

White Paper in Support of Halting Expansion of Reid Park Zoo onto Barnum Hill and the South Duck Pond

REVIEW OF MATTERS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED DESTRUCTION OF 3.5 ACRES OF REID PARK LANDSCAPE INCLUDING BARNUM HILL & THE SOUTH DUCK POND AND CHANGE IN LAND USE OF THIS ACREAGE TO ZOO

*****DRAFT*****

March 2nd, 2021
Save the Heart of Reid Park
www.savetheheartofreidpark.org

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Executive Summary

Re: White Paper in Support of Halting Expansion of Reid Park Zoo onto Barnum Hill and the South Duck

Save the Heart of Reid Park (SHRP) respectfully requests that the Mayor and Council immediately put a halt to the zoo expansion that would destroy the current landscape of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond, and that they examine other alternatives to alleviate current over-crowding in the Reid Park Zoo. In addition, we are asking that Mayor and Council (not the Reid Park Zoological Society or an outside contractor such as Shultz and Williams) direct the staff of the Tucson Parks and Recreation Department to implement a public process to look at all proposed alternatives, and that this process follow the City of Tucson’s policy for public outreach, as set forth in Plan Tucson and in the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Associations (CAPRA) guidelines. Included in this process needs to be a public review/update of **the Reid Park Master Plan.**

SHRP, a recently incorporated not-for-profit, coalesced in November 2020 when a group of inner-city residents and park goers first discovered that the City of Tucson (the City) had allowed the Reid Park Zoological Society (the Society) to make plans for enlarging the Reid Park Zoo onto 3.5 acres of the park’s most treasured open space. The word spread like wildfire on social media and within weeks thousands of people had signed a petition to halt the proposed destruction of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond. Within months that number had grown to 30,000 outraged folks who couldn’t understand how such a thing could happen without anyone hearing about it or being able to voice their objections.

The City and the Reid Park Zoological Society have insisted all along that nothing was ever hidden from the public, as well as:

- 1.) That people voted for this project; and
- 2.) That 100 meetings were held, with the implication that these were public meetings
- 3) That the majority of people in 100 + meetings supported this project. (See City

Manager’s 1/29/21 memo)

Save the Heart of Reid Park disagrees. After four months of combing through hundreds of City and Society documents to get to the bottom of how Barnum Hill and the duck pond could’ve gotten on the chopping block with so few surrounding neighborhoods and no park goers knowing about it, our research proves:

- 1.) Clearly the voters had no access to explicit information—either before the election or on the ballot—saying that a “yes” vote on Prop 203 would mean the destruction of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond—though the Zoological Society had intended to accomplish just that since 2014. What voters said “yes” to was funding Zoo “capital improvements, operations, maintenance,” along with “free zoo admission for reserved

school groups.” Also, in April 2015, in speaking about upcoming Zoo improvements, a narrator for Tucson City News in Review stated that “the project would not expand the footprint of the Zoo,” and Zoo administrator Jason Jacobs added, “At this point we’re looking at renovating structures within the zoo for the next 10 to 15 years.” There were no townhalls or public hearings on any proposed changes to the Reid Park Master Plan, to help insure that the public knew what they were voting for. And even if a Tucson resident could access the right link online, the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan was not available through the City of Tucson website.

- 2.) The general public, the real stakeholders for the Park, were kept in the dark about the proposed destruction of Barnum Hill and the duck pond. As you’ll find in this document, the Reid Park Zoological Society communicated with its own stakeholders about this proposed plan. No meeting notices explicitly citing the destruction of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond were ever posted in or around the park. The only outreach to surrounding neighborhoods, described by the Reid Park Zoo Project Manager in a Nov. 14th, 2020, meeting with SHRP, as the Zoo’s “big push in communicating to the public,” was a Nov. 2019 Open House that was announced to the public as an opportunity to learn about proposed Reid Park bond projects—“new splash pad, new playground, DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center improvements, walking path improvements”—and the Zoo Master Plan. 32 people left comment cards. Clearly most residents did not connect the aforementioned plan with the destruction of anything in Reid Park.

In the end very little public debate was heard. At the one public open house there were no public officials to answer questions. There was nothing on the Reid Park Zoo or City of Tucson website directly related to land use changes in Reid Park—i.e. the destruction of Barnum Hill and the duck pond. Yet clearly when Councilmember Kozachik spoke about the proposed expansion in 2017, he knew that the loss of Barnum Hill and the duck pond would have a heavy impact on the community:

“The geography of the expansion needs to be nailed down with some specificity.[....] That’s not a trivial detail since it impacts public open space now being heavily used.”

In research going back to 2014, SHRP can find no meeting advertised as a discussion of the removal of Barnum Hill and the duck pond from Reid Park, and a change in the land use of this area from parkland to zoo usage. In fact, no mention of changing the **Reid Park Master Plan** has been found at all.

SHRP has never wanted to harm the Reid Park Zoo. Many of us are zoo members ourselves and/or voted in 2017 to increase funds to improve the Reid Park Zoo and the lives of all animals therein.

Our goal is to “right” a process that has wronged the Tucson community, and to save a very special natural habitat that is prized by urbanites, native critters, and migratory birds alike. We deeply appreciate what a difficult decision you have before you. Please know that when you decide to halt the destruction of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond, we are ready to stand

by you, and, going forward, to help create a more sustainable vision for Reid Park and stronger natural environments in all our City parks.

Current Situation:

- Starting in 2014 the Reid Park Zoological Society had documented plans to expand into Reid Park and did not let the voters know. There is evidence this plan had germinated as early as 2012.
- No public hearings on the Reid Park Master Plan and the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan as outlined in Open Meetings laws and Plan Tucson have been held.
- The area of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond constitute 3.5 acres of public open green space. The plans to destroy the tree canopy on Barnum Hill were made pre-COVID. With the COVID pandemic green spaces have become absolutely crucial. They are non-negotiable in cities and they cannot be taken away.
- In September 2020 the Tucson city council called a climate emergency for Tucson, described as the 2nd hottest city in the US, and said the city government would proactively follow global climate conventions even though the US as a whole was not doing so. One of Tucson's climate-related policies is to maximize tree canopy. There is also a "plant a million trees" campaign. Another policy is that in a power outage during Tucson summer, which can exceed 115 degrees F, if air conditioning fails Tucsonans should go to the nearby park to seek the heat mitigation relief provided by tree canopy. The proposed destruction of the mature tree canopy on Barnum Hill and taking this area away from Tucson families in a Latino area to make it into a zoo attraction is an issue of social and environmental injustice.
- Propositions 202 and 203 funded "capital improvements, operations and maintenance" as well as "free zoo admission for reserved school groups." The language of the initiative is plain and unambiguous. Nowhere in the propositions is there any mention of expanding the zoo, and the 2018 document "Reid Park Zoo Management Agreement between the City of Tucson and the Reid Park Zoological Society," which both of the parties named in the title have signed, lists "capital improvements" as a separate item from "land expansion," so both parties have indicated that they understand that "capital improvements" is not the same thing as "land expansion." We've been told by election law attorneys that it is unlikely that a court would resort to extraneous information to interpret this language. The following is from a 2019 case interpreting an initiative: "When interpreting a statute, courts first look to the statute's plain language as 'the most reliable indicator of its meaning.'"
- The Reid Park Zoological Society spent \$2 million dollars of the public's money for a purpose that falls outside the uses for which the funds were designated by the will of the voters as expressed in their approval of Propositions 202 & 203, 2017, Tucson City Election, i.e. architectural plans for an expansion of Reid Park Zoo onto Barnum Hill and the south duck pond area which would involve changing the land use of this part of Reid Park from parkland to zoo, a change that has not been properly noticed or carried out according to Plan Tucson and the Arizona Open Meetings Laws. In addition to the fact that commissioning these plans does not constitute a proper purpose for these funds, they are based on a concept for which no thorough process for seeking public input was carried out.

