QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE PRESENTATION
December 3, 2015
Memorial Park Agreement
and
Houston Arboretum & Nature Center Agreement
Memorial Park
Master Plan and Agreement

• April 1, 2015 City Council unanimously approved the Master Plan for the redevelopment of Memorial Park

• The Master Plan addresses the restoration, enhancement and redevelopment of Memorial Park to meet the needs and demands of the 4 million annual visitors by:
  – Preserving the integrity of Memorial Park
  – Enriching the Park’s heritage as a unique landmark
  – Transforming it into one of the nation’s premier parks

• The proposed Agreement puts in place a framework for a partnership between the City, Memorial Park Conservancy (MPC), and the Uptown Development Authority (UDA) to implement the Master Plan
• **Operations and Maintenance**
  – Memorial Park Conservancy to provide greenspace maintenance of the Park at improved levels of service.
  – Parks Department continues to maintain and operate facilities and recreational fields until new projects are constructed.
  – The Memorial Park Golf Course and Houston Arboretum & Nature Center are excluded from this agreement.

• **Capital Improvements**
  – MPC and UDA to construct public improvements to implement the Master Plan.
  – Projects to be included in City Capital Improvement Plan for Council approval.

• **Funding**
  – MPC to lead capital campaign for new amenities and fundraise for operations and maintenance.
  – UDA to fulfill Council approved project plan and budget for Memorial Park public infrastructure improvements.
  – City contributes existing funding for operations and maintenance.
Memorial Park Funding

• **Memorial Park Conservancy**
  – Commits to fundraising $1 million annually to support operations and maintenance.
  – Capital campaign to implement Master Plan.
  – Fundraise for capital reserve fund and endowment to support maintenance and repairs.

• **Uptown Development Authority**
  – Commits to $1 million annually for 10 years for “ecological restoration” projects.
  – Current project plan includes $24 million of public infrastructure projects related to the Master Plan.
  – Beginning in year 6 of the agreement, UDA will contribute 3% annually of amounts spent on public infrastructure projects to maintain the infrastructure.

• **City**
  – Provide continued funding based on the budgeted amount in fiscal year 2016.
    • For greenspace maintenance, the current amount is $400,000.
    • For other operations and facilities, the City will provide funding to MPC as they take over responsibility for operations and maintenance once new facilities are constructed.
Memorial Park Oversight

• **City**
  – Final approval over project design, operations, and maintenance standards.
  – Projects listed in City’s CIP for Council approval.
  – MPC will provide copies of annual financial audits.
  – Council approval of UDA project plan and budgets.

• **Standards Committee**
  – 9 members composed of 3 City, 3 MPC, and 3 UDA
  – Oversight of maintenance and operations performed by MPC
  – Approval of future development projects
City and Houston Arboretum & Nature Center (Arboretum) have an existing Management Contract.

Arboretum has developed a Master Plan in coordination with Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

Proposed agreement addresses the further development of the Arboretum as envisioned in the Master Plan.

Master Plan Components:
- Renovated Botanical Hall
- New Education Center
- New Visitors’ Center
- Restored landscaping
- Improved trails, roads and parking
Arboretum Agreement
Key Elements

• **Operations and Maintenance**
  – Arboretum continues its operations, greenspace maintenance and programming.
  – Arboretum authorized to operate various concessions.
  – City responsible for maintenance and repairs of existing Botanical Hall.
  – Arboretum to be responsible for new facilities built as part of Master Plan.

• **Capital Improvements**
  – Arboretum to construct public improvements to implement the Master Plan.
  – Projects to be included in City Capital Improvement Plan for Council approval.

• **Funding**
  – Arboretum to lead capital campaign for new projects.
  – Unrelated to this agreement, Uptown Development Authority has included $5 million in project plan for public infrastructure improvements within the Arboretum.
Arboretum Oversight

• City
  – Final approval over project design, operations, and maintenance standards.
  – Projects listed in City’s CIP for Council approval.
  – Arboretum will provide copies of annual financial audits.
  – Council approval of UDA project plan and budgets.
Memorial Park and Arboretum Development Agreements

Questions?