



MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Board Members

FROM: Lyn Estabrook, Project Manager
Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: March 3, 2014

SUBJECT: Montopolis Recreation and Community Center Project Update

This memo serves as an update regarding activation of the Montopolis Community Center project and current action plan.

During the planning for the 2012 Bond Election in 2011-2012 the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) completed a needs assessment for the Montopolis Recreation Center, including a feasibility study to help inform PARD on the overall health of the facility. The study confirmed that the structure had numerous issues and a replacement facility needed to be constructed. During the bond development process the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) identified the need for a new Neighborhood Center to provide service in Southeast Austin. Between December 2011 and May 2012, a Bond Election Advisory Task Force (BEATF) held thirteen (13) regular meetings and twenty-four (24) committee meetings to identify proposed projects for bond funding, during which time discussions took place directing City staff to combine as many facilities as possible in compliance with the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and its goals. With this directive, PARD and HHSD collaborated to combine the proposed new Montopolis Recreation Center with the proposed Southeast Austin-area Neighborhood Center, as both departments submitted facility projects to serve the Montopolis community with complimentary health and wellness program goals. The partnership resulted in an increase in the overall funding for the Recreation building. The budget went from \$9 million to \$11.78 million for the recreation portion of the center and \$3.72 million for HHSD portion of the center was added for a total of \$15.5 million.

The Parks and Recreation Board wrote a memo in April 2012 to the Parks and Open Space committee of the BEATF. This memo stated support for a number of projects, including the Montopolis facility. The memo also supported the Montopolis Community Center as a bond project priority. Additionally, during the bond approval process there was overwhelming support from the community to ensure that this project budget was not cut, nor the funding decreased during the Bond process. During this process neither PARD nor any City of Austin department advocated for this project or project funding because State of Texas prohibits the City from doing so. Austin City Council discussed the proposed projects for bond funding at six (6) work sessions or Council meetings between June 26, 2012 and August 17, 2012. The proposed Montopolis Community Center was specifically discussed and staff answered questions about the proposed joint-use facility at the June 26, August 7, August 15 and August 16 meetings. On

August 2, 2012, City Council held a public hearing to get input on the proposed projects for bond funding.

After the voters approved the 2012 Bond Program, staff began working internally on implementation planning for the delivery of the 2012 Bond Program. That implementation planning process included project funding allocation, project assignment, inter-departmental partnering, management, scoping, scheduling and initial stakeholder communication. PARD and HHSD planned three community engagement meetings for the Montopolis Community Center as a first step in reaching out to the community to determine the community's program priorities and space requirements desired as well as discuss the site location and Land Development Code requirement for the project. To date, two meetings have occurred and the third is scheduled for March 3, 2014 at the Montopolis Recreation Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. To date there have been no decisions made regarding the project other than the items listed above and the voter approved bond funding.

Additional meetings will occur as the process continues. The project team has created a project web site and comments can be left at 311 or www.SpeakUpAustin.org. A tentative project schedule is listed below. There may be deviation from this schedule as the project is still in the preliminary phase and consideration of additional scope based on community input could impact both the project schedule and cost.

Project Schedule

Preliminary Phase:	July 2013 to February 2014
Selection of Consultant Team:	March 2014 to August 2014
Design Consultant on Board:	September 2014 to December 2015
Bid/Award Construction contract:	December 2015 to May 2016
Construction:	May 2016 to Oct 2017

As the process moves forward, the Parks and Recreation Board will receive additional updates.

Please see www.austintexas.gov/montopolis-recreation-center-updates

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lyn Estabrook at 512-974-9463.

cc: Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department
Marty Stump, Project Management Supervisor, Austin Parks and Recreation Department
April Shaw, Board Liaison, Austin Parks and Recreation Department
Kymberly Maddox, Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Department
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