

Comments by Jocelyn Muzzin, Co-Chair of Julia Keen Neighborhood Association

These comments were presented during the "Call to the Audience" segment of the May 4, 2021 City Council meeting discussing implementation of G-Minor to preserve Reid Park green space and calling for community participation in planning that implementation.

"My family and I have lived in the Julia Keen neighborhood for 14 years, and I serve as a co-chair on the Julia Keen Neighborhood Association. My purpose in attending today was to express mine and our Association's support for the G-Minor Option for the Reid Park Zoo expansion. G-Minor (originally named the JKNA Option) allows for zoo expansion without sacrificing any green space in the park. I served as one of the members of the Core Stakeholders Group and participated along with six other Julia Keen residents in the Dialogue Circles. The common theme among the majority of participants in both the Core Stakeholders Group and Dialogue Circles was that people, the neighbors and users of Reid Park, did not want to see the loss of existing green space in the park for the zoo expansion.

"The plans presented by the City Manager's Office Option D and the D-G Plan not only sacrifice green park space, but increase the amount of land given to the zoo above and beyond what was required in their original expansion plan. **While the original expansion plan required 4.2 acres of space for the Asia Exhibit, the options recommended by the City Manager's office include 6.9 and 6.7 acres, respectively. We question why these plans would cede an additional 2.5 acres of park space to zoo control.**

"I do know that the Mayor and council passed a motion to proceed with designing a zoo expansion to the north and west of the Edith Ball Aquatic Center. The Julia Keen Neighborhood Association would like to stress that we hope that the Mayor and Council's motion, which included the idea that the least amount of green space be encroached upon in the new design as possible, be honored. We would like to see the new design fit the G-Minor footprint as close as is possible and, if needed, only the smallest amounts of green park space be taken for the project. The open green space in Reid Park is critical to the health and wellness of the residents in midtown area and around the park. **We also believe it is important that there be an ongoing opportunity for neighborhoods and park users to be involved in the design process for the zoo expansion.** Thank you."