- The outreach concerning the planned expansion of the Reid Park Zoo onto Barnum Hill was entirely led by the Reid Park Zoological Society. On November 14th, 2020, Nancy Kluge, CEO of the Reid Park Zoological Society, said in a meeting with members of Save the Heart of Reid Park that the Reid Park Zoological Society plan to create a zoo attraction on 3.5 acres Barnum Hill was not made until 2018, the year after the 2017 vote on Propositions 202 & 203 regarding funding for the Reid Park Zoo, and that her outreach began in that year. On November 20th, 2020, Ward 6 council member Steve Kozachik wrote that the Reid Park Zoological Society had been doing outreach on the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan since 2014.
- Neighborhood Associations around Reid Park have written a letter to Tucson’s Mayor & Council asking for a halt to the above plan in order for there to be a public process, as have thousands of Tucsonans.

Introduction

Reid Park is home to a beloved urban oasis, a respite from the city – a pond and hill with waterways rich with family memories of stick boat races, shaded picnics and wedding photos, as well as a small urban zoo that also holds fond memories for many.

In late 2017, a 0.1% sales tax over 10 years to support improvements and access to the Reid Park Zoo passed by a slender margin of 633 votes. Most of the voters who voted “yes” on Propositions 202 & 203 were unaware there would be an attempt to use the funding designated through their vote to destroy and remove from Reid Park a core part of the park’s public space – until outcry began in late 2020. To date, nearly 30,000 people have signed a petition calling on Mayor and Council to halt the proposed destruction of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond in Reid Park as well as the proposed change in land use of this area to zoo.

On October 9th, 2018, the Tucson City Council passed a resolution including a Reid Park Zoo Management Agreement, as recommended by a Reid Park Zoo Task Force, that “*would enable Reid Park Zoo to achieve the bold vision of the 2014 Central Area Preliminary Master Plan.*” The Task Force Report also states:

*The additional park area expansion represents a fresh opportunity. The site includes a hill in the center which provides a great exhibit backdrop and viewing potential. To make the area most functional, we suggest the area south of the small pond be included in the Zoo. The pond is unusable in its existing condition and must be filled and repurposed.*¹

Recognizing the importance of the impact on public space, in 2017 Steve Kozachik noted that:

“The geography of the expansion needs to be nailed down with some specificity. [...] That’s not a trivial detail since it impacts public open space now being heavily used.”

Today, the Reid Park Zoological Society is claiming that “more than 100 public meetings” were held regarding the proposed changes to the Zoo. These public meetings appear to have *followed* the signing of the Zoo Management Agreement of October 2018. The impact on public land was buried in the details of an Exhibit to the Agreement, the 2018 Reid Park Zoo Master Plan.

What follows is a detailed accounting of key events relating to the move to allocate parkland in Reid Park to the Reid Park Zoo.

¹ 2018 Reid Park Zoo Master Plan, as attached to the City of Tucson resolution for the Zoo Master Agreement

Key acronyms:

RPZS: Reid Park Zoological Society

TPRD: Tucson Parks and Recreation Department

SHRP: Save the Heart of Reid Park

How Did We Get Here: Local Zoo to a World Class Tourist Attraction?

Reid Park is Tucson's "Central Park." It serves the entire City, not just one neighborhood or one City ward. It has been voted **Best Park in Tucson** every year from 2009 -2020². Both Reid Park and the Reid Park Zoo are public resources held in trust by the City of Tucson government for the benefit of the residents of Tucson.

In 2016 the mission of the Reid Park Zoological Society (RPZS) was "to support, advocate for, and enhance the value of Reid Park Zoo for the community." Sometime between 2016 and the present the Reid Park Zoological society eliminated the concept of "community" from their mission. The current overarching goal of the Reid Park Zoological Society is "*to ensure the protection of wild animals and wild places.*" The mission of the Reid Park Zoo Foundation is "to leave a legacy for the future enhancement of Reid Park Zoo and conservation of wild animals and wild places throughout the world."

Our mission is to support, advocate for and enhance the value of Reid Park Zoo for the community.

In October of 2014, in a letter to Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry the Society's President stated that the Society's aim for Reid Park Zoo was for it to be a best-of-class zoo. ("[O]ur current request is for an extraordinary plan that will make Reid Park Zoo one of the best of class zoos in America for years to come!"³) As demonstrated below, it appears that at that time the Society and its board were planning for Barnum Hill to be converted to zoo usage, but the Society's CEO did not reveal that intention in this letter to Huckleberry.

Written statements show that the aim of the board and members of the RPZS for Reid Park Zoo to be a "world class zoo" date to at least 2018. Engagement of consultancy Schultz & Williams led to conversations and written statements about a bold vision, including the recommendation to "...embark on a path of creating a premier AZA zoological park that is accessible to all Tucson residents and a choice destination for visitors to the region⁴." Greater Tucson has a world class zoo – the Desert Museum – which was ranked as the #8 zoo in the US in 2020⁵. The closest world class zoo to Tucson, the San Diego Zoo, had attendance of 4 million in 2018. "It is privately moderated by the nonprofit San Diego Zoo Global on 100 acres (40 ha) of Balboa Park leased from the City of San Diego."⁶ In comparison, the Reid Park Zoo "annually hosts more than 500,000 visitors,"⁷ but, as will be seen below, the plan of the Reid Park Zoological Society is for one million (1,000,000) visitors per year to visit the Reid Park Zoo.

By supporting Resolution #22949, did the Mayor and Council intentionally support a Reid Park Zoo

2 <https://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/best-park/BestOf?oid=29733719>

3 letter to Chuck Huckleberry, Pima County Administrator, from Reid Park Zoological Society CEO, 10/10/14).

4 <https://www.schultzwilliams.com/case-study-reid-park-zoo/>

5 USA Today <https://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-zoo/>

6 " https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Diego_Zoo

7 (<https://reidparkzoo.org/about/> accessed Feb. 20th, 2021)

Master Plan that would create a #1 zoo nestled between quiet residential neighborhoods? Or did they believe they were simply transferring operational responsibilities for the Zoo to the RPZS?

Zoo Plans and Shrinking Public Land Use/Access in Reid Park



As early as 2012 there is evidence that the Reid Park Zoological Society was exploring the idea of westward expansion of the Zoo



into Reid Park in the vicinity of Barnum Hill (see images below), contrary to messaging in the years following.

