

Dear Mayor and Council,

Some of us who were in a group called the Core Stakeholders, which was dissolved on April 21<sup>st</sup>, received an email on June 23<sup>rd</sup> from the city manager's office inviting us to look at "the planned expansion layout" for the Reid Park Zoo expansion. (Email attached)

We're writing you today because we're concerned that once again the expansion of the Reid Park Zoo is being planned without public participation. We know and deeply appreciate that this is not what you wanted. Per Mayor and Council's direction on May 4<sup>th</sup> the public was to be involved in the planning of the implementation of G-Minor, and not simply informed of a plan from the city manager's office.

Mayor Romero and almost all council members highlighted the importance of community participation. Vice-mayor Lee asked City Manager Ortega "[H]ow [...] can [we] avoid going down this path in the future [...] [so that] we have community engagement up front [...] so we don't make the same mistake again in the future."

We're concerned that the city manager's response to Vice Mayor Lee – that there had never been a lack of community participation – showed a lack of understanding of what community participation is. This is amplified in the June 23<sup>rd</sup> message that invites us to be informed of a plan that has already been made. Unless the Tucson community can be part of the process from the get-go, this puts us back in the same position we were in before Mayor and Council stopped the taking of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond.

On May 28<sup>th</sup> eight community members were invited on a tour of the Reid Pak storage yards. Why were they giving these people a tour of the storage yards if they did not want their help later with finding ways to implement Option G-Minor?

There is still time for this public process to work. A group of us who worked tirelessly on this issue request the following:

1. That the public be shown all notes and diagrams of what has been developed so far with regard to Mayor and Council's motion to implement G-Minor, including those developed for the Reid Pak Zoo expansion before May 4<sup>th</sup>, and that those be treated as simply a beginning in the process.
2. That a new group be formed to participate in the planning of how G-Minor will be implemented, to be made up of people who have already participated as well as people who have so far been left out of the process, to align with Mayor Romero's stipulation that the process reflect the community's diversity. The group should also include architect Bob Vint, neighborhood leaders like Ward 5 resident Mark Mayer, and engineer Ralph Pattison and the others who attended the recent tour of the Reid Park storage yard.
3. That a date for the first meeting of the new group be chosen based on consultation with the members of the new group, and that enough time be allotted for a true community process.

Thank you so much for your leadership thus far. Please let us know as soon as possible how, together, we can make this public process a success.

Sincerely,

- Silvia Valdillez, President, Barrio Centro Neighborhood Association

Former Core Stakeholder Group member

- Ivo Ortiz, Former President, Barrio Centro Neighborhood Association  
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
  - Lauren McElroy Herrera, Chair, Save the Heart of Reid Park  
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
  - Manon Getsi, Co-Chair, Save the Heart of Reid Park  
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
  - Wendy Sampson, Treasurer, Save the Heart of Reid Park  
Resident, Arroyo Chico Neighborhood
  - Bob Vint, Architect, Vint & Associates Architects  
Professor of Practice, University of Arizona College of Architecture  
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
  - Molly McKasson, Resident, Sam Hughes Neighborhood  
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles  
Former Tucson City Councilmember, Ward 6
  - Mark Meyer, Co-chair/Facilitator, Julia Keene Neighborhood Association  
Government Affairs & Outreach Coordinator, Scenic Arizona  
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
  - Jocelyn Muzzin, Co-chair, Julia Keene Neighborhood Association  
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
  - Rita Ornelas, Co-chair, Julia Keene Neighborhood Association
  - Ingvi Kalen, Resident, Julia Keen Neighborhood  
Participant, Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
  - Jose Luis Munoz Jr, Resident, Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association
  - Jessica Flax, Resident, Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association  
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
  - Pam Reid, Daughter of Gene C. Rid, Resident, Julia Roberts Neighborhood  
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
  - Dr. Margaret Drugay, President, Peter Howell Neighborhood Association  
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
  - Michael McCrory, San Clemente Neighborhood  
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
    - Michael Ankomeus, Ward 6 resident
- [many more people have signed onto this letter since June 25th]