymore. Just won't. So I'll save my life. And the lions municipal

golf course, was that the place that really got me into golf, which led me to being a golf coach and a high school here in town, to teaching little kids how to play the game of golf.

[10:25:56 AM]

It was right here at this at this course. Every time I play this course on number 16, if I can birdie it, I know that I birdied a hole that Ben hogan, you know, said was the hardest part for that he'd ever played. So you know how crazy is that. So sergeant Tim Gastel 82nd airborne. And I learned the game of golf here at lions municipal golf course. So save muni.

[10:26:26 AM]

>> Thank you all.

[10:26:32 AM]

>> Lyles. Carter. Manny. Edwards, Noel. Bridges, Richard. Craig. Richard, are you here? Yes. And Richard has time donated by chase Schlachter. Are you here?

[10:26:47 AM]

>> Yes.

[10:26:48 AM]

>> Great. So Richard will have four minutes.

[10:26:52 AM]

>> Mayor Watson and council members. I'm Richard Craig, and I'm perhaps best known as the founder of the peace park conservancy. But I'm also a fifth generation austinite and a board member of tree

folks and the muni conservancy. I've been a strong advocate for the Austin parks budget and our public spaces over many decades of my life here. I'm here today in strong support of the proposal that would have the city enter into an agreement with the university of Texas to save lions municipal golf course in perpetuity. In that regard, I want to emphasize that the 141 acres of lions municipal are more than just a golf course. They are an integral part of the green lungs of our community. The thick woods of the site are the home to an amazing diversity of wildlife and bird species, and contains hundreds and hundreds of magnificent heritage live oaks that are centuries old. This unpaved green space is also a major contributor to water recharge for the aquifer.

[10:27:51 AM]

The acreage is so large that it offers potential future opportunities for other recreational activities in some areas. In tandem with 18 holes of golf. In short, muni is a treasure. Together with lady bird lake and the butler hike and bike trail, shoal creek, greenbelt, zilker park, Pease park and Guerrero parks, muni is an essential part of our public spaces that help make central Austin livable. As Austin has grown over the last 40 years, the city has spent millions of dollars to acquire land for parks and recreational purposes on the outskirts of the city. This has been a prudent and far sighted policy to save land from development before it is too late. By the same token, it is equally important to protect the green spaces we already have in our urban core and not lose them. Irredeemably to the bulldozer and concrete, once precious parkland in central Austin is gone, there's no bringing it back. Austin has not always been wise in protecting our green spaces from development.

[10:28:54 AM]

In 1962, the Austin city council failed to act on a planning commission proposal to purchase the lower slopes of mount Bonnell and prevent them from being sold to residential developers. The result is that once pristine mountain that figures so prominently in Austin history and local legend became scarred with mcmansions on its lower slopes. I like to think that we are wiser today, and won't allow muni to be lost in a similar fashion. The generosity of the private donor that makes this proposed deal possible is incredible. We simply cannot look a gift horse in the mouth. Now is not the time to quibble. I urge you to seize the moment and vote yes on the proposed agreement. Great cities save their great spaces. Let's save muni. Thank you.

[10:29:50 AM]

>> Why don't we.

[10:29:51 AM]

>> Take the microphone.

[10:29:52 AM]

>> And you go ahead and speak to us, and then we'll come down the line. Just state your name for the record.

[10:29:58 AM]

>> Great. Hello, everyone. My name is Manny Edwards. I am, and I serve on the advisory board for alliance municipal golf course, and I'm also a senior at the university of Texas at Austin. Today, I support and say yes to saving and preserving all 18 holes of muni. I believe that this course represents our city's history and the current decision making for the future. First, I mentioned Andrew zilker, who gave the land that became both zilker and Barton springs. Because of this generosity, austinites have places that we can enjoy today and for future generations that will cherish beyond our lifetimes. In 1910, George Washington Brackenridge gave this land to UT with the intention of supporting education and for over a century, muni has remained completely true to this cause. In the early 50s, this course was one of the first courses to desegregate in the south, making it a crucial part of civil rights history. Today, all of us in this room have a once in a lifetime opportunity to secure muni's future as an accessible asset for all. When I think of muni, I think of the child whose future and will make their first swing and will fall in love with the game that first brought us here. When I think of muni, I think of the high schoolers who will play in tournaments and will have an opportunity to be able to go to college. When I think of muni, I think of the future families who will be able to cherish this course beyond our time.

[10:31:20 AM]

Everyone deserves a chance to know this place and to see it as it is today. And because of those who before us left gifts that enrich our lives today, I believe it is our turn to leave a gift for future austinites. I ask that we invest in our history. I let us invest in our future and let us save muni. Thank you.

[10:31:40 AM]

>> Thank you.

[10:31:46 AM]

>> Good morning. My name is Jessica schiera and I live in west Austin with my husband Ryan and our three boys, three, five and eight. We moved to Austin in 2018 knowing almost no one, and gio was the first place that gave me relief as a working mom. Hunter got into their preschool and our other boys followed him. Our boys play sports there every season hunter playing flag football, basketball, soccer, and now three on three basketball, which is a unique experience for anyone who's participated. Haydn plays soccer and flag football, and Henry is in the little kids soccer clinic. It's where they learn teamwork to grow up playing outside with other Austin kids, which is where we found our community in Austin. It's part of our life year round, from birthday parties at champions camps, sport ball Fridays and preschool and Summers in the fields on Saturdays and Sundays and practices all week. But waya is bigger than our family. It serves more than 16,000 young people from across the city. Places like we matter more now. Matter more matter now more than ever. At a time when many children face isolation, stress and too much screen time, the power of movement, connection and community has never been more vital. Where it is, where kids put screens down, get outside and make real friends. I am here to ask you to approve the proposed amendments to the UT Brackenridge development agreement and secure way as permanent home at 1314 exposition boulevard, so we can own its own property for good and serve more kids for generations, while preserving Lyons golf course and strengthening the protections for the Lakes, the trees and the green space around it.

[10:33:20 AM]

Families like mine are counting on you to be there for the next generation, the way it has been there for hours. Please. Please vote yes. Thank you.

[10:33:27 AM]

>> Thank you.

[10:33:34 AM]

>> Hello. My name is Lyles Carter, proud longhorn and muni advisory board member. I want to start off by saying how important this land is to my family, and how thrilled I am to be able to speak on behalf of

the preservation of it. Personally, I grew up playing with sports and learned how to golf at Lyons. I eventually went on to play on the O. Henry and Austin high golf teams. But my family's history with this land goes further back than that. In 1916, my great great grandfather, A.W. Doc Griffith, was president of the Austin lions club. He and the other officers of the club saw an opportunity to build a golf course on this property and negotiated with UT to make it happen. They opened it in 1924 and ran the golf course for 12 years before turning it over to the city. You can still see his name on the plaque on the lions statue at muni. Years later, in the late in the late 70s, my grandfather, doctor Harold Brumley, along with others like Sammy Joseph, who you heard earlier, saw a void in the neighborhood for youth to play sports in the area. He summoned support from the community and got UT to allow them to build Wyatt on that tract. Fast forward to today. My kids seventh generation austinites get to play at muni and way. I can't tell you how special that is to me and my family. I got to see my four and a half year old son win his flag football championship game last month on Brumley field. His great grandfather's namesake, places like muni and waya, teach integrity and life lessons in a way that's hard to put into words, but easy to recognize when you see it in action. I encourage you to vote yes on December 3rd. Let's honor our kids and our community by saving these priceless establishments for the next generation. Thank you and hook em.

[10:35:24 AM]

>> Hello, my name is Noel bridges, and I'd like to yield my time for a video.

[10:35:33 AM]

>> In 1946, at the age of ten, I came over with my brother with a group of young African American boys who lived in Clarksville, which is about less than a mile from here. We walked over to qadri. This was the first course to integrate in the south may south of the mason-dixon line. I wish I could express how good I felt. You know, as a youngster, I'm young, I'm black. And when they integrated this course, black golfers from all over the state of Texas would come here to play golf. And how did it make me feel? I don't have words to express.

[10:36:23 AM]

>> Help us save money. It's very important. It is a part of our heritage here, and it needs to remain that way.

[10:36:34 AM]

>> I would hate to see or even think of this history being just washed away. And university of Texas is in a special situation where they can give not only this Austin community, but they can give this country, you know, something very special by allowing this course to be preserved as a historic location. So save money, save money, please save money. Help us save money forever. Thank you.

[10:37:17 AM]

>> Thank you all for.

[10:37:21 AM]

>> Tracey Dombeck. Turk. Pipkin. Turk, are you here?

[10:37:27 AM]

>> Yes.

[10:37:27 AM]

>> And there's time donated by Justin Graber. Are you here, Justin? He is. Great. So Turk will have four minutes. Then volma Overton and Alex Ellis.

[10:37:42 AM]

>> Please come forward if your name has been called, grab a seat. State your name for the record. Mr. Pipkin will recognize you first.

[10:37:56 AM]

>> Good morning. I'm Turk pipkin. I'm honored to be here. During the fight to save Barton springs, I co-wrote and published the this lovely coffee table book, Barton springs eternal. Got a copy for the mayor in the city. If you guys would like it. I'll pass it up there in a moment. In the following years, I wrote and published the book born of the river, the history of the Colorado river and the lcra. And as a co-founder of the education and conservation nonprofit the nobelity project, I have filmed what I think are important issues at the field labs. So I do have kind of a broad look at all of this, and I understand the difficulty of the choices you guys face. We've heard about the historic legacy of lions municipal from people that can probably explain it better than me. However, I think it's worth pointing out that that 1950 integration of the golf course helped lead to, but was 12 years before the now famous integration of Barton springs in 1962, which is quite notable indeed. I played my first round at muni in 1971. 55 years later, I was at the course last week and on the putting green, I saw on one side what looked like a three year old, and on the other side, maybe a 93 year old, both having a fabulous time.

[10:39:11 AM]

The course is used by all ages and is welcome to all. There's a common perception that golf is an elitist sport. The national golf foundation foundation, however, reports that there are an estimated 120,000 golfers in the Austin area. We do have a lot of expensive private country clubs, but they're used by a tiny percentage of our population. Muni and the youth athletic fields are community facilities with reasonable rates. Dozens of local schools use the facilities for their students community. Here is the key word and we need all the community we can hold on to. I'm also confident that the city of Austin likely doesn't have the funds to find and purchase 150 acres of undeveloped land elsewhere and build a replacement course. Those 80,000 rounds a year played at muni. Only a few of those could fit in our other municipal courses, almost all of whom which play at full capacity. I know that there are some people who feel we could get a better deal from UT, but until a few weeks ago, up until when we heard about this deal, we assumed that UT was still proposing multi million square foot development for this property towers, residential commercial developments, and those would likely turn west Austin traffic into a constant traffic jam. Now we have anonymous donors who have contributed substantial funds to make this deal happen.

[10:40:36 AM]

Happen. I think we all know that without those funds there would be no deal. Without the deal, we risk losing it all. The golf course, the youth athletic fields and the field labs. And I would encourage the university of Texas as soon as this deal is approved, to look at ways to preserve their field labs, because it is something that UT has made happen over these years and can continue to. Opportunity is another key word here, and something that I envision that hasn't been discussed is a great opportunity, and that there are height restrictions on the development along this deal, along what can be done along the lake side of the road, and combined with the setbacks that are required, we have an opportunity to potentially extend the hike and bike trail from where it dead ends at deep eddy all the way to redbud

throughout 2027. The design work is underway on the new bridge to replace the Emmett Shelton bridge, and that could extend the hike and bike trail all the way to redbud isle. And who knows, someday in the future, we might be able to boardwalk all the way back to mopac on the south side of the river, and finally complete the entire circle of the hike and bike trail around our beautiful lady bird lake. If we turn down this deal, there may never be a better, a better one.

[10:41:57 AM]

>> Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Pipkin. Mr. Overton, you have the floor.

[10:42:08 AM]

>> Thank you, mayor and other council members here. I would like to just say, speaking of the historic civil rights side of this this history of this golf course. I'm asking you to help us save this golf course. But I remember just as a kid, I was five years old on this golf course with my dad and looking at all the animals that I saw, it was like being at a zoo. I just love coming out here. And I can remember at five years old, there were only like two groups of people of my color that were playing, and one time I was with my dad out here. And then I looked around. I said, daddy, daddy, where are all these people come from? And he said, well, son, looks like the word has gotten out. They come from Houston. They come from San Antonio. They come from Dallas. They come from all over the state to play this golf course. So that is significant. It's it's history. And hopefully that the the council that you will consider saving this golf course because it is very historic. And the meaning of muni to a whole lot of people across the country, just like, well, just spoke about it and I'm speaking about it. It's, it's deep in my soul, this golf course and the years that I played on it. I learned to play golf on this course and say, looking back to when I was like five years old and I now I am 14 months from 80 years old. So I've been playing this course a long time and it's been wonderful to me. I met six of my lifetime best friends on this golf course, and out of the six guys that I met, four of them were superintendents, and I became the best man at for their weddings on this golf course that I met them. So this course means a lot to me, not only just to me, but there's so many other people that have spoken about this course and their feelings are like me.

[10:44:02 AM]

This opportunity is not going to come. I've been part of the same muni thing since 1974.

[10:44:09 AM]

>> Thank you sir. And you know, most of us know who you are. But for the record, would you please state your name?

[10:44:16 AM]

>> My name is Vollmer Overton junior. Thank you very much. From. I live in district five and I'm a fifth generation native. Austinite.

[10:44:25 AM]

>> Thank you very much. Appreciate you being here. Yes, sir. Can I.

[10:44:30 AM]

>> Can I confirm that my name was called Alex Gomez? Laos?

[10:44:35 AM]

>> It has not been called.

[10:44:39 AM]

>> There was another Alex call.

[10:44:41 AM]

>> Okay. No problem.

[10:44:43 AM]

>> Next we have Harper Joyner. Spencer. Horridge. Quinn. Deyoung and Dan Berra.

[10:44:50 AM]

>> Your name is called. Please come forward. All right. We're going to start with you and move that direction this time. How about that?

[10:45:09 AM]

>> Good morning everyone. My name is Spencer Horridge. I'm a senior at Austin high school and a team captain for the Austin high golf team. Growing up in a middle class family, country clubs were never an option. Many of us on the golf team lines is the most affordable and accessible place to play in practice. Muhyee gives thousands of kids across Austin the opportunity to learn, practice and enjoy the game of golf. Just like many other kids, I first learned how to swing a golf club at Lyons. I played for the O. Henry middle school golf team at Lyons, and now I currently practice for the Austin high golf team at Lyons. Saving money means ensuring kids of all ages get the opportunity to learn the sport. However, Lyons isn't just a place for kids to lower their handicaps. It's a place where young people learn lessons and build relationships that last a lifetime. Golf teaches integrity because you're expected to do the right thing when no one is watching. It teaches perseverance because failure is inevitable, and you have to learn how to move on from a bad shot and focus on the next one. It teaches respect, patience, and character. Lyons municipal is one of the places where lessons like these are learned, and preserving it means ensuring an opportunity for future generations.

[10:46:13 AM]

>> Hang on.

[10:46:13 AM]

>> Spencer.

[10:46:14 AM]

>> We don't do that. I know teamwork makes the dream work and all, but we don't do that. Sorry. They were sneaking up on you and I saved you.

[10:46:25 AM]

>> Being a teenager today comes with a lot of pressure. Whether it's from college applications, your family, friends, teachers or coaches, it affects all of us. Having a place like Lyons municipal gives young people the opportunity to step away from all of that on the course, the stress of an upcoming test, a difficult week, or whatever else is going on in life is a little bit less important. Green spaces like muhyee give young people room to breathe, and that is something worth protecting. Austin is such a great city because it's a city that embraces inclusivity, embraces its youth, and values the spaces that bring its community together. Lyons municipal represents all of those things. It's a place where families of all backgrounds can come together, while children can learn the game, or teenagers like me can find an escape from the pressures of growing up and where generations of austinites can make memories together. Saving uni is more than just saving a golf course. It's about preserving a part of Austin's identity and protecting a place that has served this community for decades. Let's make sure it never has to stop. Save Lyons municipal and preserve this beautiful green space forever.

[10:47:21 AM]

>> Thank you. Thank you.

[10:47:29 AM]

>> Good morning. My name is quincy young. I'm a proud member of the Austin high school boys golf team and an intern with the state muhyee conservancy. The number of on course junior golfers between the ages of six and 17 has nearly doubled, from 2.3 million in 1990 to 4.5 million in 2026, according to the national golf foundation's 2027 state of the golf business. Overall, golf participation has increased by 55% over the past decade, representing an additional 17.5 million participants and reaching a record 49.5 million in 2026. This growth shows why it's so important to keep golf accessible for young players like me and future generations. Please play the video.

[10:48:15 AM]

>> My name is George long and I'm ten years old. I've been playing golf at muhyee since I was five. It's one of my favorite places in the whole world. I always feel welcome at muhyee. It gives me a place to have fun outdoors with my friends and family. I've made so many good memories there, like when I beat my golf coach, Jason, for the first time. Or like the time when I got my first eagle on hole two. And on that money, I feel happy, excited, and proud. But what I love the most about muni is how it makes me feel free. I cannot imagine my life without muni. I want it to stay there forever. Please save muni for kids like me.

[10:49:03 AM]

>> Thank you. Yes, sir.

[10:49:05 AM]

>> Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Dan Barrett. This is my son, Taylor, who is a freshman in the Austin high golf team. I'm here today as an avid golfer, but more importantly, as a parent. I grew up in burnsville, Minnesota, where we had a course that was biking distance away from my house. When my older brother was finally old enough to ride over to the to the course, that meant that I was finally old enough to tag along. We spent some Summers at. Burnham would double and triple looping the nine hole course until it was time to come home. We played tournaments, took lessons, made up games, and met friends of all ages from all over town. Burnham any chance they get, put their name on the list and head out with whomever is available. And many times getting paired up with golfers of all ages. They spend the day outside, away from screens in the beautiful fairways of muni, learning the great game of golf. And what else are these kids learning in this incredible green space in the heart of our town? Honesty, respect, perseverance and humility. The qualities they will need as they go forward in life to do incredible things. Muni is the is the classroom for life lessons taught through recovering from wayward shots, calling penalties on yourself even when no one is looking.

[10:50:22 AM]

Keeping your own score, setting and breaking personal bests and occasionally overcelebrating good shots. My son has met so many people playing rounds of golf at muni from all sorts of backgrounds across all generations. Muni is not only rich in history, but it brings together generations in a way that few other places can. It gives young people the opportunity to be outdoors, build friendships, learn from older golfers, and develop confidence and a lifelong skill. Please help us saving muni for good. Thank you.

[10:50:54 AM]

>> Thank you. Please.

[10:51:00 AM]

>> Hello, mayor Watson, council members and city staff. My name is Harper Joyner, and I am a part of the 10% of women who play at lions municipal golf course. I come from a non golf family, but when I was eight, I wanted to give golf a try. As a young girl entering a male dominated sport, I was nervous before my first day. That feeling quickly faded the second I arrived at lions. At just eight years old, I was welcomed with open arms. I joined the youth program as one of the only girls, but never felt like I didn't belong. I was never treated differently because of my gender or age. I was simply treated like everyone else there who wanted to learn this game of golf. From elementary school to high school, lions has become more than just a golf course. To me. It's where I've grown up, made friendships, gained confidence, and learned lessons that go far beyond the game of golf. And I know that I am not the only person who feels this way. What makes lions special is that lions is a place for everyone. Over the past eight years, I have met people from all different walks of life and all over the world, including Dennis Quaid, Ben crenshaw, and hundreds of others. One thing that means the most to me is the Austin high girls golf team.

[10:52:00 AM]

Our program has created a safe space where we can learn, grow and gain confidence without feeling like we need to prove that we belong. We support one another and celebrate each other's accomplishments. But lions has given us that place. I was once a little girl who was nervous to step on the course. Now, eight years later, I get to watch other young girls find the same confidence and sense of belonging that lions has given me. And that's something that I hope every young girl gets to experience. Because lions isn't just a place to play golf, it's a place where people come to feel welcomed, supported, and a part of something bigger than themselves. For so many of us, it's a second home. When I think of the future of lions, I think of another eight year old girl walking onto the course for the first time, nervous and unsure of herself, just like I was. And I hope she gets to experience that. Everything I have, because lions hasn't just taught me how to play golf. It's taught me confidence, friendships, and most importantly, that I belong. I asked you to protect lions for future generations so that they can experience the same sense of belonging that this course has given me. Thank you for your time.