In 2015 the City of Tucson and the RPZS told the Tucson public they would not expand the footprint of the Reid Park Zoo and wanted the Zoo to be “the best half-days’ worth of entertainment and education.”⁸

- “The project would not expand the footprint of the zoo.” (4:54, narrator)
- “At this point we’re looking at renovating structures within the zoo for the next 10 to 15 years.” (3:43, Jason Jacobs, Zoo Administrator)
- “We don’t want to be a whole-day zoo. We want to be the best half-days’ worth of entertainment and education within Tucson.” (4:35, Jason Jacobs)

The 2016 TPRD Ten-year Master Plan says nothing about shrinking Reid Park or expanding the zoo. The news it reports concerning Reid Park Zoo is that TPRD and Reid Park Zoo would be collaborating with the planned University of Arizona veterinarian program “to grow the program and benefit the Reid Park Zoo”.

2017 Voters’ Awareness of Reid Park Expansion

In November 2017 voters approved Propositions 202 and 203, which established a 0.1% sales tax “to fund capital improvements, operations, and maintenance at the Gene Reid Park Zoo,” and Prop 203 also provided for “free zoo admission for reserved school groups.”

- Neither Proposition 202 nor Proposition 203 contained a Reid Park Zoo Master Plan or reference to such a document.

⁸ Tucson City News in Review - April 2015 • 6 May 2015 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkKCDLjOej8> Zoo section begins at minute 3:17

- The pamphlet that accompanied the ballot measure did not contain a Reid Park Zoo Master Plan, specifically describe a zoo expansion, explain that public access to Reid Park would be reduced, inform the public that the Reid Park Zoological Society planned that the Reid Park Zoo would consume several acres of Reid Park, or note that Barnum Hill and the south duck pond would be taken from the park if that plan were to be approved, although the word “plan” was used in a non-specific way in some of the supporting letters (see Appendix 2).
- No members of the public filed an argument against proposition 203 in the City of Tucson Official voter information materials, entitled *The Choice Is... Yours*, because the public did not know about the plan to remove Barnum Hill and the south duck pond from Reid Park. If this information had been known by ordinary citizens there would have been arguments submitted against the proposition, as evidenced by the large numbers of Tucsonans speaking out in opposition to the plan now that it is generally known, and for the same reason more than just one member of the public would have offered opposing arguments regarding Proposition 202.

Voters approved funding for the Gene Reid Park Zoo. They did not approve a 2018 Reid Park Zoo Master Plan that would have expanded the zoo’s footprint into Barnum Hill and the southern duck pond as a new opportunity with these additional funds. They did not approve shrinking Reid Park.



Tucson Standards of Public Process

The above-described move to transfer Barnum Hill and the south duck pond to the Reid Park Zoo does not adhere to Plan Tucson, adopted by voters, or the Open Meetings Law. If these had been adhered to there would have been:

- (a) at least one public meeting subject to Open Meetings law held by the RPZS wherein the 2018 Reid Park Zoo Master Plan would have been adopted by the RPZS (required by statute and Agreement); then
- (b) there would have been at least two public hearings by the Planning Commission on this Master Plan as dictated by Plan Tucson (these meetings would also have had to adhere to the Open Meetings Law), followed by
- (c) one Mayor and Council public hearing on the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan and Master Agreement (required by Plan Tucson and adhering to the Open Meetings law), then
- (d) a separate noticed and scheduled vote on the Plan and Expansion at a Council Meeting. The vote to approve the amendment to Plan Tucson to include Zoo Expansion, and the authority for the Zoo to encroach on Reid Park proper, would have had to carry by a 2/3 vote.

In addition, the standards of the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Associations (CAPRA), which TPRD and the City of Tucson value, call for “ongoing and systematic outreach to the entire community.” It doesn’t appear that this occurred.

CAPRA Standard 2.9: “The agency shall include community involvement in the planning process that includes ongoing and systematic outreach to include the entire community. It is critical that the diversity of individuals (i.e., all cultures, ages, and abilities) and local, regional, and national non-governmental community organizations, agencies, businesses, and service providers such as the Red Cross, Sierra Club, Trust for Public Land, YMCA/YWCA, Boys and Girls Club, and local foundations and employers are afforded opportunities for input.”

- a) From the Tucson Parks and Recreation website: “Tucson Parks and Recreation continues to be among the elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning reaccreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

It seems that if the CAPRA standards had been adhered to there would long ago have been a robust community conversation including the entire community about how best to approach the proposed destruction of the Barnum Hill and south duck pond landscape in Reid Park and the proposed zoo expansion.

The Tucson Parks and Recreation Department applied for and received CAPRA Accreditation in 2020. In searching through the documents submitted by the TPRD for CAPRA accreditation SHRP has so far not identified any report to CAPRA regarding the City of Tucson considering making a major change in Reid Park nor a community conversation concerning such a change.

How Public is Public? Transparency on Public Land Use Impact

- Early 2017 to July 2017

The Prop 202/203 The “Future of Your Zoo” Campaign, chaired by a Reid Park Zoological Society member and sponsored by the RPZS, failed to disclose to the voters the Society’s plan to use Prop 202 and 203 funding for expansion of the zoo and destruction of the historic Barnum Hill/south duck pond landscape during the process of requesting voters’ signatures to put these propositions on the City of Tucson ballot for the November 2017 election.

- October 16th, 2017

An op-ed in the Arizona Daily Star by the CEO of the RPZS urged voters to approve Propositions 202 and 203 sponsored by the Society, saying that the money would be used mainly to shore up aging zoo infrastructure and items of “direct benefit to the community.” The RPZS CEO did not inform voters concerning the plan to expand the Reid Park Zoo into Reid Park in this piece.

- November 7th, 2017

As dictated by law, the language on the ballot for Propositions 202 & 203 was identical to that presented to voters for signature in order to place the propositions on the ballot, the Reid Park Zoologically plan to use Proposition funding for expansion of the zoo and the destruction of the historic Barnum Hill/south duck pond landscape The Prop 202/203 The “Future of Your Zoo” Campaign, failed to disclose to the voters in the proposition language on the ballot the Society’s. Prop 203 passed by only 633 votes.

- November 13th, 2017

The title given by Council Member Steve Kozachik to his memo to Mayor & Council is simply “Zoo Discussion.” It does not give any indication that there was a plan to increase the zoo footprint or shrink Reid Park. However, in his request that this 30-minute discussion of the zoo be placed on the December 19th Council agenda, Council Member Kozachik surfaces key concerns:

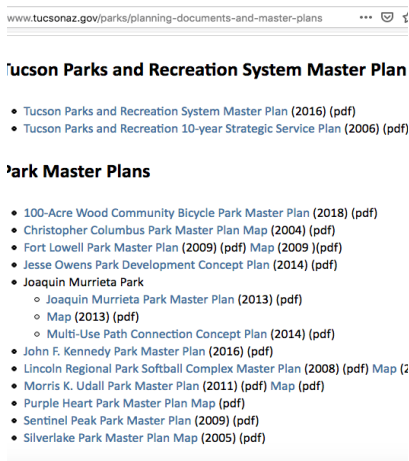
- *“The geography of the expansion needs to be nailed down with some specificity. [...] That’s not a trivial detail since it impacts public open space now being heavily used.”*

