



## Parks and Recreation Committee

June 28, 2018

Dear LUTI Committee,

We attended the informational report on the Fairfax land swap Tuesday June 26th at the LUTI committee and we thank you for the thoughtful questions to Mr Robertson. As we listened to the report we were struck by the lack of financial details that are part of the land swap. Perhaps you were given a written briefing on the numbers beforehand? We were wondering if there could be some numbers shared by the Parks Dept on similar parks being refurbished or newly built with the public?

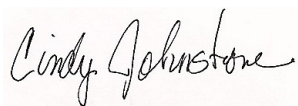
Does the amount to be put in escrow for a new built pocket park meet the project's projected cost? We would like to be able to have a written document that can estimate where the \$650,000 would go towards building the park. Specifically, as in most projects, project managers know what the average of irrigation costs for a third of an acre, what a water tap and sidewalks would approximately cost, what swing sets, trees, shrubs, picnic tables and other amenities would cost. There are three conceptual drawings contracted by the DPR and another concept from the neighborhood and they would give a guideline as to what the desires are for the park. We also wondered if there be a physical separation of development vs park and is this cost something the builder is covering in addition to the escrow money? Is there any other lighting etc items that should be the builder's cost?

Taxpayers may not need to know this information in every project but Fairfax park project has brought up concerns which with more detailed information might be able to help improve negotiations with the community which Mr Robertson agreed to do. The negotiations between neighbors and the Parks Dept should be completed before the LUTI committee is asked to put forward a bill for swapping park land. Being willing to negotiate is a step toward a better solution for all potential users of the park. But, neighbors will not have a genuine place at the table if negotiations between DPR, Builder and Neighbors are held after Council approval to move forward with the land swap.

We have another concern in listening to the discussion, there is no list of what would be appropriate businesses adjacent to the park. We have heard recently from DPR and others that parks and retail go together to activate parks. Yet, we haven't heard of a well thought out plan/policy with public input. More is a need for a commitment defining what is appropriate retail and office use. We believe CPD should have to put limits on retail use in order to approve retail/park zoning. What is the effect on parks when the storefronts are empty or are closed early evening? What is the effect of having a pub open onto the park? There are various scenarios we are sure you can think of where you might not want your children to be playing in this or any park

We will be looking forward to any answers available to the questions we are asking or comments and believe they are part of transparency when working with the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Johnstone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

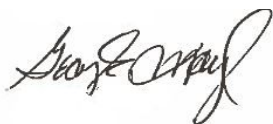
Cindy Johnstone

Maggie Price

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Price". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Co Chairs, INC PARC

George Mayl

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Mayl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

cc: Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Rafael Espinosa, Kevin Flynn, Paul D. Lo'pez, Kendra Black, Mary Beth Susman, Paul Kashmann, Jolon Clark, Christopher Herndon, Albus Brooks, Wayne New, Stacie Gilmore, Robin Kniech, Deborah "Debbie" Ortega, Allegra "Happy" Haynes, George Mayl, Loretta Koehler, Tracey MacDermott, Blair Taylor, Timothy O'Brien