[10:52:56 AM]

>> Thank you. Thank you all.

[10:52:58 AM]

>> Next we have Jerry Jerry, are you here?

[10:53:02 AM]

>> He is.

[10:53:03 AM]

>> And Jerry has time. Donated by Clayton bullock. Clayton, are you here? Great. So Jerry will have four minutes.

[10:53:24 AM]

>> Yeah. Well, two things real quick. One is, I think our fire code issue just went away. And two, I think Austin is going to meet the attendance requirements today. Thank you all for being here. Mr. Thank you. Mr. Bell.

[10:53:51 AM]

>> Mayor and council members, my name is Jerry bell. I'm a member of the save muni muni conservancy board. I'm going to and support the proposal. I'm going to donate my time to a video narrated by Douglas Brinkley.

[10:54:08 AM]

>> And as I write and teach at rice university about civil rights. And it is remarkable to have a public golf course that was not segregated, that refused to be segregated in the south. The story of this golf course from 1924 with the Austin lions club onward was one of of innovation, one of a new kind of Austin ethos. And by 1951 and two in particular, after the brown versus Topeka decision in 1954, the south was in flame. You could almost put, you know, flags in cities like oxford, Mississippi, or Selma, Alabama, and Montgomery and Birmingham on and on, filled with civil rights unrest. And yet here in Austin, we had the only integrated golf course in the south, and we did it. This community did it without any uproar. We just simply said, that's what's fair, that there is no color line. And, and that people that may not have the money to go to an expensive country, clubs could come and play golf at muni. This here, this golf course is a national historic site. It's a shrine to the civil rights movement. And so we have to be careful not to desecrate it. We have to be preservation minded for something that that's unique and that's special. And, you know, I was born in Georgia and I sometimes get, you know, we get beat up in the south for slavery and oppression, Jim crow. So here at muhyee is the example of the opposite of a community saying, let's do the right thing from the get go.

[10:55:56 AM]

Let's make sure that this golf course people have equal access to. Well, you know, what was so unique in the early 1950s is that you had a young black golfers coming and saying, we want to play golf. We love it. And and they came to this course to do that. And this became a Mecca all over the United States. For black America, the story was, you can golf in Austin, Texas. You had black people from Houston and from Dallas, San Antonio coming here to Austin to golf because of the open policy of it. And in the very fact that this has been able to be a part of our legacy in Austin is one that makes you proud that, you know, injustice is always there. And we were in a very unjust Jim crow society in the early 50s. This became a site of a civil rights battleground, but it's won without blood spilled. And it's one where people were able to eventually integrate. And now golf, you know, is is big in the African American community. Tiger Woods is the epic hero of all time. But other people would come here recognizing it as a civil rights spot. I mean, Joe Lewis came here to golf, the great boxer, knowing that he was coming to a spot that was special for black America. The good news is the story about about black, white, brown, anybody in America, whatever the color of your skin is, had a an ability to use this as an outdoor recreation facility.

[10:57:36 AM]

We're able to play the 18 holes here is something very special. And we. Everybody needs to rally to get behind saving of the golf course.

[10:57:58 AM]

>> Excuse me. Carl Ritchie, are you here? And with time donated by Ashlyn Ruston. Great. Carl will have four minutes.

[10:58:29 AM]

>> Good morning. Mayor. Members of the council, Mr.

[10:58:33 AM]

>> City manager and madam city attorney. My name is Carl Ritchie, and I serve as the general counsel for the muni conservancy. In the fall of 1950, Alvin props, a nine year old African American youth, worked as a caddy at muni. He showed up for work one afternoon and found no one playing. So Alvin did the unthinkable. He played the course. He played the first nine holes, and after making the turn, I remember the Austin city council saw him and had him brought to the clubhouse parking lot. The council member called mayor Taylor glass, who rushed to city hall to consult with other council members and his staff. The mayor called back and he asked two questions. He asked, who is out there? And the council member said, no one. The mayor asked in, well, who is he bothering? And the council member said, no one. So the mayor said, let him play. And so Alvin finished his round and became the first African American to play a segregated golf course in the south. Word spread and others began to sneak onto the course after the Austin American statesman statesman wrote about African Americans playing muni. The city council took up the issue in April of 1951. Now imagine that you, as members of the council, were there in 1951, the Jim crow south were separate, but equal was the law of the land. Think about the calls, the letters, the visits, and the pressure those council members faced. Imagine the debate that took place on whether we were going to build a separate course, or we were going to let them play.

[11:00:16 AM]

Councilwoman Emma long led the discussion and stood up and said, we're not going to build a separate course on the east side. We're going to let them play. That was a very bold and audacious and courageous decision by the city council. It set Austin apart because cities like Houston, Beaumont, Atlanta and others, they integrated their golf courses, but only after litigation. And in fact, the Houston and Atlanta cases reached the U.S. Supreme court. African Americans from all across the state and across the country traveled to Austin to play golf, including Joe Lewis, the former heavyweight boxing champion of the world. Now let's return back to 1951, three months after the integration of muni, the council made the tough and correct decision to integrate the main and carver libraries. Six months later, they voted to integrate fire station number five on the east side. In nine months, the council voted three times to pull three bricks out of the wall of segregation to help segregation fall in Austin, Texas. This

occurred three years before the supreme court ruled in brown versus board of education and ruled that separate but equal was unconstitutional. When you think about muni, think about and enjoyable golf course.

[11:01:41 AM]

Think about a great place to enjoy nature and wildlife, and think of this historic place as the first brick that helped tumble the wall of segregation in Austin, Texas, by approving the amendments to the Beaudet and accepting the golf course, you can honor the legacy of the 1951 city council members, Alvin props and others who united Austin to become one community, and the city can own. Rather than lease a piece of history. I. I respectfully request that you vote to approve the agreement between the city and the university of Texas.

[11:02:18 AM]

>> Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Richard. Members, I indicated that we would, at 11:00, take up the the special called meeting. So I want to do that. The members of the public. We are required to have canvased the election by this date. And so we've called a special called meeting of the Austin city council. What we will do is, in just a moment, unless there's objection from council, we're going to recess the work session. We will call to order the special meeting. We will conduct a special meeting. We do need to have an executive session that will be a very short executive session, and then we'll come back in and then we'll take back up. I will adjourn that meeting and then we'll take back up the work session. So unless there's objection, the Austin city council work session for November 17th, 2026 is in recess.

[11:53:20 AM]

>> Members, I will now call back to order the work session of the Austin city council, and we were taking up the item item B one, which was related to the briefing on the muni. On muni and I will go back to the city clerk and ask the city clerk. Begin calling names again for people to come up and speak. We'll keep doing it the way we were doing it. She'll call a group of names. Please make your way forward and we'll be happy to hear from you.

[11:53:52 AM]

>> Thank you mayor. We have Rudy metayer Ed clements. Ed, are you here? Great. Ed has donated time by Sam sawyer. Are you here, Sam? Great. So Ed will have four minutes, followed by rob Gillette and Gigi Bryant.

[11:54:13 AM]

>> What were you talking smack?

[11:54:18 AM]

>> Councilmember, pleasure to have you. You want to go ahead and start us off?

[11:54:22 AM]

>> Rudy metayer. And I do want to mention and make sure I take umbrage with the fact that you went ahead and you took your time for your next session before I came to speak. So I remember that next time you all come in front of me. But I want to say this, seeing general Marshall up there speaking to folks in the community, being reminded of my own elders, Mr. Overton speaking about this community, listening to Gary Bledsoe, pastor parker Nelson, lender, talk about this golf course and what this means to us, which may be different from a lot of people. It's history, it's black history, a history that's often to too quickly been dismissed in this town, in this area, and to have a community come together for this specific issue, to go ahead and look at how long we've been discussing this for so many years. And so, you know, it's almost been decades now of about this. I've got to thank y'all for having us here today and your ability to actually make a demonstrable difference in what we have in front of us.

[11:55:40 AM]

For many of us, this is something that has been historic in a long time coming. And my hope is that each and every one of you appreciate and take pride in the fact that you're about to make history and something that makes demonstrative difference for not just east Austin, not just west Austin, but all of Austin. Thank you.

[11:56:05 AM]

>> Thank you very much. And trustee Edwards.

[11:56:09 AM]

>> Thank you. Good afternoon. Or pretty close to it. First of all, I want to thank you for this opportunity to come speak today. I am a member of district eight, and I want to talk today about district one. We saw that the Austin high school golf team practices at muni. But I want to let you know that Gus Garcia young men's academy also practices at muni. I had the opportunity to take them over for course, to talk to the pro there and to talk to Scotty about getting the kids, the clubs and the things that they needed in order to be exposed to golf. So you've created a history at this at this middle school, according to their principal, they're the first middle school in the a is3 aid district to have a golf team. So we left them with clubs, a legacy and something for them to pass on to their families. And several of them went on to lbj high school with their clubs and their skill set to be able to practice at that time. Also want to talk about the history that we have at muni. There are many opportunities where our history as African Americans are deleted or not talked about or not included in the pages of history. And muni has an opportunity to keep that alive, to talk about what we did, to talk about the changes, and to talk about how Austin is open to all communities coming together. So I'm very excited about this opportunity. I'm in full support of supporting muni in this process, and I want to thank you for your time today.

[11:57:49 AM]

>> Thank you very much. And just could you say your name for the record? I know we.

[11:57:54 AM]

>> My name is Gigi Edwards Bryant.

[11:57:56 AM]

>> Thank you very much, trustee. Pleasure to have you here to.

[11:58:00 AM]

>> Thank you, mayor pro tem. My name is Ed clements. Been in Austin for 37 years. Muni is a very special place to me and my family. I've been going there for a long, long time. I first played golf at muni in 1973 as a college student, and now I pay senior rates as a senior citizen. As a member of the media, I have contact with people in state and local sports and golf. And let me tell you, the whole world is watching what happens to muni every time I go to a golf tournament, people from the national press goes, how is the fight to save muni? And I give them updates. I'm a member of the Texas golf hall of fame and the state is watching as well. I'll make this brief because we've got a video to show, but I go to play muni because every man plays muni, the best golfer in Austin in the late 50s and early 60s was not a lawyer, not a doctor, not a professor. It was a janitor at the university of Texas by the name of Dudley Krueger. He was the best golfer and he was a janitor at UT.

[11:59:01 AM]

Please say muni for folks like Dudley Krueger and my new granddaughter, who was born last month. This time I'd like to introduce a very special video. I'm in radio. I'm not in video, so we're having a little trouble with it.

[11:59:40 AM]

>> Do you have that?

[11:59:43 AM]

>> It's like filibustering.

[11:59:44 AM]

>> I was also a coach at way and proudly coached a young basketball player named cooper Watson, who was a phenom but went on to get a doctoral degree, missed a great opportunity.

[11:59:57 AM]

>> Phenom may not be the accurate term.

[12:00:05 PM]

>> This golf course is significant. It's significant for African Americans because it demonstrates the journey by which we have come.

[12:00:14 PM]

>> Back. In 1953, words changed this golf course forever. Let them play. Thus, muni became the very first golf course in the south to integrate.

[12:00:45 PM]

>> A landmark where individuals can visit. That's really important because history will tell us what we should do, what we shouldn't do for the future. Unfortunately, the university of Texas, my Alma mater, is contemplating potentially bearing down muni, tearing down muni to make way for a mixed use development. During the week that we celebrate martin Luther king's birthday. We're here to say that muni is more than the land it occupies, more than something measured in dollars and cents. Muni represents how we can cooperatively work together to overcome racial division. This is a powerful message. This is a powerful occasion, and it tells us we can do the right things. It is a municipal golf course where many African Americans must play, because for so many years we were barred from playing at private clubs. It is a signal of our journey in this country, in this state, how far we have had to come. Individuals who leave from slavery but are allowed to play golf. It's an important story. Golf allows people to get to know one another and actually learn to respect each other. Learn from perspective. Golf is significant in that way.

[12:02:09 PM]

>> Of the 95,000 sites listed on the national register of historic places, only 3% focus on the experience of black Americans. So why is it important to preserve all of my municipal golf course?

[12:02:24 PM]

>> If we don't preserve sites, we lose a sense of history. If we lose a sense of history, we will repeat the worst part of our history. I've heard stories about people coming from as far away as Houston and Dallas, because this was the only place in the state they can play golf. That's really important. We need to preserve that legacy. We need to amplify why this golf course is important, not only to the African American community, but to the American story. I am glad to be here to support this effort. Thank you all very much.

[12:03:00 PM]

>> Thank you.

[12:03:05 PM]

>> Mayor Watson and members of the council. My name is Brian Greg. I volunteered to serve on the state historic muni district, where I'm vice chair in honor of my grandfather, Ben Wayne Greg, who helped raise me about 25 years before I was born. Colonel Greg chaired the lions club golf committee when they made the initial deal with the university of Texas for land on which to build a golf course for Austin. He was also the first manager of the course when it opened, and he oversaw the construction of the second nine holes for the lions club. And according to the Austin american-statesman, he made the first hole in 1 in 1926. It's been over 100 years since muni began, and over a million rounds of golf involving hundreds of thousands of people have been played there. My quest is to continue this historic course. The lions club built in perpetuity. The people who built this city provided us with many things that make Austin what it is today, and many of those things serve us just as well now, if not better, than they did at their inception. We must honor and preserve those things. Many of you have been to muni and seen the beehive of activity that's there every day. Our data shows that folks from zip codes across Austin use it regularly.

[12:04:22 PM]

The deal before you assures that they can continue to use it forever. I want my grandchildren to look back and say my papa helped save muni. Please help me. Please help me do it by doing so, by approving this deal that we've wanted for so long. Thank you all for your support.

[12:04:40 PM]

>> Thank you.

[12:04:43 PM]

>> Next we have.

[12:04:44 PM]

>> Mr. Mayor, council leaders. My name is rob Gillette. I had the great honor and privilege to be the chairman of the board of visit Austin for the past two years. And then prior to that vice chair for two years. As we all know, Austin is truly one of the greatest cities in the world. I went to college here. I've been a general manager of a hotel for 22 years. This vibrant culture, the beautiful spaces we have, the green spaces, the outdoor recreation. It's really a tremendous place to live and visit. And among Austin's many treasures, as we've heard all morning, is lions municipal. While Austin is home to some outstanding golf courses, many are private and inaccessible to the general public. Lions is different. Lions belongs to everyone. It's more than a golf course. It's part of Austin's history, our community and our future. We now have a remarkable opportunity to partner with Corinne crenshaw, two of the most respected names in the golf course design and restoration in the world.

[12:05:52 PM]

Imagine transforming the historic this historic Austin treasure into a world class public golf experience while preserving its natural beauty, affordability and accessibility. No membership required, no exclusivity, just a special place where everyone is welcome. This isn't simply about investment in golf, it's an investment in Austin's quality of life, our tourism, economy and future generations. I respectfully ask you to support this for my children, our grandchildren and their grandchildren and visitors to Austin to enjoy this treasured plot of land for the next 100 years. You know, great cities don't just celebrate their history. They invest in their legacy. Let's make lions municipal part of Austin's legacy for generations to come. Thank you. Here we go.

[12:06:47 PM]

>> Thank you very much.

[12:06:55 PM]

>> Next, we have Sam Matthews. Sam, are you here? And there's time donated by Cameron Jones. Cameron is here, so Sam will have four minutes, followed by Caroline Cheshire. Caroline, are you here? Okay. And time donated by Jenna Haynes. Great. So Caroline will also have four minutes.

[12:07:27 PM]

>> Hi there. My name is Sam Matthew. I'm a graduate student at UT, but I'm also speaking today as an Austin resident of district five and as someone whose life and work has been deeply shaped by bfl. My thoughts are my own and I do not represent UT. I also want to thank you for being so receptive to our concerns in regarding this agreement. I worked at bfl for three years and during my time there, I came to appreciate how extraordinary it is to have a place like this in the middle of Austin. Bfl is more than a green space. It houses a variety of ecosystems and its diversity of native Texas. Texas plants and animals provide a priceless setting for studying ecology and environmental change. I feel lucky to have worked in a place that made me feel connected to the natural landscape. Growing up in Austin, I have always valued that in bfl became a place that made me proud to call this city my home. My time at bfl ultimately inspired me to pursue a phd at UT. Its value to students and researchers is inseparable from the research, infrastructure and ecological history built over nearly 60 years. The NFL's long term biodiversity experiments and accumulated data will allow me to study how ecosystems resist invasive species, things that threaten both the ecology and economy of Texas. The history, facilities and combination of ecological diversity cannot be recreated at another location. Preserving the acreage alone is not enough.

[12:08:44 PM]

We must preserve the functioning research facility and the conditions that make its work possible. The Dean of the college of natural sciences at UT has said that UT is expanding its research strategies to leverage its full network of field stations and rely less on bfl. Bfl is by far the most actively used station. I want to pose a few important questions that come to mind from reading that statement. What happens to the research programs currently based at bfl? How will undergraduate students continue to access hands on field research so close to campus? And can the university demonstrate that its other field stations can actually replace the unique combination of resources bfl offers? Given all the reasons I have stated, bfl is not replaceable. If UT intends to preserve bfl, that commitment should be written into the agreement. Once development rights are established, the city may have less leverage to secure those protections. I don't believe Austin should have to choose between protecting muni and protecting bfl. Both matter, and both deserve a thoughtful agreement that safeguards their public value. This is why I support the environmental commission's call for stronger protections for bfl. A comprehensive

environmental assessment and meaningful public engagement before this agreement moves moves forward.

[12:09:54 PM]

The agreement should be clear enforceable commitments to protect the field laboratory and its ecology, not just general assurances. Assurances about the university's future intentions. For these reasons, I urge the city council to follow the environmental and planning commission's recommendations to delay the vote on the amended bda until June 2027. This would allow for the negotiation of protections in perpetuity. This is not a request to reject the agreement. It is a request to not rush a decision that could permanently affect an extraordinary resource. Before we fully understand what is at stake. Bfl has shaped my education, research future and my relationship with Austin. I know it has done the same for many other students, researchers, and members of this community. I want future students to have the chance to discover what I found there a place to learn, ask questions, to do meaningful science, and to feel connected to the natural world. Please give the city, the university and the public time to get this right. Delay the vote until June 2027 and make sure that the future of bfl is protected in the agreement itself. Lastly, I want to leave you with the quote with a quote from Rachel Carson. Man's attitude towards nature is today critically important, simply because we have now acquired a fateful power to alter and destroy nature. But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself. Thank you.

[12:11:23 PM]

>> Oh.

[12:11:23 PM]

>> Am I am I going? Okay. Hi, commissioner. City council. My name is Caroline Chesher. I'm a resident of district four, and I'm a phd candidate at UT. But I don't represent the university. We are here today to ask you to heed the official recommendations from your appointed planning and environmental commissions. Delay this rushed vote and protect the nearly 60 year old historical bfl in the bda. We've used our personal time in these last few weeks to rapidly assemble community stakeholders, including UT affiliates, volunteers, students, parents, the old west Austin neighborhood association and more. We've sent around a detailed survey about bfl community value and have a petition which is currently at 3000 signatures. What I can say is that allowing bfl to be developed as part of this deal to save muni is extremely unpopular. We know the value of muni, a historic and public green space where people can enjoy the outdoors. Bfl has all of those qualities, plus scientific value that changes the world. We are concerned that an ultra wealthy, anonymous donor who, quote, has feelings about what happens to the

muni golf course is calling the shots here. This is a single private citizen using their wealth to determine what happens on public land. We don't even have a development plan in place for what would be on the tract, but we know for sure that it's not, quote, university use and could be anything. A shopping mall, a pawn shop. Even though the tract was originally donated to the university by George Brackenridge to enhance education. We can't adopt the same vote now plan later approach that was recently used at dog's head. The 1989 agreement is an uncomfortable status quo. It's true. The board of regents has attempted numerous times over the years to make bfl its cash cow.

