



Center for
Community Dialogue
& Training

A program of Our Family Services

March 19, 2021

Dear Reid Park / Reid Park Zoo Stakeholder,

The City of Tucson is inviting you, or another person from your organization, to participate in the invitation-only Core Stakeholder Group that will craft a recommendation to the City of Tucson Mayor and Council regarding the planned expansion of the Reid Park Zoo into Reid Park.

As you may know, the planned Zoo expansion has been paused for 45 days by the Mayor and Council so community input can be gathered via surveys, an open-comment portal, and a large-scale Community Conversation. The Core Stakeholder Group is charged with considering this input and making recommendations back to Mayor and Council as to whether it should proceed as planned with the Zoo expansion or consider other options. The Group's recommendations are due in late April.

The Center for Community Dialogue & Training, a long-time nonprofit Tucson organization, has been asked to be the neutral facilitator for this process. We will be facilitating the meetings of the Core Stakeholder Group and using a structured process to help members work toward consensus on recommendations to Mayor and Council.

This will be a fast-paced, multi-faceted process focused on moving forward. It will not be a debate. Specific details about the Core Stakeholder Group's mission will be explained and discussed at the first meeting on Saturday, March 27.

If you feel that you cannot commit the time or are not the right person for the job, please send us the name and contact information for another person to represent your organization.

All meetings will take place virtually, and the Center will provide computer and Internet access to any Core Group member who needs it to participate.

To help in your decision, here are the responsibilities of Core Stakeholder Group members:

1. Work within a consensus-based process to craft recommendations to Mayor and Council. Group members will need to listen with an open mind and work cooperatively.
2. Participate in all Core Group meetings. We recognize people have busy schedules and we want to ensure you are able to participate in this fast-track process, especially the first meeting on **Saturday March 27, from 1-3 pm**, via Zoom. Although other Core Group meeting dates have not been set, there will be several key meetings between **April 12-20** as the Group reviews all input and crafts its recommendations to Mayor and Council.
3. Review provided data within requested timeframes.
4. Attend the Community Conversation on **Saturday April 10**, either virtually or in person. This is a 2.5-hour event in which up to 220 people will gather in small facilitated dialogue Circles (~10-12 people each) to discuss and reach consensus on recommendations. (Circles will be held in English or Spanish)

To summarize:



- You are invited to be part of the Core Stakeholder Group charged with making recommendations to the Tucson City Council as to whether it should proceed as planned with the Reid Park Zoo expansion, or should consider other options.
- If you cannot participate in the Core Group, please give us contact information for a suitable replacement.
- The first Core Stakeholder Group meeting is Saturday March 27.
- **Time is very short, so we must hear from you by Tuesday March 23.**

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this invitation and quick reply. If you have questions, please reply to the email to which this letter was attached (info@engageparkandzoo.com).

Sincerely,



Christina Medvescek
Community Dialogue Specialist

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