- “What oversight is being put into place to ensure the money allocated through Prop 202/203 is used as advertised to the voters?”
- “There needs to be some escape clause written into the agreement [...] If things go south with the Society [...] the city needs a way to exit the agreement and retain management control.”
- December 8th, 2017
Ward 6 Newsletter: An article entitled “Zoo Management” does not refer to the land use of part of Reid Park being changed to zoo usage.
- December 19th, 2017
The title of Mayor and Council study session regarding Gene C. Reid Park Zoo, “the implications of Voter Approval of Propositions 202 and 203; Discussion of Zoo Task Force Recommendations” does not mention any proposal of a change in Reid Park land use, nor do the notes concerning the session. During the session Mayor Rothschild explained that “ultimate responsibility lies with Mayor and Council for approval” in the matter of managing the Reid Park Zoo and that they “need to have a dialog with the Zoological Society regarding operating with public funds versus non-profit funds.” City of Tucson Attorney Mike Rankin explains that they “[need] to ensure the Task Force recommendations [are] appropriate in terms of the ballot language.”
- September 4th, 2018
Ward 6 Newsletter: The article entitled “Zoo Master Plan” referred to three workshops to be held in September and October 2018 and notes that “If you’re a zoo fan and would like to take part in any of these presentations, you have to RSVP first. The presentations are going to be held at the zoo and zoo admission is free for those taking part in the workshops who have pre-registered.” There was no mention at all of a proposal to expand Reid Park Zoo into Reid Park, nor of zoo expansion into Barnum Hill and the south duck pond.
- September 5th and October 9th, 2018
Mayor and Council Study sessions on both these dates had to do with the Reid Park Zoo. Neither the notices nor the agendas for these sessions stated that either the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan or the Reid Park Master Plan would be reviewed or studied, or that a vote would take place to amend or adopt a Master Plan. None of these documents indicated that boundaries to Reid Park and Reid Park Zoo would be studied or that a vote would take place to redefine the meets and bounds of either the Reid Park Zoo or Reid Park. Neither meeting included a vote on the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan or a vote to change the existing boundaries of the Reid Park Zoo.
- December 26th, 2018
Ward 6 Newsletter: An article about the Reid Park Zoo Management Agreement did not refer to the Reid Park Zoological Society taking over part of Reid Park. It describes the transfer of zoo management.
- November 9th, 2020
Ward 6 Newsletter: The article “Reid Park Zoo”:
 - Included a concept drawing which, with no boundaries or landmarks, is not

decipherable, and which appears to be different from the concept drawing now on the zoo website.

- Referred to “over 100 public outreach meetings.” Based on information provided by the Reid Park Zoological Society (described below) these appear to be largely comprised of sessions with zoo and attractions stakeholder groups and private businesses.
- Referred to a survey showing “92 percent approval.” This statistic was based on the comments of 32 participants in an open house event that was not announced as having to do with a potential loss of Reid Park acreage.

○ November 2020



➤ The City's website has master plans for many City parks but does not show a master plan, or a proposed revised master plan, for Reid Park. <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/planning-documents-and-master-plans>

➤ The RPZS CEO stated in writing that she did not have a map that showed the whole of Reid Park with the area of the proposed expansion clearly marked.

➤ The TPRD website had a link to the Reid Park Zoo website, but nothing has been found on the TPRD site explaining that there was a proposal to take several acres of Reid Park, Barnum Hill or the south

duck pond from Reid Park and convert them to a zoo enclosure.

➤ No evidence of a process to amend the Reid Park Master Plan has been found by Save the Heart of Reid Park (SHRP).

○ February 2021

SHRP requested a copy of the Reid Park Master Plan from the Tucson City Manager at a meeting held on 2/2/21 and the City Manager agreed to provide a copy. He has not sent a copy, despite follow up. A public records request to the City of Tucson yielded a reply from the City Clerk saying he did have the records requested and was forwarding the request to the TPRD. The TPRD responded saying SHRP should ask the RPZS for a copy of the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan and the Reid Park Master Plan.

How Public is Public? Reid Park Zoological Society’s Role

SECTION 4. MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

RPZS shall be solely responsible for and have control over all means, methods, techniques, and procedures and for coordinating all portions of every aspect of the day-to-day management of the Zoo, and in connection therewith shall:

- (a) Comply with all governmental requirements, approvals and agreements affecting the Zoo.

The Reid Park Zoo Management Agreement is not explicit as to whether or not the RPZS, through the agreement, would be subject to Open Meeting Laws or other expectations of Plan Tucson or the

guidelines of the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Associations (CAPRA).

Per the Agreement the City requires approval of an annual operating budget, and required 2 seats on the RPZS Board of Directors.

However, when the Reid Park Zoological Society signed on to manage the Reid Park Zoo owned by the City of Tucson, as the agent the Society became a public body subject to the Open Meetings law. Therefore the Reid Park Zoological Society must also comply with the Open Meetings law because the City of Tucson must adhere to the law whether or not it has hired a contractor to carry out a service for the city.

Other than holding a voting minority on the RPZS Board, and review of a capital budget, how is RPZS being held accountable to public process with regards to Reid Park and Reid Park Zoo?

Public Presentations

November 12th, 2019: A public Open House was held, but its primary focus was on the Park bond election projects.

- This open house event took place two years after the Prop 202/203 vote.
- The open house announcement was posted in October 2019 on Reid Park Zoo social media by the Reid Park Zoological Society; information on it was



also issued in a press release sent out by the TPRD, and other sections of the City of Tucson, e.g the City of Tucson website and the Ward 6 newsletter (see Appendix).

- The Reid Park Zoo Project Manager said on November 14th, 2020, that the November 12th, 2019, open house was their “big push in communicating to the public.”
- With respect to Reid Park, the announcement of the open house mentioned bond projects only: “new splash pond, new playground, DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center improvements, walking path improvements.”
- The announcement was silent with regard to a proposal to decrease the size of Reid Park, change the land use of Reid Park acreage to zoo usage, or incorporate Barnum Hill and the south duck pond into the Reid Park Zoo.
- There is nothing in the announcement that can fairly be said to put the general public on notice that what would be discussed at the open house was a plan to take any part, let alone such significant parts, of Reid Park away from Tucson families.
- A press release of the announcement seems to have had the same shortcoming because KGUN 9 TV wrote on its website concerning the open house, “This expansion will affect Reid Park as a whole,” and provided a link that takes the reader to a budget for the splash pads, etc; there is no mention of the proposed shrinking of Reid Park or the expansion of Reid Park Zoo.⁹

⁹ <https://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/reid-park-zoo-asks-community-to-weigh-in-on-10-year-plan?fbclid=IwAR0GhVBCotULDyyk4AmJrnRR49JD2xbhr47iaQjigoNjIKaVntuzLv5OD4>

The Reid Park Zoological Society has promoted the idea that it held some 100 public meetings concerning a proposed expansion of Reid Park Zoo into Reid Park. The majority of these meetings appear to have been with people affiliated with the Reid Park Zoological Society or individual meetings with corporate representatives or government officials.

Public Presentations:

City of Tucson Open House (advertised by press release, media coverage, City & Zoo media, flyers in Reid Park, and directly to community stakeholders and neighborhood representatives): November 12, 2019

Presentations to the general public (advertised by press release, Zoo email contacts social media): July 31, 2018; August 2, 2018; August 8, 2018; September 8, 2018; Sept 2018; September 15, 2018; October 3, 2018; May 1, 2019; May 25, 2019; June 1, 2019; .

