



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**



Memorial Park Agreement

Key Elements

- **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



Arboretum Agreement and Master Plan

- **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?