[12:13:20 PM]

However, the proposed amendments open up opportunities and incentivize its development. We need the city in this matter. Bfl is not just a UT issue, it's a city issue. The city is. Opinion matters. Otherwise, why would we have an interlocal to begin with? The save muni movement movement understands that we cannot rely on UT to do the right thing, and that's the whole point of save muni. We deserve that opportunity too, as a place directly benefiting the academic institution and its education. City council can change this. I realize folks here are scared of losing out on this opportunity, but in grasping on to this version of the agreement, we would destroy irreplaceable nature habitat for 3000 species of plants and animals. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. As for denser housing, UT has other land and apartments on the track that could be improved to house more units, and a hike and bike trail could use a boardwalk around bfl. As per the planning commission's official recommendation to you all. And as for save money, please don't allow their movement to be tainted by the backlash that would ensue if bfl was approved to be bulldozed as part of this deal. We can't let a single donor single donor determine the fate of bfl, a historically and ecologically important gem of Austin, just like muni.

[12:14:42 PM]

Lastly, I want to thank council members Fuentes and Laine for calling for transparency in this deal and for protecting bfl. Please lock in protections for bfl in the bda and save both bfl and muni. Thank you.

[12:14:57 PM]

>> Thank you very much.

[12:15:01 PM]

>> Julia Berliner, are you here? Great. Julia has time donated by Sarah Jenkins. Are you here? And Sophia Mcdonagh, are you here? Sophia? Yes. So, six minutes for Julia.

[12:15:19 PM]

>> Hi, I'm.

[12:15:20 PM]

>> Julia Berliner. I am a phd student at UT Austin studying ecology, and I also volunteer as a tour guide at bfl for the monthly science under the stars public outreach events. Highly recommend them. By the way, if you haven't been. I, however, am speaking as a community member and I do not represent the university. So when I first saw that map that I believe you've all seen with the gray development area designated on bfl, I saw other stakeholders represented like mozart's. But there was absolutely no acknowledgment of bfl on this land at all, and no delineation of any protections for that. So I want to state clearly that there is no amount of income that the university could take in from developing bfl, and there's no amount of investment in other further away field labs that can replace bfl. And I'll tell you why the location of bfl is what makes it so invaluable. I know this as a tour guide because I guide members of the community of all ages and all educational backgrounds through bfl trails and habitats, through the world class research facilities, and I see them ask questions directly to scientists. And when I was a kid, I didn't have that opportunity. I would think that most people in the room didn't, but I didn't even think to dream until attending this community event at bfl. This is something I want for my kids.

[12:16:56 PM]

When I have kids, I want to be able to to have this direct line from where the science takes place and the people doing it to the community. We have that right here in Austin, and if this has moved somewhere else, we won't have that anymore. What I don't hear people saying often either, is that the location of bfl is also the reason for its prestige, and that's because the kinds of long term, large scale ecological research that happened here. They're only possible because researchers, faculty, grad students, undergraduate employees, they can all take the bus or take their bike, for that matter, to bfl in the middle of their busy work weeks. This is what keeps these large experiments going. If, if any of this were to be moved elsewhere, the scale of the research wouldn't be the same. Now. Sorry. I think if if we bring these decades of research that have happened at at bfl that make UT prestigious, we might consider changing its motto to what ends here might do something instead of what starts here changes the world.

[12:18:13 PM]

So I because I feel so strongly about this issue, I've been attending these meetings and I've seen planning commissioners ask several times, so what's the plan for this development area? Because I'll remind everyone, this bda amendment would open land that is currently not available for non-university development to lots of non-university development. And the answer we've gotten from the university publicly is that portions of bfl will be retained. We have not seen any delineation of a plan for what portions would get retained, and I can tell you there are 12 plus unique habitats on bfl, and we have no information as to, you know, will it be the habitat that contains rare species of orchids that hadn't been found in 50 plus years? Will they get bulldozed for development? We don't know. There are still newly discovered species of ants that haven't been properly documented yet, and I think my colleagues would like to know if they should rush that process before the habitat of those ants gets bulldozed. So I come here to ask, let's let's not leave this vague. We've just seen from dog's head what happens when vague assurances of protection are met with zoning entitlements and the signing of a tirz they go out the window. I want to see binding protections for the 82 acres of bfl, and we also need time for experts on what kinds of buffers we need between bfl and neighboring development.

[12:19:54 PM]

There haven't been best practices applied here. I've heard that from the planning commission. I hope you all have two. I think we need time for experts on these kinds of topics to to actually review them. We need environmental review. And frankly, whenever planning commercial commissioners ask questions about the plan, the only person here answering them is a real estate lawyer who, according to his firm's website, his specialty is. Environmental issues, including the endangered species act as it applies to real estate development. Just think about what that says about the university's plans. Once this bda is approved. Thank you.

[12:20:44 PM]

>> Olivia Bronzo Munich. Zach Anderson. Drew Lawson. Will. Bridges. I'm also going to call Ann. Nguyen. Ann. Are you here?

[12:21:07 PM]

>> We'll start here.

[12:21:09 PM]

>> Hello, council. My name is Olivia. Bronze, Munich. And for identification purposes only, I'm a first year plant biology phd student at UT Austin. My comments are my own. As a constituent member of council member zo qadri, I'm speaking today to urge you to delay the vote on the bda until June 2027 and to help protect bfl by adopting the amendments recommended by the environmental and planning commissions. I first became familiar with the exceptional opportunities at bfl for years before I ever stepped foot in Austin. When I entered turn, when I interned at a collaborating lab halfway across the country and had the chance to work with specimens and experimental data collected there, I knew then that it was a special place. That research convinced me to pursue my phd and encouraged me to consider UT for graduate school. The development of bfl would be a tragic and irreplaceable loss for research community that draws people to Austin. And as you've heard, it would be detrimental to education and local community engagement. This deal has been rushed through and has not been put forward in a transparent way, which involves all stakeholders.

[12:22:13 PM]

This is clear from the fact that our community was notified only in the past several weeks, and the way bfl was admitted from the bdas maps and from the language in many announcements of this deal. Additionally, the lack of clarity on the university's plans for development are quite concerning to us. These shortcomings are also clear in how the deal fails to consider city wide goals that I know matter to many of you. The tract currently includes affordable housing, and the bda does not require that it be preserved within the tract. The bda also imposes height limits that were admitted in previous briefings to be arbitrary, which should be a red flag for those who are advocates of dense housing, it is possible to create a deal that preserves muni, which I completely support, but also preserves bfl in its entirety and protects and potentially increases affordable housing. But that's not the deal that's in front of you right now. We need more time to make that possible. Please don't let this become another example of development rushed through without.

[12:23:12 PM]

>> Thank you. Thank you.

[12:23:16 PM]

>> Thank you, mayor Watson and city council members. My name is drew Lawson. I'm on the save muni advisory board, and I'm speaking in favor of the proposed amendments that would save muni. The Texas

legislature is aware of the long running discussions between the city and UT regarding muni. It's fair to say that the legislature has a strong interest in the future of muni, and probably wants to approve and ratify the amendment to the bda and conveyance of muni to the city of Austin. In the 85th legislature, senator Craig Estes introduced senate bill 822 to transfer muni from the UT to the Texas parks and wildlife. The bill passed the senate but ran out of time in the house calendars committee in the 86th legislative session, the legislature passed senate bill 2553. By then senator Watson. The bill established the save muni historical district. The legislature views the district as a placeholder, while the city of Austin and the university negotiate an agreement on muni. This is further illustrated by the legislature passing bills in the subsequent sessions to extend the historical district.

[12:24:26 PM]

However, during the house committee debate on hb 2421 last session, several house members, in particular representative David spiller from jacksboro, inquired of each testifying witness the status of the negotiations between the city and the university, and how many times the legislature has extended the framework of the parties to negotiate a settlement. He urged the parties to quickly reach an agreement. Other committee members inquired about sticking points preventing the parties from reaching an agreement. Senator Paul Bettencourt, chairman of the senate local government committee at the time, also recommended the parties reach an agreement soon. The Texas legislature, the 90th Texas legislature, convenes January 12th of next year and adjourns may 31st of 2027. Although the.

[12:25:17 PM]

>> I'm sorry, your time's up. We appreciate your being here. Thank you.

[12:25:23 PM]

>> Hello, I am will bridges, and today I am representing preservation Austin as a vice president of its executive committee and board of directors and will be reading an official statement signed by our board president and executive director. Dear mayor Watson, mayor pro tem vela and members of Austin city council, preservation Austin exists to empower austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient and meaningful community culture through preservation. We write today to express our support for the city of Austin's acquisition of lions municipal golf course, a national register listed 18 hole public golf course and civil rights landmark as the first public golf course in the south to desegregate. Muni holds a significant place in the national story of racial integration, and we urge that its 141 acres be preserved. Established in 1924, lions municipal golf course has been a part of Austin's fabric for over 100 years. Located just a mile from the historic freedmen's community of Clarksville, African American residents of the neighborhood helped build the course and later worked there as caddies.

[12:26:28 PM]

Despite the important contributions of black austinites to muni's founding, the course remained a segregated facility until one afternoon in 1951, when two young African American boys quietly Teed off and made civil rights history. That day, city of Austin officials decided to allow the youths to complete their round, ushering in an era of de facto integration at muni. It would be several years before other public golf courses in the south followed suit. The experience of segregation remains a living memory for many east austinites, and muni stands as a testament to that injustice and the progress that followed. Through our support, we honor the advocacy of people like general Marshall and volma Overton junior, who bore witness to this history and spent decades championing the preservation of muni. We are grateful to the city of Austin and the university of Texas at Austin for taking this significant step in preserving the civil rights landmark for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration and your service.

[12:27:29 PM]

Thank you, city of Austin.

[12:27:30 PM]

>> Mayor, may I ask the gentleman in the middle, can you email us the rest of your testimony? I'm very interested to learn more about the legislative history on this.

[12:27:38 PM]

>> Yes, ma'am.

[12:27:39 PM]

>> Happy to.

[12:27:39 PM]

>> Thank you. Sorry for not being more concise.

[12:27:42 PM]

>> Miss Wynn.

[12:27:42 PM]

>> Good afternoon, mayor and members of the city council. My name is Ann.

[12:27:46 PM]

>> And could you hold on just one second? You do have donated time. Is Carlos Mendoza here?

[12:27:50 PM]

>> Yes.

[12:27:51 PM]

>> Okay. Four minutes.

[12:27:53 PM]

>> Thank you. I've lived in Austin since 1975. I'm a past president of way, where I worked on this issue probably 20 years ago. My husband, Fred Ellis, and I have raised our three children here. Lions golf course is a second home to our son, Alex Ellis, from the age of five years. He's 35 years old now. He never wanted to join a country club. He always wanted to refer to lions as his home course. I could tell you all the important life lessons Alex has learned at lions, but I want to tell you another story about

why lions needs to be saved for our future generations. And that story has to do with the relationship that Alex and our family had with a man who grew up and lived his entire life in east Austin until he passed in 2021. His name is L D Washington, and he is a legend in east Austin for being an athlete and a mentor to thousands of children in east Austin. His relationship with lions, as with so many of his friends, is why lions was able to secure its much deserved historic preservation designation. L D was Alex's basketball coach on the east Austin yellow jackets when he started there at age five. L D knew from the beginning that golf was his sport. Put that ball down, pick those clubs up, he said. Of course he was exactly right. L D was there for every one of Alex's tournaments for 26 years until he died. As a side note, I also got to know L D even before he was Alex's basketball coach, when he worked in the machine shop at txdot and I was on the txdot commission. But that's another story. When L D retired from txdot, he went to work cleaning golf courts carts at Morse Williams. He did that because he just wanted to be near the game. He loved L. D was known and loved at every one of Austin's municipal courses. In the summer of 2021, Alex was playing in the 4th of July firecracker tournament. L D was 81 and pretty weak by then. I called him and asked him if he would like to ride in the cart with me and follow Alex. Driving him around that day at lions was like driving tiger around Augusta. This time L D got to be the royalty.

[12:30:23 PM]

Every new home and a new group that was glad to see him and thank him for who he had been to them in the golf world in Austin. I asked him who he played with the first time he played at lions. He said, I came here to caddie, not play that first time. I asked him if he remembered who he caddied for and he said, nah, just some rich cat. L D was born in 1940. Fred and I were born in the decade behind him. He lived his entire life in a pretty segregated world. Madly in love with a traditionally very segregated sport. But this is where the uniqueness of lions comes in. Lions gave lda place to play golf. It did not matter what color your skin was, did not matter if you lived on the east side. Any zip code in the city has been welcomed at lions for decades. Lions is here for all of us to enjoy, not just.

[12:31:21 PM]

It's 78703 neighbors, all of us. That's why we have to save this treasure for all of Austin, for all the future lds and Alex's to come. Thank you.

[12:31:33 PM]

>> Thank you. Councilman Madison.

[12:31:38 PM]

>> Thank you for the interruption. I know it's not customary, but L D was my uncle. And I didn't realize that such lovely testimony would be presented here today. So I just as quickly as I could send a text and live links to my family. But I appreciate that that will be in the archival footage forever. Thank you.

[12:31:59 PM]

>> Thank you, council member. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

[12:32:03 PM]

>> Jonathan hart, Susanne Erickson, Ansley noir. Taylor Carmouche. Mike Allen. Mike Allen, are you here? Is Al Kohler here? Okay, then Mike will have four minutes.

[12:32:28 PM]

>> Please begin.

[12:32:28 PM]

>> Good afternoon. My name is Jonathan hart. I began playing golf when I was 12 years old on a public golf course. That public golf course was a safe place for me to be after school. It's where I spent every waking hour during the summer breaks. It's the place where I learned how to interact with adults. It's where I learned to set goals. And it's where I learned to process failures. Very truly public golf gave me a leg up in life. I moved to Austin in 2016. Almost immediately. My daughter and I started being at muni every day. Muni became for her a place where she could play with her friends. Also at Huy and muni was a sanctuary in the middle of the city. For her, it's where she saw her first fox, her first owl. And I'll never forget the squeals when she saw her first skunk. I developed a habit of showing up early on the weekends at muni without a tee time alone, just to see who I could get paired with. Those rounds of golf are some of the most cherished of my life. I've played golf at muni with tech executives and plumbers, with bankers and electricians, with doctors and school teachers, and countless junior high and high school students. That's the magic of muni. It brings people together because it's not just public golf, but it does it in an amplified way because of its location in the city and because of its history and role in our community in Austin, muni brings people together. It gives kids a place to not only learn the game of golf, but to learn the game of life.

[12:34:29 PM]

>> Thank you very much for being here, Mr. Allen.

[12:34:35 PM]

>> Hello, my name is Mike Allen. I'm 78 years old and a fourth generation austinite. I'd like to share how lions municipal golf course has impacted my personal and professional life. In 1958, at age ten, I started going to muni with my dad to be his caddie and his Saturday morning golf game. At that time, muni was the only public 18 hole golf course in Austin. We were not members of a country club, so my dad and his friends played at muni. They weren't particularly good golfers, but I saw how they loved playing the game. As a precursor to playing on a golf course, I started hitting golf balls from TRE to TRE with a seven iron in northwest park near our home. My friends and I put coffee cans in the ground and made our own course. We had a blast. First round of golf I ever played was at night at butler. Pitch and putt. I got to play with my dad, my grandfather and my uncle. In 1960, I tried out for the golf team at Lamar junior high school and made the team. We played and practiced at muni. I went on to play golf for Mccallum. I was the oldest of seven children, and my dad told me there would be no money for college. He encouraged my golf in the hope that I could receive a golf scholarship. I was a good player. I had scholarship offers from Texas Tech, UT and Lamar. I chose Lamar because he offered me room and board books and tuition for four years. That was my ticket to the future. I graduated from Lamar university with a ba and an mba. Because I was educated, I was able to spend 40 years working in higher education administration, nine years as a registrar at galveston college, three years as a registrar at Alvin community college, and 28 years as an associate registrar at the university of Texas at Austin. This was all possible because I was introduced to golf at lions municipal golf course on a personal level. My best friends in life are people I met playing golf at muni as a teenager. 65 years later, we're still playing golf together on a weekly basis. I treasure these friendships. In 1986, I met a girl in llano, Texas while playing in a golf tournament. She lived in San Antonio. Our first date, she drove to Austin and met me in the parking lot at muni. It was a well-known landmark and there were no gps navigation systems at that time. We drove to lake Travis and went sailing. We've been married for 38 years and we play golf together at Austin country club. My doctor is someone recommended by golfing buddy. We recently remodeled our home and used a contractor recommended by friends in our golfing circles. I could go on for a while with examples of how my personal life has been impacted by golfing experiences.

[12:37:32 PM]

For me, it started at lions municipal golf course when I go to muni. Now what I see is a community of men, women, girls and boys of all ages and races taking advantage of the opportunity to exercise, make

friends, enjoy nature, make business contacts and learn the value system that golf and especially competitive golf have to offer. We need to preserve this golf course for these opportunities that it provides to our community. I'm a good example of how these opportunities can improve our lives. Muhyee field of dreams and they come true. Thank you for your time.

[12:38:15 PM]

>> Thank you sir. Yes, ma'am. Please.

[12:38:21 PM]

>> I'm Taylor Carmouche and I'm donating my time to a video.

[12:38:39 PM]

>> I've been around muni since 1978, when I came to college and playing the tour for 22 seasons. And, you know, having having the experience of seeing courses all over the world, Australia, Scotland, Italy and the United States, it's it's really a treasure here that we have heritage trees have to be 24in in diameter. Protected trees are 19in in diameter. And there are hundreds on this property. There are some of our most famous heritage trees are right here near the clubhouse. I love the arms and how they just give us great ranches and coverage. And probably my favorite hole on on lions municipal is the par three number 17. And it's because of the way the trees encase that green. And they're just they've got a story to tell. You can just see the age and the way the limbs bend. And they must be protected and preserved.

[12:39:41 PM]

Brackenridge gifted this natural land to UT, and it is a privilege for UT to take care of this gift. It's a priceless treasure, muni. And this is what the muni conservancy is helping to do. Muni is an outdoor classroom. It's a public parkland. People need nature, the outdoors. We ask UT to recognize the importance of our outdoor spaces for keeping our minds and our bodies healthy. I believe Brackenridge is asking UT to be good stewards of what was gifted to them for generations to come. We all need healthy lands and environments to thrive, and life is better outside.

[12:40:38 PM]

>> Hi, my name is Suzanne Erickson and I live in district ten. I thought I was donating my time to a video, which is why I didn't prepare anything today. But that changed, which is fine, and I thought it would give me an opportunity to tell you guys a quick story about why money is so important to me and my family. My son is a senior at Austin high school and on the golf team, and he was a candidate a year and a half ago to get his eagle scout. We sat down as a family and talked about what he would do for his eagle scout project, and the first thing that came to mind for him was like, mom, I want to do something for muni. So he was able to raise money, recruit volunteers, and install much needed directional signs on the golf course. It was a day of celebration for him and his friends and his golf teammates, and I'm very proud of him for that. Muni is a very important part of our family and our community, and I strongly suggest you guys vote in favor of everything we've discussed today. Thank you.

[12:41:47 PM]

>> Thank you. Please go on.

[12:41:55 PM]

>> Billy Claggett, Edward lebrun, Nick Lebeau, Tommy Norris.

[12:42:01 PM]

>> If your name has been called, please come forward. Whoever wants to begin.

[12:42:25 PM]

>> My name is Nick Lebeau, and I'm the head golf coach at Austin high school and a proud native austinite who grew up in the city's parks and green spaces on the Austin high golf team. We have a set of core values, two of which are character and community. Muni gives me a place to teach these core values, which I believe are part of the winning curriculum of life. The lessons that can't always be taught in the classroom. I remember a specific character building moment during a tournament at muni, when a student's ball barely moved as they moved a small rock behind it. Nobody else saw. Yet we discussed why assessing the penalty anyway mattered. Because one day that student would become a leader in

our city, and our city needs leaders of integrity. Muni is also where community is built. Every year, nearly 100 Austin high golfers call it home, a place where teammates become family. Walking those fairways. Over the years, I've had thousands of conversations with students. We've celebrated life's biggest highs, from winning tournaments to college acceptances, and we've carried each other through the lows divorce, illness, injury, or even the loss of a loved one.

[12:43:35 PM]

Muni is a place of healing that creates space for these kinds of life affirming conversations that simply don't happen in the fast paced environment of other sports. Mayor Watson recently said that a truly great city is measured by whether it is great for children and not just some children, but all children. I urge you to move forward with this agreement, to save this green space and keep this life changing game affordable for all. Keep Austin a truly great city for my children, for their children, and for generations to come. Please save muni for good.