Mayor and Council Meetings: September 5, 2018 Study Session, and April 21, 2020

Community Stakeholder Presentations:

Clubs, groups, and organizations (i.e. Rotary, Lions Club, Attractions Alliance): 17

Zoo Member Meetings (Advertised to Reid Park Zoo's 13,000+ member households): and April 24, 2019

Individuals or corporate representatives: 67

Elected and government officials: 13

Internal: 4

Zoo Donor groups: 14

Zoo Volunteers: 3

Little information is available about ten presentations reported by the Reid Park Zoological Society as having been given to the "general public" in 2018 and 2019, but what information there is suggests they probably were directed principally to the zoo community as they were "advertised by press release, Zoo email contacts, and Zoo social media." Three are described in the Ward 6 newsletter as being for "zoo fans."

- No posts have been found to this effect around the dates listed on Reid Park Zoo Facebook or Twitter, or on the TPRD Twitter.
- A Reid Park Zoo Facebook post for October 3rd, 2018, is for the Zoo Tucson Auction.
- A Reid Park Zoo Facebook post for May 1st, 2019, is for the Reid Park Zoo Summer Safari Nights.
- Information about the other seven presentations has not been located but the fact that they were advertised via "Zoo email and Zoo social media" suggests they were directed principally to the zoo community.

- Several posts appeared in the Ward 6 newsletter but do not mention taking parts of Reid Park away from Tucson families.

Public Notice

No notice was published in the local paper of record.

- No notice highlighting the plan to decrease the size of Reid Park, change the land use of Reid Park acreage to zoo usage, or incorporate Barnum Hill and the south duck pond into the Reid Park Zoo was published in the local paper of record, the Arizona Daily Star. This would have been a means of easily reaching the general Tucson community.

No announcement, notice, plan or map was posted in or near Reid Park.

- The Sunshine Mile District has posted notices on affected property just down the road from Reid Park, with maps of the overlay district and information about where fulsome information can be obtained. Something similar could have been done in Reid Park. Nothing was posted.

Most Neighborhood Associations were not notified.

- At a minimum, neighborhood associations surrounding the park should have been thoroughly informed and given an opportunity to be heard concerning this issue. Many have regular meetings, list serves and websites to circulate community information to members. The following neighborhoods also have been contacted and have confirmed they were not notified: Arroyo Chico, Broadmoor-Broadway Village, Rincon Heights, Sam Hughes.
- The president of Colonia Solana on the park's north border recalled attending the 2019 open house but observed it was not an opportunity for public comment. Two other attendees at the presentation reports that the plan to destroy Barnum Hill and the south duck pond and make them part of the Reid Park Zoo was not disclosed during this presentation.

There was no Spanish-language outreach despite the fact heavy use of Reid Park by Tucson's Latino community.

Community groups such as Tucson Audubon Society were not notified.

- Migratory birds are a star attraction at the Reid Park ponds. The Tucson Audubon Society could have provided information to, and sought input from, its members through its publications and on-line programs.
- Tucson Audubon was not notified. It learned of the plan when the duck pond was fenced and alarmed park users started calling the Tucson Audubon Society.

No posts were found on City of Tucson or Reid Park Zoo social media explaining that the Reid Park Zoological Society plan would negatively impact Reid Park.

- Reid Park Zoo Facebook and Twitter, and TPRD Twitter were reviewed for three years and no

posts were found concerning the proposed destruction of the landscape of 3.5 acres of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond and its conversion into a zoo enclosure.

- Except for the open house announcements described above, no posts were found pertaining to the Zoo plan, to public hearings or meetings, to taking over part of Reid Park, or to removing Barnum Hill or the south duck pond from Reid Park.

RPZS Leadership Position

A November 14th, 2020, meeting was held on Barnum Hill in Reid Park to discuss RPZS's plans for Reid Park, and included:

Tim Thomure, the then-Interim Director of the TPRD
Nancy Kluge, the CEO of the Reid Park Zoological Society
Rob, Project Manager for the Reid Park Zoo improvement project
Members of Save the Heat of Reid Park

Nancy Kluge commented:

- The Reid Park Zoological Society's plan to turn Barnum Hill into a zoo attraction was developed in 2018 by the RPZS.
- Community groups and neighborhood associations were not contacted to assist in developing the zoo plan.
- After the plan was developed it was presented at 100 meetings. Most of the organizations to which she presented the plan were groups that had invited her to speak. Nancy explained, "That's not the same thing as trying to get the word out to everyone."
- Ms. Kluge told the group that 92% of the public approved of the RPZS's plan to change the land use of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond from parkland to zoo usage.
- Ms. Kluge said she would provide the names of the groups she presented the Master Plan to, along with the characteristics of the people who attended those meetings.

The Reid Park Zoo Project Manager commented:

- "The biggest public process was in November [2019]. We do have rules we have to follow."

When asked by email about the rules the RPZS was following with regard to public meetings, Ms. Kluge replied: "I am not aware of any rules and don't know what Rob was referring to, we weren't giving these presentations to meet any rules for the Zoo."

As stated earlier, in 2017 then-mayor Jonathan Rothschild pointed out that it was important for the Reid Park Zoological Society to understand the difference between "operating with public funds versus non-profit funds." The above statements by the Reid Park Zoological Society's CEO regarding the fact that "getting the word out to everyone" about the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan was not in her goal set is a case in point, as is the fact that no outreach on the plan was done in Spanish.

○ November 20th, 2020

Lauren McElroy of SHRP followed up with Nancy Kluge by email on November 16th, 2020, for information Nancy had promised about groups she had presented the Reid Park Master Plan to and the people who attended those presentations. On November 20th Ms. Kluge provided three documents in

reply to this request:

Reid Park Zoo Presentations of Master Plan¹⁰

Reid Park Zoo Master Plan - Public Meeting Comment Summary November 12, 2019¹¹

Open House To Discuss Gene C. Reid Park Improvements And Reid Park Zoo Master Plan¹²

Public Process and What DID Happen: Document Analysis of Public Zoo Master Plans

How Did It Happen?

As described above, Save the Heart of Reid Park (SHRP) is a grassroots group that sprang up during the weekend of November 6th, 2020, after a letter to the editor of the Arizona Daily Star entitled “Destruction in Reid Park” alerted the public to a plan to “remove the pond, trees and [Barnum] hill and erect a new building for the zoo in that space.” The CEO of the RPZS and the Interim Director of the TPRD met with the members of SHRP (SHRP) on Barnum Hill in Reid Park on November 14th, 2020. The Society’s CEO told SHRP that the plan to turn 3.5 acres of Reid Park including Barnum Hill and the south duck pond into a zoo enclosure was developed in 2018 and that the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan was the foundational document for that plan. The members of SHRP then began avidly searching on the City of Tucson website for copies of a 2018 Reid Park Zoo Master Plan in order to learn more about the plan.

In December 2020, during a scheduled telephone meeting, the chair of SHRP asked the Interim Director of TPRD for a copy of the zoo master plan and he replied that it was posted on the City of Tucson web site. The SHRP chairperson let him know that the link provided led only to a description of the proposed expansion on the Reid Park Zoo website. The Interim Director then attempted to access the plan via the City of Tucson website and was surprised to verify that the link provided simply led to the Reid Park Zoo website, and that there was no Reid Park Zoo Master Plan document attached to the link. He then promised to provide a copy of the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan to SHRP, which SHRP has yet to receive. In January 2021 the chair of SHRP was searching for something else related to this matter and came upon a copy of a Reid Park Zoo Master Plan dated 2014 on a for-pay website called SCRIBD.

