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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Brent Walker, Parks and Recreation Manager

Date: November 12, 2013

Subject: **Updated Concept Plan for Project Renaissance 5 Acre Park**

BACKGROUND

In March 2012, the City began Project Renaissance, a catalytic public/private partnership covering over 35 acres of underdeveloped land in the Georgetown area. As part of this initiative the City is developing signature park areas across the 35 acres connected by a multi-use trail.

In July 2012, the City partnered with Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA) to hold public input sessions to assist in the preparation of concept plans and selection of park elements for the public park areas and the multi-use trail connecting them in the Georgetown area as a part of Project Renaissance.

In September 2012, the City and KHA hosted a charette and public workshops to develop concept plans for the park areas and multi-use trail on the 16 acre property as well as the park areas and multi-use trail on the 19 acre property. The charette was held at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and two workshops were held at the Dunwoody Library.

At the October 2012 Council Meeting, Council reviewed and provided feedback regarding the park concept plans. Council authorized staff to work with KHA to develop final construction drawings for the park areas and multi-use trail on the 16 acre property. After a competitive bid process, the Council awarded the 16 acre parks construction contract to Georgia Development Partners in March 2013. The Groundbreaking Ceremony was held in April 2013 and the substantial completion remains on schedule for later this month. A Grand Opening of the 16 acre Georgetown Park is being scheduled for December 2013.

Although the Council also reviewed concepts for the park areas on the 19 acre property at the October 2012 meeting and expressed support for elements of both 19 acre park concepts, the Council did not express a strong preference for one concept over the other.

Some of Council's preliminary feedback, which can be seen in this updated plan, included:

- Ensuring adequate parking for park activities
- Optimizing the location of parking to avoid automobile/pedestrian conflicts for multi-use trail and park spaces
- Ensuring adequate size of multi-purpose sports field and hard surface sports court
- Allowing for adequate separation of park uses by age
- Creating adequate separation of active and passive recreation
- Centralizing location of restrooms for all users



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UPDATE

In October 2013, the City acquired the final tract of the 19 acre property and budgeted for the initial phase of construction (which will likely include grading, sub-grade utility work, and parking) in the FY 2014 Budget.

To keep the project on schedule, staff has worked with KHA to synthesize the input previously provided by the public and City Council into an updated concept for the park.

The key features of the concept plan for the park and trail now include:

- Positioning 98 parking spaces on the site plan
- Optimizing the parking location to avoid conflicts with park and trail users
- Maximizing the size of the multi-purpose sport court and sports field
- Centralizing the location of the restrooms to all elements of the park

Additional highlights of the updated concept plan include:

- Multi-use trail configuration which maximizes the use of the park for other uses
- Combined pavilion/restroom facility
- Multi-purpose sports court to accommodate volleyball, soccer, lacrosse, etc.
- An amphitheater for cultural arts performances with terraced seating
- Two playgrounds with equipment targeted by age groups (ages 1-5 and 5-12)
- Overflow parking on south side of Pernoshal Court
- Passive recreation and picnic areas

The updated concept plan is attached to this memo.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The amended FY2013 Budget already includes the funding for final construction drawings for the 19 acre property.

RECOMMENDATION

Following Council review and discussion, staff recommends a public meeting to share this updated park concept with the community. The public meeting is being planned for the week before Thanksgiving, tentatively November 19, 2013. Staff will then bring back any revisions to the plan to the Council in December.