[12:44:19 PM]

>> Why don't you go ahead? Thank you.

[12:44:22 PM]

>> My name is Tommy Norris. I am a I was born in Austin, raised in Buda, and I am what you would call a Lyons member. From out of the proper area. I am also the proud golf coach at Austin high. And as you saw before, we had quite an army behind us with the golf team. The one thing that I wanted to make a comment on here is, are the members of our golf team are teenagers that understand the weight and the moment that they have as members of our golf team, to be a voice during this very historic, important transitional moment of our the history of our golf community and not only our golf community, but a broader community that is immeasurable. I believe that the golf course has lent itself to shaping the lives of countless and countless members of our city and our society.

[12:45:41 PM]

Ones that you would potentially not know by just speaking to them, because maybe it doesn't come up. But I believe that the golf course itself is one of the heartbeats of Austin, because not only does it represent every public player past champion, high school player, middle school player, I believe that it

helped shape the broader scene of the city of Austin. And for that reason, I believe that we really need to vote yes and save and continue the legacy of Lyons for the future. Thank you.

[12:46:22 PM]

>> Thank you. Yes, sir.

[12:46:26 PM]

>> Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is doctor Edward Lebron. For identification purposes only, I'm a research scientist at UT Brackenridge field laboratory. I'm speaking in my personal capacity and not as representative of the university. I support preserving all of Brackenridge field laboratory for its current use. Bfls value depends on maintaining its integrity. Bfl is a field laboratory and requires open space. Research requires space to replicate experience experiments. Teaching field courses requires nature to study bfls easy commute from campus opens research opportunities, particularly for students who must work. Bfls research benefits Texas and Austin alongside invaluable basic science. Vfl conducts applied research using biological knowledge to formulate sustainable solutions to environmental problems. Close to my heart is bfls 40 years of research on the sustainable control of invasive species, beginning with imported fire ants. Some of you remember how bad imported fire ants were in Austin in the mid 1980s. In part, folks can enjoy sitting on the grass in their yards in central Texas. Because of the fire ant. Natural enemies established through the work at bfl. More recently, bfl research has found a solution to tawny crazy ants. This natural enemy intervention eradicates entire super colonies, a global first in biological control. These ants have been eliminated from state parks and natural areas across Texas, including many Austin preserves protecting the endangered species they contain and the Austin residents living in adjoining neighborhoods.

[12:48:01 PM]

Beyond invasive species, bfl researchers investigate using native grasses adapted to arid environments to generate biofuels. Humanitarian engineering students develop technological technologies addressing mosquito and disease control, sanitation, housing and humanitarian aid, campus camps. Texas robotics develops autonomous cars and boats. All of these endeavors intimately involve undergraduates commuting from campus. I encourage the council not to accept the false dichotomy of protecting muhyee.

[12:48:29 PM]

>> Thank you very much.

[12:48:31 PM]

>> Developmental standards.

[12:48:33 PM]

>> Frederick. Dr. Craig Nasr, Jolene. Grisham, Mitchell. Griffin.

[12:48:52 PM]

>> Why don't we start with you, Mr. Doctor Nasr.

[12:48:57 PM]

>> Craig. Nasr. Sierra. Club. We support preserving muni. I noticed that nowhere in the city's presentation or in the recent Watson wire on this topic was the Brackenridge field lab mentioned. This appears to reveal that the city is indifferent to sacrificing the Brackenridge field lab to save muni. The Sierra club cannot support that. The recent election was about the power of private money, now controlling the lives of most Americans. The sport of golf has a 500 year history and wealthy supporters. The biological wonder of planet Earth has a 5 billion year history and supports every living thing on Earth. Humans have a history of being indifferent to that right now. UT might happily develop the back the bfl for the sale of muni. A deal supported by an anonymous and I'm sure, very large donation. It's too bad that the bfl doesn't have the same financial support. It does have the support of thousands of environmentally aware austinites, many of whom don't know it's on the chopping block.

[12:50:11 PM]

The bfl is likely to have the support of the new environmentally friendly administration of government. Gina Hinojosa. That's why we are asking to postpone this decision until June of 2027. The bfl is

important to the environment. The environmental community of Austin. Please keep this in mind. At the next election.

[12:50:41 PM]

>> This. Grissom. I want to start with you. Mr. Grissom. Why don't we go with you?

[12:50:50 PM]

>> Good morning. Well. Good afternoon. Changing my my speech. My name is Joey Grissom, and I'm the vice president of the Austin women's public links golf association at Lyons. We are so thoughtful about that. City of Austin has provided the women's groups at every other public golf course, which we are. I've been playing golf. Well, I won't tell you my age because when I started playing, I didn't have to wear glasses. I can tell you that for our members at Lyons, it's more than a place to play golf. It's a place to build friendships, stay active and feel connected to our community. At one point, I had a business called golf for business because there were not enough women's playing in tournaments. So we tried to teach women how to play golf and do business on the golf course. And maybe that has helped a little bit.

[12:51:41 PM]

>> Now, according to the golf foundation, there are more than 8 million women who play golf, which constitutes 28% of all golfers. And from that, between 20 and 2020 and 2025, that accounts for 52% of the growth that we. Our association at lions is doing its best. We currently have 58 member active members, ranging in age of 40 to 91. Our Wednesday games bring us together for more than friendly competition. They foster lasting friendships, give us opportunities to share useful resources, and provide a steady supply of golf tips, some of which even work. We consider lines of welcoming course for women, although a couple of holes might test that description, such as the hogan number 16. As people have said, we cannot say enough about the lions staff. They are constantly helping us, supportive of our flexible working with us and our association. Their kindness makes it different and helps our members feel welcome.

[12:52:51 PM]

>> Thank you very much for being here. Yes, sir.

[12:52:57 PM]

>> Hello, my name is Mitchell griffin and I'm a member of the muhyee conservancy advisory board. And so I'm very thankful today that we've been able to discuss muni's history, the significance in the civil rights movement, and how it's remained a constant part of Boston's identity has as the city and the world has evolved around it. So lions has hosted a variety of competitive golf tournaments. The firecracker open, taking place since 1946, various state championships and then the occasional weekend money game. So but what's impressive about muni isn't the competitions that take place there, the scores that are shot, or really even the golf. What makes me special is the gravitational pull that causes people to congregate there and create friendships that otherwise would not exist. And so Austin is known as as the town where the hippies and cowboys came together. And unfortunately, places like armadillo world headquarters and Threadgill's are no longer here. But that similar spirit remains alive at muni. So I've spent a countless five hour rounds at muni with my best friends, total strangers from all kinds of different backgrounds, children young enough to be my son, men old enough to be my grandfather.

[12:54:15 PM]

And those encounters certainly don't happen at other golf courses. And they're getting much harder to find anywhere these days. And it's a pattern of human nature that we only realize we were living in the good old days after they're gone. And in Austin, you hear it all the time. You should have been here ten years ago. Fortunately, muni isn't a memory yet. And the good the good old days are happening right now. So let's save this place today. So years from now, when somebody says, you should have been here ten years ago, they say it on the first tee at lions. Thank you.

[12:54:49 PM]

>> Ellen. Lindsey. Ellen, are you here? And there's time. Donated by Shannon Wardlaw. Is Shannon okay? So Ellen will have four minutes followed by Elizabeth bowman. Elizabeth, are you here? Great. And time donated by aspen Fritsch. So four minutes for Elizabeth as well.

[12:55:16 PM]

>> Please begin.

[12:55:17 PM]

>> My name is Ellen Lindsey and I live in district seven. I was I volunteered at the very first save muni fundraiser. I was six years old. Mary Arnold recruited me. She is my mother. She is not able to be here today. So. But I want you to know she is in full support of this agreement. It's my honor to share a video of her.

[12:55:54 PM]

>> This course encompasses the kind of cultural environment that includes the trees. Even some of the cedar trees. It includes the hills of the central Texas area. It includes the history of, of, of time in Austin when a dam was built and a lake was created, and then the dam broke. But we still had a dam railroad which became a dam trolley. And here was the golf course. And it was, it was used and enjoyed by so many for so long. To lose a green space like this would be tragic. One fellow said my stepfather would drop me off at the golf course every summer morning, and he said it saved my life to be able to be here in this place where I knew I was cared for and people paid attention, and I could learn to play golf and didn't have to worry about all the problems at home. It saved my life to be here. As one lady said, the golf course is like the lungs of Austin. If Barton springs is the soul and the heart of Austin muni is the lungs. This nice big open space. Can can be so much. It's important to save lions municipal golf course because it's public land. It has been used by so many people over the years. A piece of our own civil rights history took place right here at muni, an early desegregation in a state from the old confederacy. And that hasn't happened in any of those other states. It is unique. This is green space that means a lot to this community, to our history. And as my father used to say, they aren't making land anymore. If we lose this, it's gone forever. Save muni.

[12:58:33 PM]

>> Please.

[12:58:35 PM]

>> Okay.

[12:58:36 PM]

>> Thank you for letting me be here today and speak to you about this issue. My name is doctor Elizabeth bowman and I'm a research scientist at the Brackenridge field laboratory. The views I express today are my own, and I'm speaking in my personal capacity as a scientist and ecologist familiar with bfl. And I'm not speaking on behalf of UT or the field laboratory. I'm asking the council to delay approval of the amended Brackenridge development agreement until June 2027, as recommended by the environmental and planning commissions. We need sufficient time to complete environmental assessments, establish meaningful protections for bfl, and ensure that the scientific community has a voice in the planning process. I think it is important to consider what we mean when we talk about the value of this land, because value means different things to different people. Many of my colleagues who have spoken today in a past meetings have expressed their appreciation for bfl and concerned about its future. Future. They recognize its value and its biodiversity, the ecological functions it supports, the educational opportunities it provides, and even the peacefulness it offers in an increasingly urban environment environment. In listening to the supporters of muni here today, these are similar to what we've heard about the value that muni provides. My concern is that these values, though, may be overshadowed by another measure of value. Its worth as a real estate asset and its potential for development. But the value of bfl extends far beyond what can be measured in in dollars from the outreach events we've heard about, including one I'm giving tonight a talk on Texas star, which is the state mushroom of Texas at bfl at 7 P.M. You're welcome to attend. As well as discovery of new species. Support of rare species across bfl community outreach events, which I've already said, but they are very important. And bfl contribution to scientific discovery, urban ecology, education and community are enduring. They are investments that can benefit Austin and future generations, provided we protect them now. As an ecologist, I also want to emphasize that protecting bfl means protecting more than just the land within its boundaries.

[1:00:42 PM]

Development nearby can fundamentally change the ecological conditions that make this place valuable. Changes in drainage, runoff, vegetation, lighting, noise, and wildlife connectivity can all compromise the integrity of the site and surrounding sites such as muni, and the research that is conducted at bfl would be lost. I appreciate the thoughtful recommendations from the environmental planning commission, particularly their calls for the permanent protection of bfl 82 contiguous acres, which was outlined in the original 1989 bda. Students, research staff and faculty are working to preserve bfl within UT, but the city does have power here. One of these things that the city can do is allow us more time. The UT community and wider Austin community to advocate for bfl preservation within UT. A month is not enough time to do that, and we have not gotten clear communication from UT about the future of bfl. Also, you can put in the bda further protections for bfl and the surrounding areas. With this, the city of Austin can send a message to UT that the city of Austin recognizes the true and inherent value of bfl. We can preserve muni while also protecting bfl. These are not mutually exclusive goals. I hope council will look beyond the immediate monetary value of this land and recognize the wider value it provides and what it makes possible more long term for our community and for generations to come. Thank you.

[1:02:22 PM]

>> Kalia. Babble. Kelly Mcclure. Cameron. Castillo. Matt Hovis. Liliana. Benitez.

[1:02:50 PM]

>> Please go ahead. Either one of you.

[1:02:59 PM]

>> I was going first.

[1:03:00 PM]

>> Sure. Go ahead.

[1:03:01 PM]

>> Okay. Good afternoon, council members. My name is Cameron Castillo and I am an undergraduate pre-medical student at UT. I also study environmental science at UT. I'm giving up my time right now in class and my time studying because this agreement cannot be rushed. There's no world where it's okay to announce a major land agreement in October, and then try to codify it a month, like like a month later, hundreds of students, researchers, professionals, and Austin residents still need to be heard. Many of them can't make it today or any of these other days. We're deeply unsatisfied that 82 acres of one of the most biodiverse natural spaces in central Texas still lacks explicit, legally binding protection. After receiving so many threats from developers and now is being left behind as a concession. We don't have a rich, anonymous donor to save us, and we're scared. Breckenridge field lab cannot be restored once it is destroyed. If the university truly values conservation, they should have no problem putting that protection in writing. But as it stands, these revised amendments incentivize UT development on. To develop on bfl. And if anyone here still doesn't understand the value of the space, then I urge you find one of the dozens of scientists in this room. Let them take you into those woods and fields, and they will reveal an entire world. You only needed to look closer to see. Bfl is an irreplaceable training ground for young scientists, a vital environmental safeguard protecting Austin from floods and extreme heat, and an asset to international science. We have a duty to be stewards of this land and leave it unmolested for

our sons and daughters to appreciate every single argument being made to save muni is the exact same reason we must save brac.

[1:04:47 PM]

Austin deserves both and no less. I am a Texan, born and raised, and I urge you postpone this agreement until June 2027 and incorporate the environmental commission's recommendations. Give the broader Austin community time to properly weigh in so that this agreement can be made with our legacy and integrity intact, not rushed.

[1:05:06 PM]

>> Thank you sir. Please begin.

[1:05:15 PM]

>> Should I go? Okay.

[1:05:16 PM]

>> Yes, please.

[1:05:17 PM]

>> Good afternoon, city council members. My name is Liliana Benitez. I'm a resident of district four, a grad student at UT, a capital area master naturalist, and an Austin TRE ambassador. But today, all of my comments are my own and do not represent any of these organizations I'm a part of. I was born and raised in south Austin, and being able to grow up exploring central Texas green spaces and our beautiful city is the reason why I fell in love with ecology in the first place. After listening to everyone speaking today, it is so clear to me that we all value the importance of city green space for building our community. Furthermore, it is clear to me that we are all here to ask the city to ensure that UT Austin stewards our public natural areas in a way that safeguards the land and the nature itself. I'm speaking today to please ask the council to protect the Brackenridge field laboratory from commercial

development and postpone the approval of the bda until June 2027, so that we can make sure that both of these historic green spaces remain in Austin for perpetuity, unlike any other field station UT Austin has. Bfl is easily reachable to our students by bus. Because of this, I am able to more easily mentor undergraduates in my research, where we study native wildflower communities, including our state flower, the Texas bluebonnet. I've also personally accompanied undergraduate classes from main campus to vfl via bus.

[1:06:36 PM]

Sometimes. The first time these students have been on a bus. To teach about the plants and insects and research that we have at the field station. The centrality and accessibility of the field station is one of the many reasons why it's so important that we protect this site. I'm also very aware of the benefit that bfl brings to the community as a free to visit public green space, with regular outreach programing for all ages. Outside of my research, I'm one of the many master naturalists who have volunteered personal time conducting projects at bfl. This site is not just a biodiverse ecological hub. It is also a community meeting space that needs to be preserved and utilized as a historic, public and accessible land that it is. We're simply asking the council for more time. Thank you.

[1:07:22 PM]

>> Alex Gomes, Laos. Ryan Hernandez. Ryan, are you here? And Ryan has time donated by sun Yee. So okay, that's four minutes for Ryan. Alyssa. I'm sorry. Hasan. Alyssa, are you here? Okay.

[1:07:44 PM]

>> Please.

[1:07:44 PM]

>> Hello. City council. My name is Alex Gomes. Laos. I'm a resident of district four. I'm not an ecology researcher yet. Bfl is very close to my heart, as it should be to all austinites. I'm against the current proposal because it removes guardrails and incentivizes bfl development. Growing up here, I fell in love with our green spaces early on. Those patches of urban wilderness where I spent my childhood, like the Barton creek greenbelt, swimming, exploring off trails, pursuing imagined treasure maps, spelunking, climbing trees, and even getting lost. Now, greenbelt is the jewel of Austin than the 82 acre wildlife

enclave that bfl is its crown. Its unique value is precisely that it's undeveloped, boasting incredibly distinct biodiversity. The density of species per acre dwarfs every other green space in Austin, Barton and muhyee included. At this point in time, the public does not understand the subtext of this proposal. The community would lose all of bfl forever. Bfl volunteers and staff were only made aware of this proposal three weeks ago without notification from UT.

[1:08:47 PM]

Despite this, we've accrued 3000 signatures and the support of the planning and environmental commissions. The message of your appointed advisors is clear. Delay the vote until June 2027 after bfl 60th birthday to allow time for environmental and community evaluation. Delaying the vote until December 3rd would not be enough. What more can be accomplished in two weeks, one of which is a major travel and holiday week for the majority of us. UT has not publicized their plans for developing bfl, but we know that this deal incentivizes it for them. They have tried three times in the past to save money. Movement doesn't trust UT to protect them for development, so why should we? Muhyee is asking the city for protection and so are we. Framing this as an internal UT deal? Is removing the responsibility that the city has to make decisions about the land? We cannot tarnish save money by a rushed deal where single private donor dictates what happens to environmentally sensitive public land. Why are we being forced to choose between the two? We mustn't bulldoze bfl in hopes of saving money. Both can and ought to be saved.

[1:09:46 PM]

>> Yes, sir. Please begin. Thank you.

[1:09:51 PM]

>> Good afternoon, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Ryan Hernandez and I'm a graduate student in the plant biology program in the integrative biology department at UT, as well as one of the many people concerned about the future of the Brackenridge field lab. I'm speaking as a private citizen, and my opinions do not represent those of UT. One common question I keep hearing is why are y'all concerned about bfl at previous planning commission meetings has been made very clear from UT representatives that there is no current plans to develop bfl. However, this being repeated without confirmation that. From UT that they will not develop the field lab and keep it in its entirety. Scares me because in my time here at UT, they have established a track record of making major decisions at the college of natural sciences, or higher level with a lack of transparency and communication with ib department, faculty, staff, students and we have suffered for it. For example, last year ib was moved from the biology building on campus in favor of using the building for the civitas

institute. In this decision, UT gave the ib department about half a year to move all of their office classrooms and labs out of the biology building without any indication of where we were supposed to go. As one would expect, the students and faculty alike off guard, and many are still struggling to find their footing after the eviction. In another example of this, there are also some on campus greenhouses that that UT demolished in my time here.

[1:11:08 PM]

More than just buildings for plants, greenhouses allow for many research projects to occur in controlled conditions. If you've ever tried to keep a garden alive in Texas, I think you can imagine how important this resource was. Yet they were taken away from us without replacement, and years later, the space they occupied remains empty. Finally, the UT tower. While I am happy to see such a historic building be renovated, I fear it is another example of how UT and acs plans. Without properly considering the scientists that use the. Use these facilities. The UT tower is home to the Billy L turner plant resources center, urbarium and for those unaware, an herbarium is essentially a museum for plants with many research applications, and ours is the 13th largest in the nation. It contains historic specimens, including some from Charles Darwin's original voyage on the beagle. Unfortunately, UT began renovating the tower without properly funding a home for the herbarium and the deadline to figure out where to put that is fast approaching. The undervaluing of these scientific resources is a common trend. With the fish and herpetology collections currently located on campus being much more inaccessible to most students, and also having been experiencing mold problems since 2021. This recent history of disregard for scientific resources is exactly what has me worried about the fate of bffl. UT seems to be prioritizing, updating, and developing campus, which is great, but not when it comes at the cost of important resources for research and education. UT has a reputation as one of the leading institutions in education, research and service, which bfl is the epitome of.

[1:12:40 PM]

Just last week, the Dean of the college of natural sciences released a statement alluding to a future where we rely less on bfl. And so when I see the land bfl currently occupying completely in the development zone on the new proposal, I worry. I worry that UT is yet again undervaluing such an important resource. And so I ask you, council members, to help us protect bfl because as much as I would like to have faith that UT will save bfl, it's not a chance that I'm willing to take. Thank you.

[1:13:09 PM]

>> Peter. Joseph, Steve Weiner, Nelson. Linder, Amy. Taylor. Diane. Smith, Leslie Ford.

