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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Brent Walker, Parks and Recreation Manager

**Date:** December 9, 2013

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

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### **ITEM DESCRIPTION**

Staff reports back modifications to the concept plan for the new 5-acre park at the intersection of North Shallowford Road and Pernoshal Court based on feedback received from the community at a public meeting held following last month's Council Meeting.

### **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 in partnership with Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA) held public input sessions to assist in the preparation of concept plans and selection of park elements for the public park areas and the connecting multi-use trail.

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.

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.



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At the November 2013 Council Meeting, staff presented an updated concept plan to Council which synthesized the input from the initial meetings (held in 2012) into an updated concept for the park. Staff also shared our intentions to host a public meeting in mid-November to allow for public discussion of the updated concept plan.

## **UPDATE**

On November 19, 2013 the City hosted a public meeting at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. Well over fifty members of the community attended and shared their feedback to the plan. Based on their feedback, and that received from the Council at the November Council Meeting, some of the features and key elements of the concept plan have been improved.

Significant adjustments to the plan include:

- Eliminating the multi-sports court
- Maximizing the size of the sports field
- Adding one full and two half basketball courts
- Reducing the playground area to allow for the addition of an interactive fountain
- Changing the performance stage into a smaller band shell/pavilion for small cultural arts performances

Additional highlights of the concept plan that have been consensus points since presented in November include:

- Multi-use trail configuration which maximizes the use of the park for other uses
- Combined pavilion/restroom facility, centralized to all elements of the park
- Optimizing the parking location to avoid conflicts with park and trail users
- Positioning 162 parking spaces on the site plan
- Overflow parking on south side of Pernoshal Court
- Passive recreation and picnic areas
- A heavy vegetative buffer between the sports field and the residential properties

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**

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council approve the 5-acre park concept plan and allow staff to work with Kimley-Horn and Associates to begin final design and construction documents.





- KEY
- A MP TRAIL CONNECTION TO 16 - ACRE PARCEL
  - B PLAYGROUND (6-12 YEARS)
  - C PLAYGROUND (1-5 YEARS)
  - D SPLASH PAD/PLAZA
  - E SMALL BANDSHELL/PAVILION
  - F TERRACED SEATING
  - G CORNER ENTRANCE PLAZA
  - H RAISED CROSSWALK
  - I LARGE PAVILION
  - J RESTROOMS
  - K BIO-SWALES
  - L MP TRAIL HEAD
  - M BIKE RACKS
  - N HALF SPORT COURTS
  - O FULL SPORT COURT
  - P FUTURE MP TRAIL CONNECTION TO BROOK RUN

