

February 1, 2018

Ms. Haynes and Councilman Herndon,

As you know, the Greater Park Hill Community has conducted a neighborhood-focused and inclusive process to identify our community's priorities for a pocket park in the 2800 block of Fairfax Street.

The attached materials document the output of our community process, which include priorities, desired features, and concept drawings. All of these materials have been prepared by volunteer members of our community. They reflect a series of volunteer facilitated open conversations conducted in the Greater Park Hill Community office at 2823 Fairfax Street on November 12th, December 3rd, and December 17th, 2017. Both Councilman Herndon and Parks and Recreation were invited to attend these meetings.

Greater Park Hill Community initiated this process as a groundswell of volunteers offered to participate in direct response to statements made by Scott Gilmore of Parks and Recreation at our Sep. 7th, 2017 GPHC meeting. Our purpose is to ensure that the adjacent neighbors' priorities and wishes for the features of a pocket park in their neighborhood are heard, documented, and published, as cited on pg. 36 of the 2000 Park Hill Neighborhood Plan (PHNP), "Changes to parks and open space should be decided in a neighborhood forum."

We have been given many different versions of the city's plans for a Fairfax Street pocket park. We applaud the city's acquisition of Xcel's former substation property when it was offered to you for a bargain price, at which time Parks and Recreation told us they were considering a dog park on the property. Then we learned that the city had negotiated a trade with developer HM Capital. We

have been told various statements, that if a land swap with HM Capital does not take place, then Parks & Recreation would never build a park on the Xcel property (Scott Gilmore, Sep. 7th GPHC meeting), that it would be 7 or more years before Parks & Recreation would have the funds for a pocket park (Councilman Herndon, Oct. 18th meeting), that it might be two years (Happy Haynes, Fairfax community meeting on Dec. 3rd), and now, Parks and Recreation wants to build a park on Fairfax Street in 2018 (Scott Gilmore, email from Jan. 4th).

Whether the park is built on the east or west parcels, the neighbors should be engaged, as stated in the Park Hill Neighborhood Plan, “The neighborhood should have an active role in the redevelopment and ongoing operations of business areas. There should be widespread notification and participation of potential land use and zoning changes.” Greater Park Hill Community passed a Resolution on this matter on Nov. 2nd, in opposition to the land swap. The resolution illustrates the Greater Park Hill Community board is determined to include its residents in any development in the neighborhood. Together, DPR and City Council, can show good faith with Park Hill’s citizens to design, develop, and fund the park, exploiting the volunteer talent, expertise, and labor available within our community.

Of course, as citizens and even as a Registered Neighborhood Organization, we have no authority in this matter: we have only our voice. However, we believe that it is right and proper for the city to work with Park Hill to design a park for our community. We’ve donated time and expertise already.

At our December 17th community meeting Gordon Robertson told us that Parks and Recreation now plans to start from scratch and conduct its own community meetings. Do we really need to continue to operate independently of one another? Can we, instead, work together honestly, openly, and transparently? In that spirit, we over these materials to you, Ms. Haynes and Councilman

Herndon, and we ask that you attend a Greater Park Hill Community meeting to discuss the next steps and timeline of this process.

We would like you to clarify, then document in writing, your plan for moving forward and the role we citizens of Park Hill will have. We would like written confirmation on when the park land will be designated and the budget for the park build out.

Thank you,

Greater Park Hill Community Board:

Tracey MacDermott

Bernadette Kelly

Bob Homiak

Roger Kilgore

Ryan Hunter

Heather Shockey

Kevin Wiegand

Blair Taylor

James King

Jon Bowman

Nam Henderson

Lyle Hansen

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