[1:13:31 PM]

>> Why don't we start over here and you begin, and then we'll work our way down.

[1:13:39 PM]

>> Mayor Watson and council members. My name is Katy Joseph. My dad, Sammy Joseph Jr, is one of the founders of Huy. And as coach little league there for nearly 50 years, I grew up at Huy. I remain actively involved in waiha through my three children and have served on the board since 2023. In 2010, my dad started champs, an inclusive league at waiha, where children with disabilities can play and participate in their own way. Three years later, my first son, Carter Jr, was born at 29 weeks. He has cerebral palsy. I had no idea then what champs would become, what would come to me into my family. At champs, every child is welcome. Families come from across central Texas. Each child is paired with one or more high school age buddies who show up for them week after week. Pairing these children with high school age buddies is about mentorship. These kids. It goes both ways. The buddies have just as much to gain, learning to give back to the community, and learning about inclusion. Champs encourages the buddies to carry what they learn at champs into their everyday lives. To reach out, get to know the kids, get to know kids with disabilities.

[1:14:48 PM]

Excuse me? Get to know kids with disabilities and include them through champs. Carter Jr has gained mentors who stay in touch with him long after the season's end. They take him to lunch. They come over to our house to play video games or watch an NBA game with them. Now, Carter is now 13 years old. These last few years have been especially hard as he comes to terms with having cerebral palsy and using a wheelchair. As his peers become more independent, he is becoming more more aware of the things that he needs help with. And it. Excuse me. And that has been very hard on his confidence. That's why these relationships matter so much. These are high school kids he looks up to. They know him by name when they see him in the community, and they keep making time for him. For families like ours, there are so few places to go on a Sunday.

[1:15:43 PM]

>> To watch.

[1:15:44 PM]

>> Thank you for your time.

[1:15:46 PM]

>> We appreciate your being here. Thank you. Yes, sir.

[1:15:49 PM]

>> Good afternoon. My name is Steve Weiner, and I want to thank you, mayor and council members, for having this hearing today. I first came to Austin in 1961 on a trip with my parents to six flags over Texas, and we stopped in Austin. My dad took us to memorial stadium. He took us to the state capitol, where my brother and I sat in price Daniel's chair in the governor's office, and he brought us to muni. My brother and I were raised playing public golf in sinton, where I'm from, and muni serves that same purpose. It's a place where kids can spend all day long, learn rules, manners, etiquette, and make new friends. And I've made friends at muni through the years. Like the Overton family, Scotty Sara, and it's just that type of place. When I came in this morning originally, I brought Charlie crenshaw with me, and as we pulled down along first street, we looked at Austin, the downtown, and went, this is different than. Of course, Charlie and Ben were raised here. I've been here since 1971 and it really impressed upon me the need to continue to have green space and way of where my own children participated. I would just like to say that muni means so much to so many people. And to paraphrase, I would just say, let's not look a gift horse in the mouth.

[1:17:21 PM]

Let's get this done. Let's vote on it today. And I appreciate all of you. Thanks a lot.

[1:17:27 PM]

>> Thank you. Yes, ma'am. Okay.

[1:17:32 PM]

>> This is in support of saving the lions municipal golf course because muni saved my family. Not only did lions muni give my great grandparents a place to live, but it was the birthplace of my great uncles and a refuge for my great grandmother and her four little boys. My great grandmother left an abusive relationship and boarded the first bus that came through town. The busses through deanville, Texas, either went to Houston or Austin. Thankfully, this one went to Austin. From there she met my great grandfather, Roy Kaiser. Roy adopted her four boys and they built their life at lions muni. Without muni. I might not be here today. My great grandfather left llano for Austin and almost immediately took up his job as a groundskeeper at muni in the 1930s. It was his first position at a golf course, and it was love at first sight. Roy and Viola met in Austin at the bluebird cafe. They were married in 1937, and my great grandparents moved into the newly constructed one bedroom cottage on the lions muni course for the next 40 years, the keeper's quarters at muni housed my family, and the golf course raised my family until Roy's retirement in 1973. In this small one bedroom cottage located behind the 18th green, they brought up seven boys and one girl to love not only the game of golf, but the city that made it possible. Austin, my great grandfather, devoted his life to the golf course that had given him his life. All he could ever want was right there at muni. He worked and earned a promotion to foreman, then caretaker, then greenskeeper before accepting the superintendent role, which he devotedly served. He was not only a key part of the success at lions, but he also knew that lions was his big success in life. Roy sincerely loved the game of golf. He loved the muni golf course and he loved getting the community involved in golf. Every time there was a state tournament in San Antonio, he would get a car, fill it with kids.

[1:19:35 PM]

>> I'm sorry, and we need you also to state your name for the record.

[1:19:41 PM]

>> Oh, Amy Taylor.

[1:19:42 PM]

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Linder. Hello, mayor.

[1:19:46 PM]

>> City council, city manager. I feel honored to be here. Today is a very important occasion. First things first. We support the city of Austin's efforts to acquire and preserve lions municipal golf course for very obvious reasons. First things first. The environment consists of many things, not just birds and bees, also people. Different kinds of people. We get treated differently in different circumstances. Make that a matter of record. I need to express that. I came to Austin in 1980. I was 23 years old, central Georgia, when I was a kid. My mom visited Talmage hospital in Augusta, Georgia almost every year. Guess what was there? The masters had no idea because black people were excluded in the military. And with the fort Gordon, I was open house. I saw the masters. I couldn't believe it. When I think about muni and what I saw when I experienced Scottie.

[1:20:47 PM]

Series editor clements, longtime friends of mine, I saw folks who were very comfortable dealing with people. When I look at the impact that muni had on equal protection of the law, it's a constitutional thing. That's a big thing at a time when it wasn't happening. This is a phenomenal organization. How could it be a secret in the city of Austin? It's one of your greatest treasures. The selling point naacp does conventions all over this country. When I competed for the national convention 14 years ago, we got killed by the social environment. They never heard of muni or equal protection of the law or fighting racism. So I hope I'm very, very clear. This is a crown jewel that can reach out and touch people in different kinds of ways, as it has already. I encourage you to embrace this institution for what it is, because I came from the south. If it can change me, it can change you and make this a better city. Thank you very much.

[1:21:51 PM]

>> Thank you, Mr. Linder. Mr. Bledsoe, was your name called? Did they call your name to. No. Okay.

[1:22:00 PM]

>> We have Bobby Levinsky, Eleanor LE corbusier, Hannah Gilbreath, Blake molenaar, Abigail Jones. Steven Wong.

[1:22:20 PM]

>> Go ahead, Mr. Levinsky.

[1:22:23 PM]

>> Thank you. Mayor and council. Bobby Levinsky, save our springs alliance. Earlier today, I sent you a letter from individuals representing silver springs alliance, Travis audubon society, save Texas dreams, public citizen, and poder. Joining the voices that you hear from the students and researchers from the university of Texas, as well as the unanimous recommendations from your Austin environmental commission and your planning commission asking that you refrain from putting a target on the backs of the bfl for redevelopment. One of the things that I think is kind of getting lost in that kind of talking across this is everyone wants to save the golf course. That's very clear. I also think there's probably unanimous in wanting to save the field lap as well. It's the university of Texas that's being greedy here. Austin has maintained the golf course for decades, has paid for it. They're being asked to receive it because UT is receiving a donation of an undisclosed millions of dollars, and they're asking to sweeten the pot by adding entitlements onto the bfl, onto the student housing that's adjacent to it, onto the boat dock tract. Those conversations don't have to be all together when the when the university gives the land to the city of Austin because it's receiving millions of dollars, we can just take that out of the development agreement. City of Austin will now have that land. We don't need it to be part of another conversation of a rushed deal with an anonymous third party, which I hope is just trying to save the golf course. But, you know, it does beg the question of why are they trying to increase entitlements on the field lab as part of this deal? This is also a sacred space. It's one of the few areas that we have over a century of land information where we can study the land. It helps our ecology. It's a huge boon to our economy to not only with our connection to nature, but just to academia.

[1:24:14 PM]

And my hope is that the the election changes this conversation because I think in the background as well is we have a university and I'm a proud longhorn. We have a university that's stopped being academia friendly, and we need the city of Austin to speak up for them. Thank you.

[1:24:32 PM]

>> Well, why don't we start with you and we'll go that direction?

[1:24:37 PM]

>> My name is Blake Molnar. I'm a phd student in ecology at UT. But today I'm speaking as a concerned citizen and a resident of district seven, not on behalf of UT. My lab mates and I found out about this proposal just 30 minutes before the planning commission was set to address it on October 27th. Our response was, well, when's the next bus to city hall? We showed up to a meeting where we were outnumbered 7 to 1. Because the fact is, most of us had not heard a single word of this plan prior to that evening. Those of us in the department who heard in time were horrified to sit through a staff presentation where the words Brackenridge field lab were never mentioned, where we were shown maps with bfls 82 acres not even marked. That lack of transparency has been a part of every step of this process. Even after hours of meetings, it's unclear to me and seemingly unclear to UT in the city what the actual plan is here. All I see is frustratingly vague statements and no finer details, especially on the exact financial structure of the tirz.

[1:25:47 PM]

This is a completely unacceptable way to make decisions about such an important piece of land in the heart of Austin. Council member Fuentes, you said you wanted to flag the speed with which this item is moving. I think that's prudent. I think it's insane that this was first brought to the table in September. I think we can't let this be another dog's head. We can't vote now and ask questions later. So I ask that you heed the recommendations of the environmental and planning commissions and delay voting until at least June 2027, because this is not a decision that should be made flippantly. We need intensive research on how this would affect natural resources and the thousands of species that rely on this critical habitat. We need research on how this will affect existing residents, the schools that draw students from this area, and the educational integrity of UT in the city. Thank you.

[1:26:38 PM]

>> Yes, sir. Please go ahead. Please. Me. Yes.

[1:26:43 PM]

>> Goodness. All right. My name is Steven Wong. I'm a graduate student at UT Austin. But my thought crimes here are my own and not UT's. I first visited bfl on November 17th, 2017, when I was 17 years old, to ask scientists about a new ant that had invaded my neighborhood in Houston, and to experience the horrors of a breakfast taco firsthand, like bike lanes and green belts, something neither Houston nor A&M, which is a little bit closer to me, has, is a dedicated urban field lab with a rich history of invasive ant research. I rose out of the flood waters of Harris county to the dry land of Austin. That fateful day, I got to see the old fire ant battle maps when it first swept through Austin. It's really cool. I could go into great detail, but this is eventually so impactful that it led me to leave the engineering track and pursue

ecology. I left the state for a undergraduate education in the northeast, but instead of enjoying the New York Summers, opportunities at bfl allowed me to come back to my beloved, sweltering Texas and lead two research projects here. As a bike commuter and renter from district one, I'm sympathetic to arguments about green space preservation, zoning, and connectivity, but the deal, as it's currently written, generates a huge dollar sign incentive for tearing bfl out for another domain. We've heard a lot about the potential traffic jams and development of these plans on the Brackenridge track, but this deal incentivizes just that. The deal, as it's written in its most maximalist extreme interpretation, could preserve bfl as a single memorial plaque on a flower bed surrounded by high rises. I'm sorry we couldn't save that old ratty Randall's on lake Austin boulevard, but it's not too late for muni and bfl. Like yeltsin's visit to the clear lake Randall's that shattered his view of soviet superiority.

[1:28:31 PM]

That's a bit of a stretch. Visiting bfl had a similar effect on me. Hopefully, recent events reinforce to us that Texas is big enough for all of these places and more. Yep. That's it.

[1:28:44 PM]

>> Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

[1:28:49 PM]

>> Hello. My name is Abigail Jones and I am a recent graduate of UT Austin. I currently work at the lady bird Johnson wildflower center as a conservationist, but none of my opinions represent the university or the wildflower center. I come today to urge the city council to adopt the recommendations of the planning and environmental commissions to require that UT keep the Brackenridge field laboratory in its entirety in order to approve the new bda agreement and delay the vote on this agreement until June 2027. I recognize that UT has the final say in what happens with bfl, but you all have the power to help us in our advocacy efforts within our university. Ever since our community found out about this plan in late October, we have been working tirelessly to learn more about what this plan means for bfl from city and university leadership. For example, I now know way more than I ever thought I ever would about what a tirz means. We've had a strong showing at commission meetings, circulated a petition with 3000 signatures, and brought together current and former students and faculty, community members, colleagues and more to spread awareness and garner support. What I'm trying to say is that we are advocating for our beloved field lab within the city and with the university, who we know has more say over its future. However, it is extremely difficult to contact the board of regents and other decision makers. At UT. We've been trying to find avenues to do so, but need more time to have our voices heard within the university. I'm asking you all on the city council to help us in the way that you can follow the

recommendations from the environmental and planning commissions to help us communicate our requests to the university and help us slow down this process so we can continue our advocacy efforts at all levels. We want the same things as the save money folks, green space, community and history to be preserved. Give us the best chance to achieve both of these interdependent goals. Let us save bfl and muni to delay the vote and heed the recommendations of the environmental and planning commissions. While we all registered as against this proposition today, it is the best way for us to get our point across. We are by no means against saving muni, just against the pros bda the proposed bda in its current form, and I hope you will heed the recommendations of the commissions.

[1:30:55 PM]

>> Bill bunch, walker Moore, Yvette Aguilar, Elizabeth Davis, Blake, Sophia. Bernstein.

[1:31:13 PM]

>> Sir, if you want to go ahead and start.

[1:31:16 PM]

>> Okay. Hi, my name is walker Moore. I'm a junior at UT, and just in the past three years, Brackenridge field lab has become a very special place to me. First of all, I just want to remark on how absurd this situation is. Decisions made behind closed doors are threatening a world renowned, historic, biodiverse plot of land and critical community resource with the development of who knows what. This should have no connection to the protection of muni. It seems to me that wrapping up muni's future with a tirz on bfl was an intentional strategy to rally the community around a deal that is otherwise harmful to the future of this city. In other words, the passion of the good muni folks is being exploited to rush forward. Mysterious development plans on bfl with little time for community input, bfl development would halt decades of globally recognized research. It would permanently injure the scientific community of Austin and prevent so much inspiration to the young minds of generations to come. Do we really want to let Texas A&M take the title of best ecological research institution in Texas? UT was once globally recognized for its ecology programs, but over time, the school has whittled away at these, leaving its college of natural sciences as a gutted shell of what it once was. This is an embarrassment to you, to UT, to Austin, and to all of Texas. This deal shows that this pattern is only continuing, and that we have no reason to trust that the school will act in our best interest. It is extremely difficult for students to contact the the decision makers in these matters. We have no sway over our regents or administration's decisions. UT has already tried to develop bfl multiple times in the past, so I'm sick of the statements that UT has no plans for the Brackenridge tract.

[1:33:07 PM]

This sounds to me like a blatant lie. Right now I am taking field ecology at bfl with doctor Gilbert and it's been amazing and bfl is amazing. Thank you all so much for your time.

[1:33:24 PM]

>> Good afternoon. My name is Yvette Aguilar and I live in district five. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the way a community, and how its commitment to the growth and development of children has built generations of friendships, confidence and lifelong skills to be their personal best. I've experienced this as a belonging, as a parent, a friend, but most of all, as a preschool director. Our dedicated staff brings a combined 90 years of experience in education and truly values. Being a part of this community. Many of our staff grew up at Huy and now are an integral part of the education of our young children, including our music teacher, Mr. Will. The vision of building a neighborhood facility where children can have fun while participating in healthy activities, has created a generational home away from home. As many parents have characterized ware as their safe place where they are accepted for being true to themselves and their children. Today, I want to talk to you about something very special. Being a neighbor. A neighbor isn't just someone who lives next door. A neighbor is a friend who is kind, helpful, and caring. We share, listen, and help one another. We are a good neighbor. We as a neighbor that helps you discover new friends and new skills, but most of all, the sense of belonging, no matter your zip code, as in the words of our children and parents, I believe in myself and I can keep trying.

[1:34:41 PM]

I'm going to college at ware. It's okay. We lost the game, but we worked as a team. The W and ware means welcome. Thank you for helping my child feel welcome and loved unconditionally. Your staff believes in advocating for all children. It builds confidence. The legacy of Huy deserves to have a permanent home where it can continue to build the leaders of tomorrow. I urge you to vote yes so we can guarantee our children have a neighborhood with friends, family, and a place to love unconditionally. Remember, the destiny of children depends on you and will you choose to be there or not? Thank you.

[1:35:13 PM]

>> Thank you very much, ma'am.

[1:35:18 PM]

>> Hi. My name is Betsy Davis and I've been an educator here in Austin and for over 50 years, and I'm still working. I have had the opportunity to work in the same communities. I originally began at metz and then at Matthews and cassie elementary, and now I'm at preschool at ware, teaching my second generation. So many of these kids that I, I'm working with, I have special connections to me because they are a part of our of our community. Part of being an educator is watching kids grow to be successful, to be confident and to be able to self-regulate. Especially nowadays. I way offers an opportunity to this, to these children. Because we have small classes, we have we work, we have from one to pre-k, I, we, there's never a rainy day at ware because there's always an inside gym. There's. We. And my particular class, we. They get. We offer a gymnastics class life kiddos to learn self-regulation and working with people and others and respect of ourselves and others.

[1:36:40 PM]

Part of being, you know, looking back at my children, going through ware and participating in sports, even though they weren't, they participated in high school sports. Their favorite thing was a softball game. That and being on the softball team at ware and, and the, the communities of friendships they built. So I'm hoping that even though it's just the 14 acres that we're able to find a permanent home for, for ware so that we can continue to work with children and affect those lives. So if I've worked in education and affected and touched over 600 lives, you can imagine what ware has done.

[1:37:22 PM]

>> Thank you. Thank you very much.

[1:37:25 PM]

>> Matt. Crystal. Matt, are you here? I am, Matt has time divided donated by Rogan. Giles Rogan, are you here? Great. Matt has four minutes followed by Robert Buckwalter.

[1:37:43 PM]

>> Good afternoon. My name is Matt Kreisel with. Before retiring in 2013, I served as managing partner of the architectural and engineering firm of page Southerland. Page, whose architectural heritage in Austin extends back to 1898. My projects for the city included such Austin landmarks as the austin-bergstrom international airport, the Austin convention center, the city hall and second street district master plan and building surrounding city hall. Upon my retirement, I was appointed chairman of the Texas historical commission. My career has focused both on looking forward as a planner, as well as looking back as a historian, giving me a unique perspective on the evolution of a city and what goes into building a great city. 25 years ago, as president of the heritage society of Austin, I initiated and led the heritage Austin program focused on bringing together the diverse factions of this community behind a community, value based vision for the future of our downtown, and seeking common goals that would pull us together versus allowing our differences to pull us apart as we are looking for in this agreement. Today, I'd like to read a few a few paragraphs from that document. All of us are fortunate to be living in Austin today. Our quality of life is envied throughout the nation. While we are a relatively young city, our heritage is rich thanks to the foresight and determination of our ancestors, we have the potential of becoming one of the truly great cities of the nation and the world. If we, as a community, continue to build upon the many opportunities that we have before us now as a young city, our greatest opportunities lie ahead in planning our future. We must also recognize that the evolution of a city and a community is a continuous process that builds upon the cornerstones of our past. They are the roots of our community that live on today and express the depth of our culture and identity. Any erosion of our history diminishes the city as a whole, and we must endeavor to protect preserve these elements of our past for future generations. Austin is experiencing experiencing tremendous growth and challenge that will impact the character and composition of our city.

[1:39:46 PM]

With this growth, we are in Rainey at a unique crossroads in time when choices must be made now or opportunities lost forever. While most cities today are becoming more and more alike, is those particular cities with the vision and leadership to set themselves apart that will ultimately become the great cities of tomorrow. Unlike most cities today, we in Austin have a choice. A choice that rests with the people and leadership of this community. Now, there are few cities in the in the nation that are blessed with a natural feature as majestic as town lake park that runs through the neighborhoods and our downtown, while integrating their natural setting with the built environment. They're all great cities. As our population surges and our city pushes for greater density, preserving and extending our parks and open space becomes more and more critical to the livability and quality of life of our city. Muni is more than just a standalone golf club. It is but only one element of a continuous change of park spaces and activities lining the lady bird lake parks corridor, which is Austin's greatest great city asset, an asset that belongs to all of us and brings our people together as one in the heart of our cities. Lions municipal golf course is the heart of the Brackenridge tract and anchor of the west end of the lady bird lake parks corridor. As it has been for the last 100 years.