The document she found, entitled “Central Area Master Plan 2014 Reid Park Zoo” clearly shows that in 2014 the RPZS planned to expand the Reid Park Zoo onto Barnum Hill in order to promote the zoo as a “number one regional attraction in the Tucson area.” It includes reference to hopes that the Bond Election that was on the horizon at that time (which did not take place) would provide funding for the new version of the Reid Park Zoo depicted, and the document outlines construction plans for expansion onto Barnum Hill in 2022/3. The following statements and diagrams are found in this document:

10 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KzReHraYJeRUlhpF_DLnXQca9eSlcYUI/view?usp=sharing

11 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kdrSrMmVFNiRyOTqmhOGgEzV64I7KfVY/view?usp=sharing>

12a City of Tucson news release by Sierra Boyer, City of Tucson Community Promotions and Marketing Manager: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BOrgZFVVrbIJCmaJgSNcNrOMRcgd0U9x/view?usp=sharing>



“A comprehensive analysis of the Zoo’s 24 acres led to the concept of a potential expansion to the west of Lakeshore Lane, between the two existing water recovery ponds. This would be an opportunity to create a future Asia exhibit, which could give a balance to the Zoo’s collection, while *substantially increasing attraction value*. At this time, the intent was to make sure that a proper connection could be made to this acreage in the future for exhibit expansion.” (p. 10)

An aerial photo in which the area of Barnum Hill is marked “POTENTIAL EXPANSION” is shown on p. 12, and on p. 13 that same area is marked “ASIA” as part of an overall design in which different areas in the Reid Park Zoo are labeled for different continents.

On page 30 (emphasis added):

“As the Plan *has received approval from the Zoo Society, Zoo and City staff*, and appreciation of potential donors, as well as now being recommended for a \$10.0 million addition to Pima County’s Bond Election, the cost estimates and implementation schedules presented below delineate the potential dates of design and construction, as well as opening dates for the exhibits complex.”

“Phase 2 would be the entry improvements to both the Zoo and South America, all while allowing a proper pathway right-of-way for the future Asia expansion of three acres.”

“Phase 3 would be the expansion to create the new Asia exhibit [to be located on Barnum Hill, per the p. 13 diagram]. This would substantially increase attraction value and create yet additional destination facilities. It is anticipated that upon completion of Phase 2 the Zoo should be able to achieve 700,000 in attendance (including day-time and after-hours venues), and upon completion of Phase 3 be close to the 800,000 attendance mark. All of this, of course, *depends on aggressive management* and promotion of the new destination facilities that will be realized by the build-out of this Plan.”

The plan documents the aim that:

“The Reid Park Zoo will become the undisputed number one regional attraction in the Tucson area.”

In the construction timeline provided, “Phase 3 Asia” is shown as being designed in 2021 and constructed in 2022 and 2023. (p. 34)

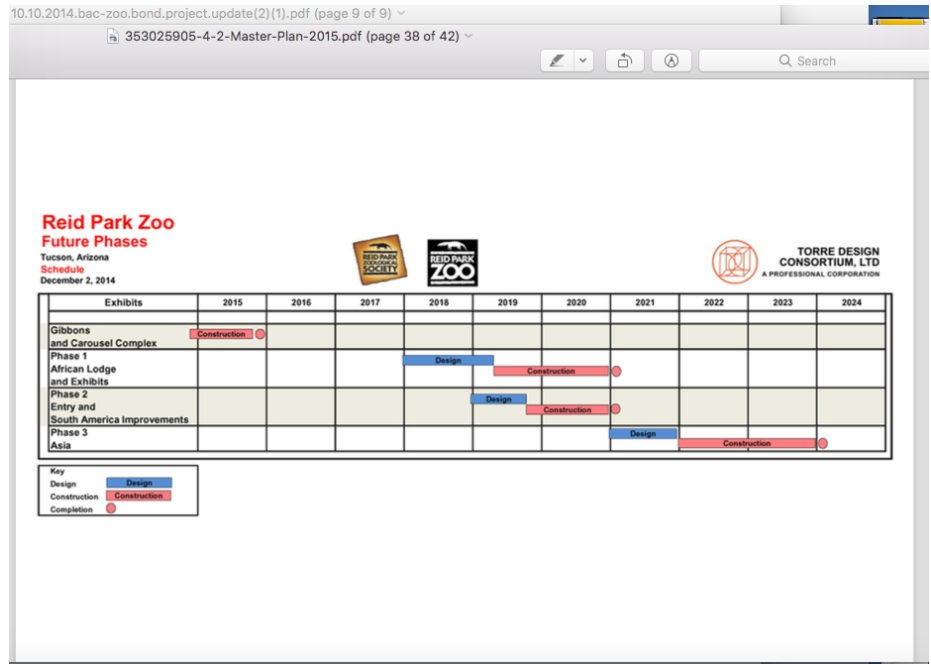
None of the above was shared with Tucson voters, other than, it seems, specialized groups, before the November 7th, 2017, vote on Propositions 202 and 203.

In the 2017/18 RPZS Annual Report (opening letter by Nancy Kluge)¹³, the following had been promised to voters, and they were indeed described in Ms. Kluge’s October 2016 op-ed piece. Apparently, unbeknownst to voters, Ms. Kluge considered that 3.5 acres of public land were also included:

With the passage of the Zoo Improvement Fund, the Society and the City set out together to update the Zoo’s long-term master plan. The group took the 2014 master plan that had been previously approved and asked the architect who designed that plan to update it with the items promised to voters: a new hippo habitat; a larger habitat for the Zoo’s beautiful and highly endangered tigers; an African safari lodge with opportunities for indoor seating and events; a tree-top adventure play area where children can crawl in tunnels as high as the trees; an interactive feeding experience with the Zoo’s rhinos and tropical birds; and more room with more shade!

On October 9th, 2018, the Tucson City Council passed a resolution including a Reid Park Zoo Management Agreement that was the outcome of the activities of a Zoo Task Force that “would enable Reid Park Zoo to achieve the bold vision of the 2014 Central Area Preliminary Master Plan.”

The additional park area expansion represents a fresh opportunity. The site includes a hill in the center which provides a great exhibit backdrop and viewing potential. To make the area most functional, we suggest the area south of the small pond be included in the Zoo. The pond is unusable in its existing condition and must be filled and repurposed.¹⁴



PLANNING THE FUTURE OF REID PARK ZOO

In November 2017 the citizens of Tucson gave Reid Park Zoo a positive vote by approving improvements to the Zoo be funded through a dedicated sales tax. In December, Reid Park Zoological Society contracted Torre Design Consortium, Ltd. (TDCL) and requested that the 2014 Central Area Preliminary Master Plan, which was originally developed by TDCL, be revised and expanded upon. The new expanded area covers the entire Zoo, and includes the area west of the Zoo previously identified in 2014 as a new Asian exhibit. The expanded area adds approximately 3.5 acres to the Zoo. The Zoo promised the citizens that the new improvements will include the following:

- The tiger exhibit will be expanded upon with an overhead transfer element.
- A new river hippo exhibit with underwater viewing.
- A new treetops playground.
- An expanded rhino exhibit possibly including a feeding area.
- A new tropical discovery center housing reptiles.
- Overall Zoo operations and maintenance will be improved.