[1:41:05 PM]

Without muni, the Brackenridge tract, without muni and the Brackenridge tract. The lady bird lake parks corridor ends at mopac and martin springs. It is up to this generation of austinites to preserve this historical asset for future generations to lose. It would be an unforgivable mistake in our planning of our city, and would be on us, on our generation. Since getting involved in the same same muni effort, I have been searching for a win win win solution for the city of Austin, the university of Texas, and the entire Austin community. I believe that the current deal on the table with the university to save muni in combination with the mixed use development of the rest of the bracken tract, is just that a win win win proposition for all.

[1:41:47 PM]

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Russell.

[1:41:49 PM]

>> Well, I'm sorry I didn't get.

[1:41:50 PM]

>> To William Oliver. But kowloon Chu, Charlie crenshaw, Sean Mcgee. Sean, are you here with donated time by Sierra Yeager and Aditya khurana? Great. Sean will have six minutes. If you could state your name for the record. You can go ahead.

[1:42:26 PM]

>> Oh, hello. Hi. My name is Helen Zhou. District for a uti grad student and a volunteer with Texas naturalists, ecologists and sustainability experts. I'm speaking for myself, and I am pushing for the Brackenridge field lab to be preserved and given also more time to call for city protection and citizen mediation. The idea of bfl being a land concession is a major educational and historic Austin loss from smithville to hill country. I've been speaking with Austin scientists for the last few months about how bfl is renowned as historic with legacy research projects, 50 years plus old and ongoing with site specific and irreplaceable land information. There are pecan trees that have had research on Texas flood

damage from 1900 1901, and also native and invasive species. This lab is also a riparian forest, and these 82 acres protects not only the river but also west Austin, which also includes mooning and the surrounding neighborhoods, including tarrytown. The wildlife and nature of west Austin, which includes Mooney, is also due to the lab's preserved land corridor. I am 100% supportive of Mooney's preservation, and so are so many of the people here, but bfl should protect receive protections too. I am pushing for delay as per the environmental and planning commission's meetings the last few weeks. I am fully vouching and in support of bfls gifts to ecological stability and its precedent for the rare and continual miracle of Texas epiphany. Thank you.

[1:44:16 PM]

>> Thank you very much.

[1:44:20 PM]

>> Good afternoon, members of the city council. My name is Sean Mcgahee. I'm a resident of the west campus neighborhood, and I'm speaking today in opposition. The city of Austin prides itself on our natural spaces. We pride ourselves in our community forest. We pride ourselves on our Lakes. We pride ourselves on our public parks, our public natural spaces. As I am sure you all have heard time and time again when it comes to this matter, great cities save their great spaces. I agree, which is why I am in opposition to this item. Because if passed, as is, the amendments to the bda will imperil one great space in exchange for protecting another. We are not here to save one great space, but two great spaces muni and bfl. We just need time. Save muni has been organizing and speaking for over 50 years. We, the friends of Brackenridge field lab, have had less than a month. We only learned of these amendments after they were announced publicly. For over 50 years, save money has advocated for protecting muni from destruction by U. T state of muni one under threat of destruction is in the same state as bfl. Now we advocate for the same protections for another great space. You have heard comments from students, researchers, scientists and other concerned citizens over the importance of a natural space in that location. Many have questioned the importance of bringing our concerns to this council, as opposed to the board of regents. In truth, the city of Austin should be concerned. Concerned about imperiling and incentivizing the destruction of more nature.

[1:45:56 PM]

Just two miles from this very building. What lives in bfl? What goes through bfl affects the environmental health of the entire city. There has not been full consideration of the environmental impacts of destroying this natural space. We need time to consider the environmental effects. Destroying bfl would have. The amendments to the Brackenridge development agreement were made

public one month and three days ago. In that time, the scheduled two commission meetings turned to four meetings, 9.5 hours of public comment, both for and against nearly 3000 signatures in opposition to the amendments as they stand, 17 recommendations sent to this council by the environmental commission. 14 more recommendations from the planning commission and all of the comments you have heard today, one month and three days have proven ample time for objections, questions and issues to be raised. One month and five days will not be enough to give these proposed amendments the time they need.

[1:46:57 PM]

One month and two weeks will not be enough time to consider the recommendations given to the city council and revise the amendments with the university. With the university. The university of Texas has not revealed any plans as to how they will utilize these changes. In fact, as was stated on October 27th, the university has no plan if passed in its current state and with current information, these amendments would give the university of Texas a blank check to destroy 82 acres of natural space right along lady bird lake. The master plan for the university is scheduled to come into force by early summer 2027. The amendments in their totality are far too vast for one month

[1:47:40 PM]

>> Of consideration mixed with a packed schedule of other matters for the city council postponing any vote to June 2027, as has been recommended by the Austin planning commission, will give both the city council and the university of Texas ample time to receive new information on the master plan for the university, conduct an environmental assessment, consider the recommendations and concerns raised over this past month and three days, and revised the amendments to please all parties involved. I thank the city council for your attention, and I ask you to postpone any voting action on the amendments to the bda until June of 2027 to give these amendments the time they need. Thank you.

[1:48:26 PM]

>> Take it away.

[1:48:28 PM]

>> Bill Oliver.

[1:48:29 PM]

>> District three.

[1:48:30 PM]

>> The Barack tracks. Not over the ocean. The Barack tracks, not over the sea. The Barack track is right here in Austin. Oh, please save the Barack track for me. Sade Franck Sade Breck. Oh, please save the Barack track for me. And thee, Barack. Save Barack. The Brackenridge laboratory. We're happy we're saving the golf course. And it's amazing history without any lawsuits or protest. Now please save the turtles and trees. Young students are getting their field work for science degrees from UT. A canopy campus for all of us, from grade school to old P.H.D. A classroom in a growing city, a riverfront laboratory. We'll save it for dear Rachel Carson, who saved us from fire ant queens.

[1:49:51 PM]

Contractors are counting their condos. Richard suttle is keeping them fed. The council has practiced this process. A sneak attack like the dog's head, the brack tracks not over the ocean. The brack tracks not over the sea. The brack track is only in Austin. The Brackenridge laboratory. Say brack save brack, the brack and rich laboratory. Next year.

[1:50:36 PM]

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Oliver.

[1:50:38 PM]

>> Nick. Attackers.

[1:50:40 PM]

>> Mayor pro tem. All speakers have been called.

[1:50:43 PM]

>> All right. Thank you very much for the song. For all the testimony. We appreciate it. And you gotta love Austin and Austin city council meetings. Thank you all so much for for being here. With that. We are now ready to. Let me just double check. Are we that this was the only item on the work session agenda? So we are ready to adjourn the Austin city council meeting and. Sorry. Council discussion. Sorry. Council members. Council member. Fuentes.

[1:51:26 PM]

>> Yes. Thank you, mayor pro tem. I also just want to echo your your comments on thanking everyone who came out today to testify in support of saving money. It was really touched by many of your testimony that you all shared today with us, and just hearing from your stories and experiences. On growing up and playing at muni and just the deep history that it has in Austin and its and its role in our civil rights movement here locally, and how that is meaningful for austinites is really appreciate hearing from from you all on it. And, you know, I'm excited that this proposal is before us and that this gives us an opportunity to take that next step in saving muni. And so I'm, you know, really happy with the negotiation that staff has done to this point. And it seemed like most everyone is that we heard from today is in support of saving muni, the kind of what the issue is what I'm gathering from the from the testimony is what to do or what is going to happen with the biofilm lab. And so if it's okay if we could invite the representative for the university to come before us so I can ask questions. Staff don't go too far. I do have questions for you all, but I think that we can start here and hearing from the university of Texas representative. You know, we heard today from several people about the importance of preserving the biofilm lab. And so I just want to get a sense from the university, you know, you know, about that consideration. And would you T consider preserving the biofilm lab? To what extent will UT consider preserving it?

[1:53:03 PM]

>> My name is Richard suttle. I'm here on behalf of the university of Texas. The university values the field lab system and all the research that goes into it. It's important to know that any decision that's made on this agreement doesn't affect what UT does with their research and their academic plans. For the field lab. They issued a statement last week, and I can read a part of it. It's I'll read the whole thing if you'd like me to, please. Okay. I'll read the whole thing. The university of Texas at Austin has a long standing commitment to study and steward the natural beauty, resources and ecosystems of Texas. Part of that work is done in bio field lab field stations across the state. The university currently operates six

field stations statewide and plans to add a new hill country field station in the coming years. The Texas field station network, which brings researchers, students and community partners into living laboratories across a variety of ecosystems, ecosystems, studies issues critical to Texans, like the effects of drought, extreme weather on our ecosystems, recovery, the recovery of native habitats, and the impact of invasive species. Some of this work has taken place on the Brackenridge field laboratory, part of the larger Brackenridge tract, which George W Brackenridge gave the university more than a century ago for the benefit of the university of Texas. The first site, the Brackenridge field laboratory, was created in 1963 to serve as a biological science experimental field laboratory for 20 years, as part of a grant from the natural sciences foundation.

[1:54:42 PM]

These are in quotes. The size and scale of individual biofield stations changes over time, while the overall commitment to the work at university of Texas diversifies and grows, UT has expanded its research strategies to focus on leveraging network of field stations and relying less on the existing Brackenridge site, said David van Boulton, van Bolenbaugh, Dean of the college of natural sciences. This approach supports broad, interdisciplinary research and hands on learning that brings faculty and students from across the campus to a variety of field stations throughout Texas. The university is working with the city of Austin to amend the existing Brackenridge development agreement. The bda, which sets an overall framework for how land under the bda can be used. The proposed amendment to the bda does not determine the scope and the use of the Brackenridge field laboratory under both the current and potentially amended bda. The university determines the scope of use for the field station as part of the overall research mission. While university of Texas has not made specific plans for future development of Brackenridge tract, the university intends to retain portions of the track to preserve areas for biodiversity research and education. Any future changes to the Brackenridge field laboratory will be evaluated in consultation with the leadership of the college of natural sciences, who will seek input from the faculty led biodiversity executive committee and determined by the university based on the overall best interest of the mission.

[1:56:24 PM]

So you can see there's there's commitment to the biofield labs.

[1:56:31 PM]

>> Well, thank you for that. I mean, to certainly, you know, UT is acknowledging that there the trends around research is changing. And they have that within their authority to, to, you know, rightsize their approach or change as, as they can. What I think is important and what is important for me as a council

member is to show that I would like you to consider preserving the biofield lab, and I would like that commitment towards that. So now that we have more time for us to have a conversation, you know, my. Hope is that UT reconsiders that stance and council will get to have a conversation through this work session about, you know, how, what our values are and what we would like to see as part of the bda. And I look forward to hearing from everyone on that end. The other question I have for you is around the planning commission recommendations. Any updates since you've seen, have you seen the planning commission recommendations and any comments you'd like to give on the recommendations that the planning commission has offered?

[1:57:33 PM]

>> The answer is no, not yet. There's a lot of them. Some of them work. Some of them may need to be modified, some of them may not work. We'll be sorting through those as we talk to your staff. And y'all, as part of the deliberation on this.

[1:57:52 PM]

>> Okay. And around the one of the planning commission recommendation was around affordable housing. And I know there'll be other questions around that. So I'll defer that question to my colleagues. One of the another planning commission recommendation is on public use and allowing the golf course to have to be open to the public and to the community. And so I'm wondering if you could speak to that one, that recommendation. And let me see, I have it here so I can read it to you. It says allow for flexible public use beyond golf, such as opening the property as parkland at designated times and offering programing for non golfers.

[1:58:34 PM]

>> So. The golf course, well, let's see how I can organize my thoughts here. So. The donor wants the golf course to be an 18 hole golf course and is willing to participate in this scenario. If that is the case, when the golf course is operated by either the city or someone else, I think the the protocol can be managed in such a way that it can be open to public, but can't interfere with 18 hole golf. So I think that's a lot of words to say that that is to be determined, but the intent is to save muni as an 18 hole golf public municipal golf course.

[1:59:22 PM]

>> Okay. Very good. Thank you. My other questions are for staff. You know, one thing that I appreciate you outlining at the top of your presentation is just kind of what a bad deal that the city is in when it relates to paying for the infrastructure of this development. And, you know, this came from the administrators of the city back from the late 1980s. And I'm wondering, do we have a sense of what it would cost the city if if this if we didn't do the update to the bda, how and we didn't do the tirz, how much would it cost for the city to front the infrastructure costs associated with utis? Right to develop.

[2:00:01 PM]

>> They've not provided an estimate of the cost relative to a one point 7,000,000 square foot development. This. As we. If. If council does approve the amendment to the agreement. These are all the details that we would continue to work through going through into the spring in order to. Create the preliminary project and financing plan. There are very rough numbers relative to a much larger square footage development, but not at the point 6far level. So they have numbers that need to be updated significantly also, relative to just changes in the economy and whatnot that have occurred, I would suspect regardless, we're talking about many tens of millions of dollars. I mean, this is we're maximum. We're talking about 190 acres. So there's it's the scale is a lot more manageable. But again, they there isn't a specific development plan in place. It would just be based on square footage estimates and unit absorption kind of things typical for a project and financing plan. And then the market and the economy would dictate what we would see over time. But we would create a a certain maximum amount in various guardrails and guidelines for how much funding the city would provide to support the infrastructure needs.

[2:01:26 PM]

>> Gotcha. Okay. Yes. If we could get more information, even if it's just broad numbers, I think that will help us and help in sharing out to the community why the the financing tool of a tirz is necessary so that the development within that area is paying for itself rather than it all of Austin paying for the infrastructure for, you know, whatever ends up being built out, right?

[2:01:49 PM]

>> So we, we don't have we will work to get as much detail as we can with the tirz. Like you noted, the development itself would be paying for it. The land, the acreage that play here is largely tax exempt at this point. So it is generating zero tax dollars. So it is a kind of one of those textbook examples of how a tirz can be used incredibly efficiently and effectively. And so and again, it also allows for the development to pay for it, as opposed to that cost being spread out amongst taxpayers city wide.

[2:02:24 PM]

>> Okay. In the presentation, you also highlighted that the as part of the exchange between the university and the city, that the city will vacate right of way. How is staff determining which right of ways to vacate?

[2:02:37 PM]

>> So in the backup, there is an exhibit that lists out the various right of ways that are proposed. There are some that are being proposed that would retain encumbrances. The main priority for the university is for maintenance and and maintaining the esthetic because of where they are relative to campus. Just making sure that it it matches the surrounding areas. There are other areas that they have a desire for full vacation, no encumbrances. We have told them. And the language that is is noted in the. The term sheet supports this is that we will be. Do the review and determine what is feasible. But we have to make sure that we are protecting public safety access, that we're considering all that any other utilities or other uses that are in those right of ways. So we need to be able to have more detailed conversations with the university about those right of ways before we can commit to a vacation or not, but we will work with them collaboratively on how those how that can be achieved. But again, it requires more detail coming from them that just wasn't available timing wise relative to taking action.

[2:03:51 PM]

>> Miss Olivares, you also mentioned in your presentation that the affordable housing policy or that there is that the agreement would follow the affordable housing policy as part of the tirz. And I'm wondering, can you remind us what the affordable housing policy is for tirz?

[2:04:06 PM]

>> So the affordable housing component of the tax financing financial policy is that 20% of units are affordable. There's certain mfi requirements for rental versus home ownership, but they would provide that affordable housing either on site or on other university properties. But this is in addition to also replacing the Brackenridge graduate student housing. So there is existing housing. So that is being handled separately. They would replace that and they would provide 20% both on and off site.

[2:04:43 PM]

>> Very good. Okay. Well again, you know, thank you for the proposal that's before us. You know, I really appreciate how the bda adds in much needed benefits to the city, including from environmental protections. We're talking about drainage and water quality improvements as well as the development standards, really giving the city a pathway and having a say as to what gets developed for those non-university uses. And so I just really want to appreciate y'all's work on it. And again, I'm really thrilled that we will have an opportunity here to, to save money. And I know that it has been a long time coming in the community's eyes. So.

[2:05:21 PM]

>> Thank you, councilmember. Councilmember duchen.

[2:05:24 PM]

>> Thank you, mayor pro tem. First, I just want to express my gratitude for everybody that came here today to let us know how much this part of Austin means to you, whether you were here for the lab, whether you're here for muni, you're. I think your activism reminds me that certainly my role here is one as a steward for a very short window of time, for a very special place and a special city. And, and especially a shout out to the Austin high school students. I don't know if anybody's here. They probably got dragged back to class. This might have been their first experience with public advocacy. And my hope is it's not not their last. I wrote a lot about how extraordinary this place is, but frankly, I think our speakers that are infinitely better job today of expressing how precious this space is here in Austin than I ever could. So I thank you. Whatever happens over the next few weeks, whether this body can divine some course to leave this gift unruined is not a reflection of you or the passion of your effort or the worthiness of the cause. It's it'll be a reflection on us. So again, I thank you and I'm proud to represent you. And that's in part because we received, I think, more emails on this topic than we've ever gotten on any issue before. I think by our latest count, we got north of 500 emails just from district ten, and that doesn't include emails from other districts. And that was in regards to everything from concerned constituents about muni, from the lab, from the future of the Brackenridge tract. Virtually every one of those emails was supportive of the city's direction, and I'm going to do my best to represent the issues expressed to me and those I've taken deeply to heart along the way.

[2:07:13 PM]

I also do want to be clear that we've got a lot of work to do to address transit deficit, both today and in the future, where we appear to be short, potentially tens of thousands of trips per day in the way that we can move people around to address ensuring the appropriate amount of affordable housing is built where it's needed. And of course, finding ways to preserve the field lab. Although we cannot dictate what UT can do with their UT developments on UT land, I do believe there are solutions to this challenge, just like one has emerged from uni. In fact, one thing I have shared with the council it's on your desks is a concept map showing that UT can build out their almost 5,000,000ft S of of development under the terms of the agreement, and still save the 82 acres that the lab is on. So I hope you guys can take a look at that. Yeah. Both pages. So just I've got also some questions for staff. I'm just going to start by saying, you know, I like to think I'm a technically and financially minded person. And so trying to approach this also from that perspective. And so before I ask any questions, I'm going to start with just a financial observation. I'm not sure anybody else here has checked on this, but when I last checked the Travis county appraisal district, their value of muni and we was almost $700 million. And under any other circumstance, I feel like we ought to be celebrating that we can acquire in perpetuity for future generations 141 acres of green space and recreational space, and hundreds of heritage trees for literally no financial cost to residents. So with that said, and first, I want to say I appreciate councilmember Fuentes for asking some of the questions I wanted to get to and in particular, for financial services. It would be useful even just to ballpark, if possible, under the current form of the bda, right? Not not any amended form. What sort of just order of magnitude are we talking about? I think you said tens of millions of dollars in terms of compliance for the planning and infrastructure for what's currently on the books, is there any way to get us a better representation, or even just general understanding of the scope of what that looks like and what it would entail in terms of water, other utilities, wastewater, anything else you can share with us?

[2:09:48 PM]

>> That's I'll I'll work closely with between now and and council's consideration. I'll work closely with them to see if I can get better numbers. The last round of numbers I have are from a year and a half ago, and much has changed economically, and it was also relative to a development scale. That is not what's being proposed. So I just want to make sure I'm giving you the best numbers possible. So I just need to work with them on that.

[2:10:13 PM]

>> Okay. I'd be grateful. Thank you. I've got a question for law about the either miss link you or law department's interpretation of the 89 bda. What enforcement does the city currently have against the UT system regarding how they develop the field lab for a different purpose?

[2:10:34 PM]

>> So the city does not have any authority to tell the university how to develop the biofield lab, particularly for university purposes. It is addressed in the bda, but the bda can also be terminated essentially with five months notice. And then we would have a fight about whether or not we could regulate the non-university purposes development.

[2:11:04 PM]

>> Okay. Thank you. And then then speak to the amendments, then if you can. How does that affect UT systems? Latitude and how they could develop the field lab for either university or non-university purposes.

[2:11:20 PM]

>> So under the amendments, first and foremost, the university development doesn't change. If they they could decide tomorrow they want to use it for a different university purpose. Under the proposed amendments, they can develop it for non-university purposes.

[2:11:41 PM]

>> Okay. Thank you. I want to switch gears for a moment and just talk about density. I think in the presentation that you shared at the beginning, a couple of hours ago, you said the limits of multifamily use under the 89 agreement was 22 units per acre. Is that correct?

[2:11:59 PM]

>> Yes.

[2:12:00 PM]

>> And then do you know offhand what the limits are for mx5? Under current zoning.

[2:12:05 PM]

>> 54 units per acre.

[2:12:07 PM]

>> Okay. And so what is for for the amended bda? What would be the limits for density?

[2:12:14 PM]

>> The limits for density would really be through the floor area ratio and height and impervious cover and building coverage.

[2:12:21 PM]

>> So it's fair to say it's north of 54 units per acre.

[2:12:26 PM]

>> It could be. Yes.

[2:12:27 PM]

>> Okay. So I'm just really making sure that I'm confirming that however the parcels are developed or distributed in the future, they're going to be greater than essentially our our highest multifamily use or could be.

[2:12:42 PM]

>> Yes.

[2:12:44 PM]

>> And do you know how many parcels right now are nearby the Brackenridge tract that are currently mf five or greater?

[2:12:53 PM]

>> I'm not aware of any, but we'd have to. We'll get that answer for you before December 3rd.

[2:12:59 PM]

>> Thank you. I've only got a couple of questions. I don't know how my time is.

[2:13:04 PM]

>> Go ahead. I'll gently enforce the Watson rule of ten minutes for per. So you. Till 216 council member okay.

[2:13:13 PM]

>> Thank you. Well, I've got some transit questions then. I'd like to understand how many trips per day does lake Austin boulevard currently accommodate and how many additional trips could it accommodate without improvements? Well, maybe you could speak to both with and without improvements if you've looked at that.

[2:13:43 PM]

>> Good afternoon. Good afternoon, mayor, mayor pro tem and council dawa assistant director, Austin transportation and public works department. At this time, lake Austin boulevard carries about 15,000 daily trips a day and on a four Laine cross section with townlands. This kind of arterial can accommodate up to 25,000 daily trips, so if you deduct the existing 15,000 daily trips, it leaves about up to 10,000 daily

trips without additional significant improvements. But if we look into some of the improvements that some of the studies that UT and we had done together, it can open up to about 10 to 13,000 daily trips.

[2:14:45 PM]

>> Additional daily trips on top of that. So the total would be what.

[2:14:49 PM]

>> The total without all the major infrastructure improvements would be 13,000. And if you add the additional infrastructure improvements, it could be up to 30 to 33,000 trips. Okay. That needs to include all the infrastructure improvements identified.

[2:15:09 PM]

>> Do you want to just highlight for a moment what those improvements would be?

[2:15:13 PM]

>> Sure. Council member so one of the major improvements that was identified as part of this study is the reconstruction of redbud trail and lake Austin boulevard intersection. So right now, the way it is designed, the primary operation is the lake Austin boulevard. But if we reconstruct it to make it lake Austin to redbud to be the primary movement, then it will open up a lot of capacity. The other improvement that we looked into is an additional loop from fifth street to southbound mopac, westbound fifth street to southbound mopac, and that is an improvement that is included in the project. What it does, it takes away the need for the left hand signal phase from westbound fifth street to southbound mopac. So that will also open up some capacity.

[2:16:15 PM]

Additionally, the other improvement that was identified was the collector level street immediately south of the lake Austin boulevard. I think that will also open up some capacity for this proposed development.

[2:16:29 PM]

>> Okay. Thank you. How many trips per day are going to be added if the building volume of the development is fully realized?

[2:16:38 PM]

>> Based on our estimate that we have looked into, it may generate up to 30 to 33,000 trips per day.

[2:16:48 PM]

>> Is that additional to what current capacity is, as I say, is there a is there a net deficit for. If we if if the development gets built out in the coming years or decades and we. Even if we do all the improvements, what is the what is the delta between what we've actually built out versus what the potential future need might look like?

[2:17:08 PM]

>> I think, councilmember, the delta is pretty close. It's not like too far off. I say that because at this point we haven't been able to do the macro level analysis. This is a very macro level analysis that we had done at the network level. And as the phases are going to be determined by UT, we're going to have to do the transportation impact analysis level study. But overall, like if we look into the network level analysis, I think there is the delta is going to be very same. I don't think we can pinpoint like how much it's going to be pretty close. Some of the other improvements that we need to look into is the transit improvements along lake Austin boulevard. I think we need to see, like, how we can increase the transit connectivity out there and more bus frequency just so that that can absorb more trips out of that. And obviously, the existing establishment at the tract, they are going to be replaced. So I think there are some existing trips out of that.

[2:18:11 PM]

So that is also going to be added to the future development.

[2:18:15 PM]

>> Okay. Thank you. I know that others want to jump in here, so but I'd like to come back around when there's a possibility.

[2:18:21 PM]

>> Thank you. Council member. Council member. Zo qadri.

[2:18:25 PM]

>> Oh, thanks. Mayor pro tem, I just had a question. I guess this is for the for the UT representative as it relates to the to the bfl, the the the agreement obviously has all the muni and the Brackenridge tracks. It's all it's all one, one part of the it's all one deal with the the donor that that's that's behind this.

[2:18:48 PM]

>> I don't know.

[2:18:49 PM]

>> If you can answer this, but where are they around bfl and protecting it and saving it and all that.

[2:18:57 PM]

>> In my conversations, it it did not come up. What's what has been orchestrated here and pieced together is, is that in order for the university of Texas to be able to convey the golf course to the city, there has to be a fair trade of value. And so the value includes the rights of way, the lease, the land use plan, the donor issue, and then the golf course conveyance. So. The donors focus has been on the golf course. There hadn't been conversations on the battlefield lab piece of it.

[2:19:37 PM]

>> Okay. Could could we have a conversation with the donor on? Sure. Of course. I think most of us and I know folks in the audience would welcome that. And kind of seeing, you know, it seems to me that there's obviously general consensus on what happens to the golf course, but I also think there's general consensus of what should happen to to the field lab. So if we can, if you can have that conversation and convey that, because my understanding is it's the university that's been in touch with the donor, the folks at the city are not in touch with the donor. So if, if, if you can convey, convey that to the donor.

[2:20:08 PM]

>> Sure. Great. The difficulty is, is that the biofield lab is a it's a part of the academic program of the university of Texas. And the donor hasn't felt like it could get involved in telling the university how to do their academics. They just were interested in saving the golf course. So that's, that was that's why it's been so narrow. But I'm happy to take it back. This this time that was given to us. And I, I, I appreciate the time between now and December. We can go back with things like this. And everybody is aware the university is aware of the folks that have been in favor of the biofield lab.

[2:20:48 PM]

>> Great.

[2:20:49 PM]

>> So all that is being taken into account.

[2:20:52 PM]

>> Great. And then I'll I'll stick with you. And then I have some questions for city staff. Do we have an update on the UT master plan agreement?

[2:21:02 PM]

>> When that's supposed to come up? First quarter of 27, I believe.

[2:21:07 PM]

>> Okay. So so when we do have that it would be possible for us to to get a draft of that.

[2:21:13 PM]

>> Oh, sure. I think what's going on in the background there is they're doing their university master plan. And I think under the we'll be talking to the city because it includes the part of the west campus that we've had conversations with about.

[2:21:25 PM]

>> Okay, great. And then for for city staff, I understand the Mueller lease changes with UT will add residential child care and some other university uses. I also understand the property is not subject to the Mueller development agreement. So I guess through that I have three questions. Does the lease do the lease changes. Do they do anything to ensure affordability of run residential use?

[2:21:54 PM]

>> I'm trying to understand what your question is. Does the.

[2:21:57 PM]

>> The lease changes do anything to ensure more affordability around residential use?

[2:22:02 PM]

>> Yes. We we would include affordability components in the lease.

[2:22:05 PM]

>> And the lease changes. Provide any guidance on how the new development will fit within the context of Mueller.

[2:22:10 PM]

>> So the property is still subject to the development standards design standards of Miller. So it that that still is in place. It's it. Regardless of the development agreement at Miller, the the design standards are still in place for the site.

[2:22:31 PM]

>> Got it. And then what assurance assurances do we have that we'll get a walkable quality. We'll get we'll get a walkable street quality street frontage such as, you know, street trees, wide sidewalks, etc.

[2:22:43 PM]

>> That's where the design standards for the Miller neighborhood would come into play to, to make sure that they're in alignment.

[2:22:49 PM]

>> With our existing subchapter E still apply.

[2:22:53 PM]

>> I, let me let me confirm that to make to. Because our development. The design standards for Miller were the. Sorry, the design standards for Miller were created. Before. Sorry before our the the latest and greatest relative city code. So let me just confirm that they're in alignment.

[2:23:15 PM]

>> Okay, great. And then are there any trail components in as it relates to the Brackenridge agreement?

[2:23:23 PM]

>> There are no trail components included in the development agreement. We understand the university is interested in the trail, but it is not specifically addressed in the development agreement.

[2:23:37 PM]

>> Okay, great. Thank you.

[2:23:41 PM]

>> Councilmember Siegel.

[2:23:42 PM]

>> Thank you, mayor pro tem, I guess I'd like to start with staff, please. I and mayor pro tem, I see councilmember Laine raising her hand. I guess I'd like to express that I'm supportive of this community demand that we preserve the golf course, 18 hole golf course. I'm supportive of the demand that we protect the Breckenridge field laboratory, and I also want to do the best what we can for the city, right, in terms of maximizing new income for our general fund to sustain our programs and services. And I guess I want to start with kind of a big question of, of why this vote is being broken into multiple pieces. And my inference is that the financing structure of the tirz really matters a lot for whether the city is getting the best deal possible or not. So is there a reason why we're not amending the development agreement and voting on the tirz at the same time? Why? Why are these decisions being split into multiple votes?

[2:24:41 PM]

>> So the amount of time that's required to properly detail out the project, the tirz preliminary project and financing plan wasn't going to line up with the the schedule related to the development agreement. Further, it's kind of it's a chicken egg situation to a certain degree of we don't want to do all of the tirz creation if we don't know that there's an actual agreement on kind of the overall approach to the development, and then the Brackenridge tract. That being said, we also have made it clear to UT that we would be paying for with the tirz. We would be paying for that backbone infrastructure, not every bit and piece. It's providing the the development agreement as it exists and as proposed, is ensuring that we providing that capacity there. So that is where that backbone infrastructure comes into play.

[2:25:41 PM]

So there's also, like I noted in some other questions about the infrastructure cost estimates and requirements. Those are things that still need to be nailed down the square footage. The far also has a significant impact on that. So if there is a if if council approves what is proposed or if they make some sort of change to go higher or lower, whatever the case may be, that also impacts our infrastructure requirements. So there's a certain amount of clarity we need through the bda amendment that drives what ultimately is shown in the preliminary project and financing plan. But no matter what, we would be making sure that the general fund is held harmless and the various other factors that we put into play for the for our tirz.

[2:26:29 PM]

>> Certainly we want the general fund to be more than held harmless. Right? We want to be a boon to the general fund. But are we giving up leverage right now by voting on a development agreement without clarifying? For example, if a majority of us would like to to negotiate with the university of Texas to protect the lab, are we are we missing that opportunity by by passing these amendments now, or should we wait until we know the full financing so that, like, I guess what I'm gathering from all of this, my inference is that if we want to protect the lab and protect the golf course and maximize benefit to the city, we might need to go higher on the remaining parcels. Right? And shouldn't this all be negotiated at the same time? Are we losing leverage by by voting on some things on December 3rd and then delaying other votes to the spring?

[2:27:14 PM]

>> I don't believe so, because we're required to cover the infrastructure costs regardless with the existing bda. So whether that's for one point 7,000,000ft S or four point 9,000,000ft S, we're still required to provide that that funding. So I don't believe that there's any leverage being given up in that case.

[2:27:37 PM]

>> Okay, wonderful. And then in terms of the goal of protecting the field lab, is there any action that's proposed on December 3rd that would prevent us from negotiating for that that result?

[2:27:53 PM]

>> No. You would be able to ask the university, essentially, the direction would need to be either we'd like you to go negotiate it, or you need to negotiate it, or the deal is off. And the reason we're here, though it would be clear, is because there's a donor, not because there's necessarily a specific interest in developing the bfl at this moment. Thank you. It is literally because of the donor. And so if we lose the donor, that's part of our challenge. And that's also why the timing makes a difference to us.

[2:28:30 PM]

>> Thank you. And I guess the last question is just about the housing. And I understand a lot of this is going to be more a council discussion in the spring, but I guess I'm curious if the city staff, especially from Austin housing, are managing the updates to our strategic housing blueprint, as well as the planning folks who are working on imagine Austin. Have they been consulted as a part of this process? Are they being brought in to make sure that, you know, our housing goals, our planning goals are being met with this project?

[2:28:57 PM]

>> That's absolutely part of that process. As we move through the tirz development, that that's when they come in to to be part of that conversation. There's also, I understand the university is also working on some affordable housing plans as well. So we want to be able to marry all those together in the coming months.

[2:29:15 PM]

>> Thank you.

[2:29:16 PM]

>> Thank you, councilmember. Councilmember Alyssa.

[2:29:19 PM]

>> Thank you, mayor pro tem. I wanted to revisit the conversation around the trail. I know many years ago, Mr. Suttle, you and I got to go out to that field lab and go and look at it. Has the conversation changed at all? I know there's been an awareness and a willingness to participate in some sort of trail connection, but the conversation has been, is it a boardwalk over the water? Does it happen on the land? Can you tell me where those conversations sit right now?

[2:29:46 PM]

>> So the conversation, the conversations we've had have always been an extension of the red bud trail on land, not a boardwalk, believe it or not, out in the community and negotiating the fine, the delicate negotiation of the the development rights. There is a segment of community out there that they're not sure they want the trail to go within the 200 foot buffer that we proposed. And that's when the conversation of, well, maybe it needs to be a boardwalk. Maybe it needs to be on land, maybe it needs to be outside the buffer. All that being said, there were so many different opinions. Everybody thinks there ought to be connectivity, but the mode and the method has not been decided. Okay.

[2:30:29 PM]

>> And that makes sense to me. I'm just revisiting some of my records from a couple of years ago when we talked about the 50 foot setback. And does the trail conservancy, where they maintain their trails, are they able to maintain what is already in that water quality area? Does new trail need to be outside of that, that square footage? And so I think that's a conversation that we certainly want to have. But I'm glad to hear that they're still open to connecting the trail to redbud, because I think a lot of people want to use it.

[2:30:55 PM]

>> I mean, right now, the university is thinking that the the trail would be within the 200 foot setback.

[2:31:00 PM]

>> Okay, okay.

[2:31:01 PM]

>> We'll keep following up on with watershed on that just to see where those details land. And I have one more question for you, Mr. Suttle. UT owns some land that is currently used for housing at sixth street, closer to mopac and Campbell. Does that help in this conversation? If people are asking to preserve the field laboratory, to be able to include any other parcels that UT owns that maybe aren't part of this original agreement.

[2:31:29 PM]

>> Everything is possible. We left that piece out because it's not contiguous and it's across the mopac, and it is it will be in play. I mean, university as part of their housing strategy can use that. But we left it out of this because it just this thing is so complicated. We just we were trying to take complications out of it. But on the housing piece, I mean, the university is going to come out this week with a statement. There's a lot of new beds going in, in and around campus. Studies have shown that kids do better. I say kids, young people do better in school if they're closer to the campus. And so there's a lot of new beds being proposed in and around campus. Okay. Which by definition will be affordable.

[2:32:12 PM]

>> That is great to hear. Yeah. We look forward to seeing what that information is. I'm going to switch over to transportation. I'm glad you're here. Can you tell me a little bit more about the discussions about right of way conveyance? I think I understand what that means, but when I look at the term sheet for right of way, it's listing land that's not in this particular plot. And so I'm just curious, like, what is the conversation around right of way conveyance. Okay. Sorry, Trish, I was trying to save your voice.

[2:32:43 PM]

>> Actually.

[2:32:44 PM]

>> I didn't. Do it to keep talking.

[2:32:48 PM]

>> So as we've noted with the other components with the Miller, the Miller component, as well as muni and all that, there's a larger transaction and partnership at play here. So in order to convey muni, there's there's trading and value in various pieces. And so that's where some of that right of way conveyance comes into play. So again, there are a certain batch of right of ways that they want that are more from a maintenance and esthetic perspective, but there are others that they would like to be able to develop. So that is where there's a significant creation of value brought to the table. But until we're able to have much more detailed conversations to understand what their intentions or plans are for them, we're not able to just bring forward to council the ordinances to do those conveyances, because we have to make sure that we're being considerate of all the utilities and public safety access requirements in those areas. So there will be a much more detailed conversation that takes place in the coming months with them, with our transportation friends at the table, of course, to and to be able to really dig through all those details and understand what it is they're trying to do and, and how we can achieve it.

[2:33:58 PM]

Or if we can't, because there's, there's also a recognition that it may not be feasible. And so that's why the language is written as such. Is that where it's feasible to do so, where we're able to maintain public safety access, things like that. They recognize that that is something we can't just Willy nilly convey over. So we just need to work through those details more closely with with them in the coming months.

[2:34:21 PM]

>> Okay. So to boil it down, there might be right of way land that gets built in the Brackenridge tract, and it would swap for square footage in other land the city owns that UT wants.

[2:34:34 PM]

>> No, it's it's just a pure value transaction. So it's not a swap of land per se relative to the Brackenridge tract. So there and there are certain alleyways and other right of ways where they want to be that are well outside the Brackenridge tract. Yeah.

[2:34:52 PM]

>> I see like 24th street. Right. And Guadalupe east 20th street, comal, mlk, like they're kind of.

[2:34:59 PM]

>> Yeah, they're scattered. They're all around campus generally, but they're scattered about. But through the development of their desired development of those right of ways, they're us conveying those right of ways to them contributes value to the overall transaction that allows for the conveyance of muni. So as you with any right of way vacation we do, we do an appraisal. So we've done some initial work on the appraisals of those areas. But until we can get better detail around them of what they're wanting to do, that contributes to the value. So we just have to well, and we'll work hand in hand collaboratively on just trying to understand what they're trying to do and how it can be achieved most expeditiously, but also, again, not putting our utility infrastructure and public safety access at risk. But say, and these are totally random numbers. So say there's a certain right of way that ultimately has $1 million in value that they would otherwise be paying to us. That is what also goes into the equation of the transaction for muni, in combination with the donor's dollar amount and so on and so forth.

[2:36:12 PM]

>> Okay, that sounds exciting. I'm not sure that I understand it any more clearly. So we're going to need to keep working on it, but it does seem like it's more of a financial plus minus calculation with some other design needs.

[2:36:25 PM]

>> It's a financial transaction, but also a very important maintaining utility.

[2:36:32 PM]

>> Connectivity.

[2:36:33 PM]

>> Connectivity and.

[2:36:34 PM]

>> First responders can get in and put out the fire and all.

[2:36:37 PM]

>> That financial. Okay. It's dollars and cents there at that point.

[2:36:40 PM]

>> So think of it as the ledger system. You only cost a certain amount of money. And these are all the pieces that we're putting in. Okay. To pay for muni along with the muni, the donor's dollars.

[2:36:51 PM]

>> Okay. Yeah. But then ultimately doesn't require the city to be writing a check, so. Gotcha. Yeah. The dollar amount that would be required to just buy muni outright is not it's not feasible, financially speaking. So with that donor, with the financial value of those right of way vacations, with the financial

value of the amendments to the Miller lease, all in combination, like Trish is noting, they in total are what are get us to the core of covering the value of of muni.

[2:37:23 PM]

>> Okay, I get it a little bit more now. I think it's the first time we've had a right of way conveyance, not just be like, hey, can you move the curb? Yeah, there's obviously a lot more going on with this one in particular. And then can staff lay out some of the environmental and planning commission recommendations? I know Mr. Suttle had said they haven't quite been able to review it and get back on what works and what doesn't work, but I'm just curious what people should be thinking about as those conversations happen.