13 <https://reidparkzoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2017-2018-Annual-Report-1.pdf>

14 2018 Reid Park Zoo Master Plan, as attached to the City of Tucson resolution for the Zoo Master Agreement

No announcement giving the general public of Tucson notice of a possible expansion of Reid Park Zoo affecting the public's use

- The Reid Park Zoological Society's document "Reid Park Zoo Presentations of Master Plan" lists a total of 136 events designated as "meetings"
- 67 were meetings with individuals described as "individuals or corporate representatives."
- 13 meetings are described as meetings with "elected or government officials"
- Ms. Kluge refused or was unable to provide the names of any of the above individuals or the dates and locations of the meetings.
- Document request to the city of Tucson resulted in City of Tucson telling SHRP to ask Ms. Kluge for the information on these meetings.

No public verbal presentation of the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan

- Only one event listed in the Reid Park Zoo Presentation of Master Plan (above) was announced to the general public, i.e. through channels other than the Reid Park Zoo email list or Facebook page – the event described in Document 3.
- The announcement for the event gave the impression that the discussion on Reid Park would be about park features such as splash pads.
- There was no mention in the announcement of a possible change in land use for Reid Park from parkland to zoo.
- There was no mention of removal of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond from the park and from public use.
- This article was released on Thursday November 7th, 2019. If it was the only means of engaging with non-zoo stakeholders, it allowed very little time for readers to plan to attend the event on the following Tuesday evening
- There was no verbal presentation of the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan at that event.
- No copy of the 2018 Reid Park Zoo Master Plan was available for member of the public at the event. In fact, as noted above, SHRP has asked City of Tucson staff for a copy of this document multiple times and City of Tucson has failed to provide a copy. Neither is the document readily available on the City of Tucson website.
- At the event, rather than a copy of the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan there was a drawing of a possible zoo enclosure as it would look from above along with a TPRD employee sitting next to the drawing who could be engaged in conversation if an attendee wished to do so.
- One sentence concerning the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan in the announcement for the open-house event mentions "the expansion," without explanation.
- Neither in the announcement nor at the open-house event was there any mention that the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan would irreparably affect Barnum Hill and the south duck pond (e.g. demolition of trees, filling in with concrete, erection of buildings)

No presentations by the Reid Park Zoological Society to community groups unaffiliated with the zoo

- Ms. Kluge refused or was unable to give the specific names of the organizations she presented to and the dates and locations of these presentations.
- Public Records Request for this information dated Feb. 8th, 2021, to the City of Tucson, Log No. 213593, resulted in the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department instructing Lauren McElroy to contact the RPZS for the information on these meetings. She had already requested this information on November 16th, 2020, with the results described in this document.

- No outreach was conducted in Spanish.
- No meetings were held in Spanish.
- No meetings held in English at which interpreters were available.
- No presentations on the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan were given to non-zoo stakeholders such as park goers, community groups such as neighborhood associations, historical societies, or the Tucson Audubon Society.
- The 17 “Clubs, groups and organizations” that received presentations on the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan were described as “Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Attractions Alliance, etc.”
- Both Rotary Clubs¹⁵ and Lions Clubs¹⁶ are groups made up of business and professional leaders. The Rotary Club is one of the RPZS’s donors.
- The Southern Arizona Attractions Alliance is an advocacy group that the Reid Park Zoological Society belongs to. Their goal is to increase admissions to Alliance member attractions.
- This list of groups does not represent the general population of Tucson in a representative way.
- The rest of the presentations listed as given to “community stakeholders” were meetings held with people connected to the zoo, described on the list as: members, volunteers, donors, and “internal.”

No representative sample of the Tucson community was surveyed.

- No attempt was made to systematically survey the population of Tucson regarding the proposed irreparable change to Reid Park.
- The document entitled “Reid Park Zoo Master Plan - Public Meeting Comment Summary November 12, 2019” consists of a list of 32 comments left on post cards by attendees at the event described in Document 3, an open house held by the TPRD on November 12th, 2019.
- This very small, non-random sample is the source of Nancy Kluge’s statement that 92% of the Tucson public approved of the RPZS’s plan to irreparably change the area of Barnum Hill and the south duck pond. It does not reflect a representative selection of the people of Tucson. It is more accurate to say that the City of Tucson received only 32 comments from the public about the proposed Reid Park Zoo Master Plan.
- It is probable that supporters of the zoo expansion plan were over-represented in the 32 comments received for the following reasons: According to the RPZS CEO Reid Park Zoo members, donors, volunteers and allies received presentations on the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan as well as communications from the RPZS about the plan, whereas other segments of the Tucson population did not. Since the November 2019 event was publicized to neighborhood associations as a bond-related event§§, more members of Reid Park Zoological Society-affiliated groups in support of the plan would have known that the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan event provided an opportunity to comment on the attended the event, with the intent to comment on the plan, as compared to those who were unaware of the content of the plan and the effect it could have on Reid Park since the public at large had been notified that the open house would be a bond-related event.

Lack of visibility on Reid Park Zoo expansion at November 12th, 2019 public event

¹⁵ Rotary Clubs were founded in 1905 in Chicago and are made up of business and professional leaders. “Active membership is by invitation from a current Rotarian, to professionals or businesspersons.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotary_International#Active_membership

¹⁶ Lions Clubs were founded in 1917 in Indiana by “a 38-year-old Chicago business leader”. “Membership in the Lions Club is by ‘invitation only’.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lions_Clubs_International

- No verbal announcement was made at the event stating that there was a plan to decrease the acreage of Reid Park by putting the land use change described above into effect.
- No forum for public discussion was provided.
- No printed copies of the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan were available for members of the public to examine during the event,
- No fliers informing of a way to access the plan online were available.
- The non-verbal event on the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan consisted of an architectural rendering of the proposed zoo enclosure as it would be seen from above, posted in the corner of the room for passersby.
- No map of Reid Park with the proposed expansion zone clearly marked was posted.
- Someone from the TPRD was sitting next to the rendering and could be engaged in conversation if an attendee wished to do so.
- There were comment cards on which an attendee could write a comment if s/he so desired. One attendee said the event “was really not an opportunity to comment but only to see their plans.” Another attendee described the event this way: “the November 12 open house meeting at Reid Park in 2019 which covered the bond issues.” She said the viewing consisted of “a walk around preliminary poster session and if you didn't look hard or ask the right questions of the person, you wouldn't have known the details of where the expansion would take place. [...] here were very few people there.”
- Two attendees who spoke with the employee sitting near the rendering were told by that person that in the future there would be a public process through which residents could discuss this issue: “[W]e were told there would be future meetings with the public, but everyone there who saw possible expansion into the park, objected to that part.”

Reid Park fulfills a unique function in the cultural life of Tucson, especially for the Latino community. This is where Shakespeare in the Park and pops concerts are held, where *quinceañera* and wedding photographs are taken, and where presidential candidates have come to speak. And it is used by Tucsonans who live in all parts of the city. The people of Tucson deserve to be represented in the process of making decisions concerning Reid Park, and the law upholds this right.