[2:37:52 PM]

>> Okay, I will start with the environmental because those are finalized, the planning commissions, they did vote on them. However, we don't have the final recommendation in writing yet. Two of the big things that are two of the big things that the planning commission recommended that are different than the environmental commission are heights. So they want to say kind of at least a minimum of 200ft in height instead of the 65, or to apply CBD zoning to the area. But let me walk through, I think both bodies have asked for the council to delay the vote. I know there is a until June of 2027. There's a celebration happening at bfl and then also the the master planning process. They wanted. The environmental commission would like an environmental study. Allow for a stronger negotiating position for the city in the wake of the change of state leadership and then additional requirements it would require, they're recommending that the city require the university to retain all 82 contiguous acres of the bfl in perpetuity, and that if the university should decide to close the bfl to require the university to give the city an option to acquire the property for water quality protection lands, to require the university to provide a minimum of five years notice to the council of its intent to close, restrict the bfl, establish a setback of 300ft landward from the shoreline of lady bird lake and then prohibit impervious cover when that 300. So the agreement right now and what we've proposed is 200ft, with some limited, impervious cover, they're recommending 300ft and no impervious cover in that 300ft. They are interested also in a public easement for multi-use trail. They recommended limiting building height to 75ft. They've raised concerns about environmental storage of hazardous materials.

[2:40:08 PM]

They would like the city to enforce the heritage TRE ordinance. And as a reminder, our proposed amendments right now will merge the city's existing policy with our code. They're recommending that impervious cover be limited to 67%, with a total of 70% impervious cover for the entirety of the 190

acres. They do not recommend impervious cover transfers. They would like the floor area ratio to be 0.6, even at the site level, the development level they would like the the. Recommending that the council require the university or whoever develops for the university to comply with cut and fill slope regulations. They're asking for the regulating plan to be reviewed by the environmental commission and other commissions and the parks board. It will go before the environmental commission, and it will go before the planning commission, the city.

[2:41:10 PM]

They would like the city to conduct an environmental assessment study about water quality, soil quality, baseline assessment. They would like a 300 foot buffer between the bfl and any other development, and then they're asking for bird friendly building design and dark sky lighting. So that's environmental commission's main things. The planning commission, as you mentioned before, someone mentioned earlier, does have they also include the 300 foot buffer between phl and development, affordable housing, the 200ft height or CBD zoning. And there's some additional ones, but we can follow up and make sure everyone has those before December.

[2:41:55 PM]

>> Okay. I know you said one of the commission's had finalized theirs and the other one.

[2:41:59 PM]

>> Yes.

[2:42:00 PM]

>> Wasn't quite in a final form yet.

[2:42:02 PM]

>> Correct.

[2:42:03 PM]

>> Okay, okay. That's good. And then my last request with this, that council member duchen has worked on and handed out to folks. And this can just be an email, but any sort of assessments about does this work? Does this not work as far as traffic planning and density would be helpful, but I will leave it there. Thank you.

[2:42:23 PM]

>> Council member alter.

[2:42:26 PM]

>> Thank you very much. You touched on this a little bit, but I just want to make sure I'm clear. And I don't know if this is a question for Mr. Suttle or staff, but the letter you read from UT about the field lab, what they're planning on doing, what they might you know, how it fits into their bigger plans. If they wanted to today, could they just shut it down and, you know, bulldoze it over? Is that allowable?

[2:43:00 PM]

>> Yes. For university purposes.

[2:43:02 PM]

>> Okay. So they could say we want to build, you know, university housing here and we would have no authority to stop them.

[2:43:10 PM]

>> Correct.

[2:43:11 PM]

>> Okay. Someone mentioned one of the speakers, something about legislative approval and needing to file a bill is that that was the first I'd heard of that. Is that a requirement of ratification of any kind of change to the bda?

[2:43:30 PM]

>> No. The legislature approved it initially in 1989. And so their their further approval is not required.

[2:43:37 PM]

>> So there's nothing about the legislative session that we need them to do. You know, we need to have it done while the legislature is in session to do.

[2:43:47 PM]

>> As it concerns the effectiveness of the the bda amendments? No.

[2:43:52 PM]

>> Okay.

[2:43:55 PM]

>> Can you help us? You know, we were not in the room for these negotiations. Y'all were I was wondering if city staff could talk about what did we ask for that we

[2:44:11 PM]

>> He didn't get what what was from our side of the equation? What were we looking for that ultimately was not secured one way or another.

[2:44:24 PM]

>> I don't think so.

[2:44:28 PM]

>> Ultimately, the between the asks of the university, along with city staff review, we've landed essentially where we want it to be.

[2:44:40 PM]

>> And it's it seems that way. But I'm I'm going to hinge on that word essentially. So, I mean, maybe we did get 100% of what we asked for. And maybe that's the truth. But, you know, this is a negotiation, a term sheet kind of implies that. So and I have the same question for Mr. Suttle. You know, what did the university ask for that they didn't get.

[2:45:02 PM]

>> 6,000,000ft S.

[2:45:05 PM]

>> We originally started with a number of square feet that could be built on the Brackenridge tract, that we felt like our traffic study had supported. And it was north of 6,000,000ft S. Like a lot of north city staff came back and said that in the planning staff, they felt like that was too much. So now it is substantially down less than that. That was the major thing that got negotiated was the density. It's still a lot. The university got comfortable with it as long as they could spread it out over the entire tract and have flexibility in planning. And that's that was the major thing that the university negotiated away from.

[2:45:54 PM]

>> Okay. And did we have a did we come in with a certain height or we always at that 65 or, you know, I imagine as the density conversation. I'm just trying to understand how we got to where we got to and.

[2:46:06 PM]

>> Imagine we've got the west Austin neighborhood group, we've got the city and we've got the university. And imagine how intricate that was going between the three of them. The way the 65 came about was there's currently a building on the tract right now that's 57ft tall on lake Austin. And there was a consensus that that felt right as it met lake Austin boulevard. So we did some calculations and figured, well, 57 is not quite right, but if we could go to 65 along lake Austin, that would work. But as the land tails off towards the river, you could have a taller building measured the way the city measures it, but it still wouldn't appear to do two things. It wouldn't appear to loom over lake Austin boulevard more than 65ft, and it wouldn't appear to block the view across the river to the cliffs on the other side, so it would look right. And with all the conversations that went on, the neighborhoods got comfortable, the city got comfortable, and the university got comfortable with that scale of development.

[2:47:12 PM]

>> Did we ask for parkland dedication for extending the trail?

[2:47:17 PM]

>> No.

[2:47:19 PM]

>> Okay. I do think that is something we should consider as we look at if we want the trail to be a public space in perpetuity, that is how we do it. I mean, that is how it's been done here in the trail that we all enjoy. So I would like for that to, to be discussed and, and, you know, have that protection potentially in place. I want to talk about a little bit the, the financing topic. Councilman Fuentes brought this up as I read the bda and we had a conversation prior to this. You know, it doesn't read all that nicely. But is it

section ten and section 11 where you are getting the requirement that says we have to build out the infrastructure, the, you know, the water service commitment or the electric service commitment is that.

[2:48:18 PM]

>> So there are requirements in article ten. There's also electric considerations. And then there's also construction of improvements, which is article 13. So there's pieces of that. It's kind of spread throughout. It's not as. We were apparently more subtle about it than than we're, than we feel like it actually is today.

[2:48:47 PM]

>> Right. And that's what I was trying to, as I was reading it, it says we have to supply water, we have to supply electricity, which is kind of the standard. But typically when development happens in this city, you know, if someone needs more a larger water pipe than we currently have or more transmission than we currently have, they pay for that additional, even though we're still supplying the water, we're still supplying the electricity. So I'm just wanting to truly understand what we are on the hook for. If UT tomorrow wanted to build their one point 7,000,000ft S of whatever. We you is your estimation that we would have to pay for that upsizing.

[2:49:32 PM]

>> Yes.

[2:49:34 PM]

>> Okay.

[2:49:35 PM]

>> We have to the providing the the utility capacity to serve the development. Yes.

[2:49:41 PM]

>> Okay. But we just have to get it there. Once it gets there, then UT be on the hook to pay for their own infrastructure internally.

[2:49:52 PM]

>> That's where we talk about it relative to like the backbone infrastructure. And, and how that weaves into the property. And it's until there's a development plan, it's like, we don't know how exactly it will weave into the property, but there will be expectations for it to, to be on site, to be able to facilitate that further development. But we wouldn't be providing all the internal streets and, and, and distribution lines and things like that.

[2:50:20 PM]

>> And you touched on the transportation issue. And I think that's my understanding under the pd, a a separate, you know, we while we may be on the hook for that full cost to get the water there, get the electricity there, we are not on the hook for the full cost of any kind of transportation improvement. That is a separately, a separate formula for, for how that would work in terms of the cost share. Correct.

[2:50:49 PM]

>> Responsible for that one.

[2:50:52 PM]

>> So the the city has a financial role in the transportation costs. At the actual development level, things that are not backbone. The developer would be paying for. So it doesn't change that. But the actual like we have a role to play in paying for the transportation improvements.

[2:51:17 PM]

>> Okay. And, and this just, it touches on kind of what councilmember Siegel was talking about in terms of seeing the financing plan, seeing the tirz conditions, you know, if we're on the hook for getting it to the property line, but the tirz itself is going to help finance the infrastructure internally, as well as getting it to the property line. You know, that's a different. Just a different set of, of who's on the hook for what then? And I'm not arguing one's right or wrong. I just, I do think looking holistically to understand that is good for us to just have clarity on in terms of, you know, what that cost would be today versus what we think the financing plan is going to be looking like and what it's going to be paying for.

[2:52:05 PM]

>> Sure. And, and it's important to remember how you're probably scratching your head going, how did we get ourselves into this? You got to go back. And historically, look, there was a lease agreement back in 89 at a below market lease that the city has been the beneficiary of for all these years. And that was part of the trade even back then. And what we're trying to do is even up the the trade again, this time where both sides comes out great. But in 89 it was you're going to get a below market lease for the golf course for all these years. But in part of the conversations was you're going to help us with the infrastructure required to do the remainder of the agreement. So it's, it's, it's more of a partnership than it is a, what you're used to as an applicant and a developer asking for something and you're on the other side. This is more of a partnership between two public entities doing great things for both constituents, the university and the city of Austin.

[2:53:09 PM]

>> I do have a book in question. I can wait till after councilmember duchen or it's up to you. You're the chair.

[2:53:14 PM]

>> If it's the last one. Go ahead and okay and ask it.

[2:53:18 PM]

>> Well, the question it fits into the tirz. And that's just what happens if the tirz goes away. Like we approve the tirz. It's challenged and it falls by the wayside. How does that implicate this grand deal?

[2:53:31 PM]

>> I have confidence in the legality and the appropriateness of this tirz.

[2:53:35 PM]

>> And I'm I'm sure I'm glad you do in the case that it doesn't. We have to. That what are we. What's left? What are we on the hook for?

[2:53:48 PM]

>> At that point, we are looking at having to do potentially voter approved bonds. There's there's limits on what we can do in this area. So that is where there's there's a lot of eggs in that basket. I admit that, but there's also confidence in that basket.

[2:54:08 PM]

>> Thank you very much. Let's go to Krista and council member Laine.

[2:54:17 PM]

>> Thank you very much. I, I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of the public commenters who have come out here and or met with me or met with my staff. You know, I'm not a council member who has direct experience with muni, and although I certainly have a lot of experience with all of the green space and the fence around it. But I just really want I appreciate the sharing of the history and what it has meant to some of your families over multiple generations. And I want to make sure that you know that you've been heard. I also want to thank the the various individuals who have already answered a lot of my questions and briefings and to my colleagues who have been quite thorough and touched on everything that has been on my mind. But I just did want to take a moment to make that comment, and I don't have any questions. Thank you.

[2:55:13 PM]

>> Thank you very much. Council member Laine. And I should also just mention thank you to staff. I know we've got some banged up staff there on the front row, but you're you know, we're here on on the seventh hour of this work session. And I appreciate.

[2:55:26 PM]

>> It was a heck of a negotiation.

[2:55:29 PM]

>> Apparently. Thank you very much, council member. Just I'm going to go to council member zo. Council member duchen, and then council member Fuentes.

[2:55:37 PM]

>> You're okay? Great. I have another question for for Mr. Suttle. What is the value of the donation from the donor or from the donors?

[2:55:47 PM]

>> That is not a public piece of information.

[2:55:50 PM]

>> I'm sorry.

[2:55:51 PM]

>> It's not a public piece of information.

[2:55:53 PM]

>> It's a public piece of information. Got it. Yeah. I was reading an article from community impact and the it's the appraised value on the 141.4 acres is roughly 616 million. But I guess you said it's not it's not public information with the actual value is the.

[2:56:10 PM]

>> Oh, you mean the gift to the city? Yes, sir. Oh, I thought you were asking what the donors are giving.

[2:56:15 PM]

>> No, no, I'm not asking for names. I'm saying how much is the.

[2:56:18 PM]

>> You know, there's been so many appraisals done on that piece. The 660 is what cat thinks it's valued at. There's been there's been appraisals higher. There's been appraisals lower.

[2:56:34 PM]

>> But but you don't have a number of what the donation is.

[2:56:38 PM]

>> Oh, he is asking.

[2:56:39 PM]

>> Of the donation. I don't understand the question.

[2:56:42 PM]

>> The donation.

[2:56:44 PM]

>> Oh I that's the check from the donor. Correct. That's the piece that I can't disclose.

[2:56:49 PM]

>> Oh, you can't disclose. Got it. Okay. Thank you.

[2:56:53 PM]

>> Council member duchen.

[2:56:55 PM]

>> I will tell you, it's not $660 million.

[2:57:00 PM]

>> Thank you.

[2:57:02 PM]

>> Thank you. Mayor pro tem, I just wanted to conclude with a couple of thoughts. One is to build on our traffic conversation from a little bit earlier. And the number that recently shared a total built out trip volume. Before you do the traffic demand management and other other implementations was around like 54,000 trips per day, which is a lot. That's a significant amount. And what we we heard earlier was, you know, new on ramp to mopac from downtown, new bus routes, which frankly, I, I think there's no harm in investigating that now, given that there's already some transit issues, especially at the intersection of lake Austin boulevard and mopac, and especially during busier times and then building out a road potentially just south of lake Austin boulevard. And so with all of that, like a lot of things have to, I don't want to say go, right. But there are a lot of investments that have to be made that we need to get right in order to be able to accommodate what the current four point 9,000,000ft S potentially would bring. And so I just want to reinforce, as we're thinking about far or height or anything else, that tweaking those things is going to obviously have an impact, I would imagine, on all those estimates. And of course, as you said, there's more work to do. There's more investigation that we need, more studying that needs to be done. But I would just remind folks that this is an important corridor, right? We've got two major aisd schools, O. Henry and and Austin high school, that are served by this corridor. And what I would want to feel very confident, and I think it speaks to what I've kind of tried to reference during the message board post is there is a certain degree of courage that I think the neighborhood and community has taken on this to recognize that there is going to be an impact here, and that we're going to have to do a lot of things to accommodate that existing. At least the current agreement, is that existing level. The other thing I wanted to touch on just or conclude with was a couple of quick comments on the Brackenridge field lab, which we heard a lot about today, and it's really clear how important the bfl is to the university.

[2:59:22 PM]

It's also very clear how foundational the work that's been done at the bfl for scientific research and naturalist work and educational work. All of that seems very apparent to me, especially after a site visit. What isn't clear is what the city ought to do to be protecting it. We can obviously make recommendations, which I intend to do. We can outright figure out a way to refuse how to work with the UT system, which I'm not sure is going to be a successful approach. But from what we heard from staff today, what we can't do is dictate the university how it uses its land for university purposes. We can't do that today, and there is an adjustment to the bda where we can force the UT to adopt that. So I personally don't believe the bfl fate is going to be decided in the in the coming weeks, maybe not even in the coming years. The bfl has a long history of withstanding many attempts to close it, and my. My hope and my sense is that this time with our effort won't be any different. I think the scientific value is clear. I think the college of natural sciences and the vice president for research, their offices are watching and they're engaged on this. I think even if the board of regents, for some reason right now, would be dead set on its closure, which I don't believe is the case. We're all of us know that the board of regents is going to be there.

[3:00:54 PM]

Membership is going to be evolving as soon as February, much sooner, by the way, than any development plan that that could possibly get underway. So whatever fears we have about its current priorities, I hope, are going to be addressed as new members are added by our new governor. But I certainly intend to work with my colleagues here to advocate for its protection. I encourage the university to carefully examine its long history, and I think once they do that, the value will be obvious on the city side. My intent is to work with city staff to ensure that the development phase is prioritized. Protection of that lab. As I said, we started with trying to do our own analysis to confirm that the the bda, the amended bda, that development can accommodate the lab. Let's not forget this is a lot of land. We're going to be working on this for a long, long time. Wright the tirz has a long history, a timeline.

[3:02:02 PM]

There are it's not just the lab, as I said earlier, it's it's the affordable housing. It's the trail. It's. It's a lot of the things that we've talked about already today that I don't want to revisit. So I'm looking forward to that work. And I'm looking forward to the conversations over the next two weeks. And my hope is that we can figure out a way to move this forward. Thank you all.

[3:02:26 PM]

>> Thank you very much. Any further on the dais? A couple of quick. I appreciate council member duchen comments, and I got to say that that planning commission approach of higher entitlements in other portions of the Brackenridge tract as an incentive or as a way to protect the the biology field lab. It just seems like there's a there's a path forward there where we can achieve all of our goals. And again, I also appreciate his comments with regard to to the university of Texas and I. I am an alum. I have been very concerned with, from an academic perspective and thinking specifically about the termination of the Mexican American studies, the gender studies, the black studies programs with the academic focus of the, you know, making sure that that academic research is prioritized at the university. I would put the biology field lab right in the heart of that conversation that ultimately, academics and scholarly research is a priority of the university and needs to be the priority of the university. And as he mentioned, though, hopefully that will reemerge as a priority under the governor elect. Hinojosa. Finally, a question the. And I'm assuming here that a.

[3:04:01 PM]

Because the public benefit from a trail extension from DPD, where the trail ends effectively right now to redbud is to me tremendous. But from a scholarly perspective, from a biology field lab perspective, does

that trail what happens from a biology field lab perspective if the trail cuts through that land? I guess that would probably be a might be a little bit outside the scope of your knowledge, but the sense would be that they to preserve the research, we don't want the trail to cut through the land. Is that a safe assumption?

[3:04:41 PM]

>> I don't have enough information to know why there were some people that didn't want it. We haven't laid out the maps yet to see what it would cut through. I mean, there's a there's a creek that comes in right there too, that we'd have to figure out how to get over. So I think what I'm saying is the design of the trail is, is farther down the road. And I don't know.

[3:05:01 PM]

>> And any sense and I would say from a staff or from yourself in terms of what is the cost difference between a trail that is on the land all the way between, you know, the end of the trail of tpid all the way to, to to the bridge there and to redbud and a, and a boardwalk that were to go around the biology field lab. Do we have any sense of what that kind of cost would be?

[3:05:35 PM]

>> I'm going to make something up here and this take it for what it's worth. But you're talking about doing a boardwalk situation in front of the Hyatt. And I think that that I mean, it's, it's a lot more to do boardwalk than it is to do trail.

[3:05:51 PM]

>> If I'm remembering correctly, it was about a $25 million for a third of a mile, a half a mile, something to that effect.

[3:05:59 PM]

>> Those are your numbers, not mine. But that's sounds familiar.

[3:06:03 PM]

>> Yeah. That's another, I think that's an interesting conversation and one that that we should pursue. Again, I just think that the public benefit the public good that would come from that trail extension would be tremendous. And I'll just leave it there. All right. Well, thank you all very much for hanging in there for us.

[3:06:23 PM]

>> Thank you.

[3:06:25 PM]

>> Then we will then thank thank everybody for coming. We are going to go into executive session. We're going to recess the meeting to go into an executive session with regard to Austin energy for just a bit, and then we will come out, adjourn the work session, and then go into the Austin energy, the utility oversight committee meeting. So thank you all very much. And with that, the work session is recessed. Thank you.

[4:03:29 PM]

>> Council member. Laine, are you on screen by any chance?

[4:03:39 PM]

>> There she is. That's quorum.

[4:03:43 PM]

>> I am.

[4:03:44 PM]

>> All right. Then let me go ahead. And actually, before that we are. The time is 404. We are out of our executive session in closed session. We discussed utility competitive matters related to item E one. There are no further items pending on the work session. So the work session of the Austin city council for November 17th, 2026 is adjourned at 404.