A public process about this issue has yet to take place. SHRP would support a thorough public process exploring alternatives to approach a potential Reid Park Zoo Expansion.

Table 1: Public Presentations – Reid Park Zoological Society Presentations of Master Plan

Takeaway:

- **There was 1 event advertised to the public (not business leaders). It was advertised as an opportunity to learn more about Bond money projects and the zoo master plan.**
- **There were NO events advertised to the public that mention the possibility of removing Barnum Hill and the south duck pond from Reid Park in the announcement.**

Information in 1st & 4th columns quoted from document provided by Nancy Kluge, Reid Park Zoological Society CEO, except last 4 rows

Meeting description	Mention taking land away from Reid Park?	Advertised to Public?	# of presentations
City of Tucson Open House: November 12, 2019	No	Press release from the TPRD; Reid Park paragraph included no mention of proposed decrease in Reid Park acreage; the phrase “the expansion” appeared in a sentence on the Reid Park Zoo Master Plan; no mention of the concept of taking Barnum Hill & south duck pond out of Reid Park †. This event advertised on neighborhood association listservs as an open house on park bonds.§ In the KGUN TV announcement for that meeting which appeared on the station’s web site, https://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/reid-park-zoo-asks-community-to-weigh-in-on-10-year-plan?fbclid=IwAR0GhVBCotULDyykI4AmJrnRR49JD2xbhr47iaQjigoNjIKaVntuzLv5OD4 the sentence "This expansion will affect Reid Park as a whole" includes a link; however, the link goes to a City of Tucson web site with a table showing a budget for the splash pad and other bond-related items for Reid Park https://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/gov/prop407/Projects/GeneCReidPark.pdf The announcement is silent about taking Reid Park, Barnum Hill, or the south duck pond.	1

General public (advertised by press release and Zoo email/social): September 8, 2018; September 12, 2018; October 3, 2018; May 1, 2019; May 25, 2019; June 1, 2019.	unknown; no information provided by City or Zoo	No. The RPZS says these were advertised to the general public, but examination of where the meetings were advertised shows it was to the zoo email list and zoo social media; however, no posts have been found around the dates listed on Reid Park Zoo FB or Twitter, or on Tucson Parks and Rec Twitter. The society says the meetings were advertised via press release, but did not provide copies of the press release.	6
General public - advertised to Zoo email list (50,000 people)/social (85,000 people): July 31, 2018, August 2, 2018; August 8, 2018, September 15, 2018; June 22, 2019	unknown; no information provided by City or Zoo	No. Advertised to zoo email list and zoo social media.	5
Mayor and Council meetings: June 7, 2018 and April 21, 2020	unknown; no information provided by City or Zoo	Unknown whether removing Barnum Hill and south duck pond from park was on the City Council meeting agenda	2
Clubs, groups and organizations (i.e. Rotary, Lions Club, Attractions Alliance): 17	unknown; no information provided by City or Zoo	No. These were meetings of these specific clubs, for their members. The first two groups: business & professional leaders; the third is a group to which the Reid Park Zoo belongs – all members have the goal of increasing attendance to their own and each other’s attractions.	17
Individuals or corporate representatives: 67	unknown; no information provided by City or Zoo	No. These were meetings with individuals	67
Elected or government officials: 13	unknown; no information provided by City or Zoo	No	13
Internal: 4	unknown; no information provided by City or Zoo	No. Internal zoo meeting	18
Zoo Donor groups: 14	unknown; no information provided by City or Zoo	No. Internal zoo meeting	2

Zoo Member Meeting: 2 April 24, 2018 and April 24, 2019	unknown; no information provided by City or Zoo	No. Internal zoo meeting	2
Zoo Volunteers: 3	Yes	No. Internal zoo meeting	3
		TOTAL number of presentations listed	136
		Total number of presentations advertised to the public and given to community groups (e.g. not business leaders)	1
		Total number of presentations advertised to the public that mention removing Barnum Hill and south duck pond from Reid Park in the announcement	0

† City of Tucson news release cited above.

§ See neighborhood listserv announcement, attached.

Appendix A: Ward 6 Newsletters

A Message from Steve K...11/09/2020
Reid Park Zoo

Prep work is beginning on the next phase of the zoo expansion. It caused some concerns last week, so as this week's Local Tucson item, I want to clear up some of the misunderstanding.



Here's the graphic of the next expansion phase. If you've been to the zoo recently you know there's already work happening around the entry. This part will be on the west perimeter of the zoo.

What raised concern was the draining of the south pond that's right now outside the zoo. The contractors are doing soils testing, and the pond will be opened back up sometime this week. Construction on the full project will begin sometime next spring. As you can see from the graphic, eventually the south pond will become the newly expanded tiger habitat. It will give the tigers about 5x the space they currently have. The pond is not

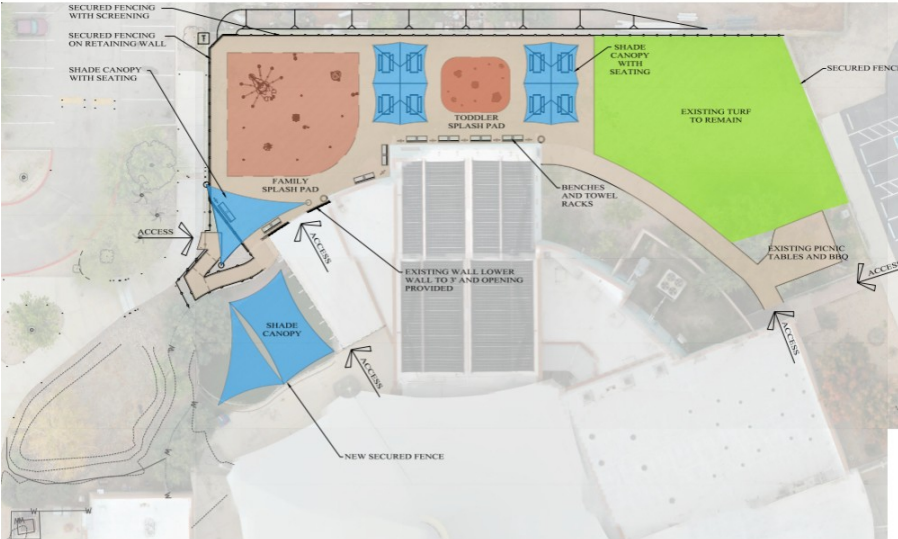
'being drained to build a building.' Following construction, the north pond will still be outside the zoo fence line and totally available to the public – and to the critters who use it for habitat.

Prior to the 1/10 cent sales tax question that went to the voters a few years ago, the Tucson Zoological Society (TZS) held over 100 public outreach meetings to share the expansion plans with the public. Also, last November the Parks staff did another outreach, and also took a survey to gauge the public's feelings about the expansion. That survey showed 92% support for the work. While it will undeniably be removing what is now some public open

space and the south pond, it's going to be integrated into the zoo expansion project, the intent of which is to enhance the habitat experience for all of the animals. And it'll enhance the public experience while visiting.

Steve K's Newsletter 06/22/20
Reid Park Splash Pad

Another Reid Park item is a survey the Parks people are conducting to get your input on the design of a new splash pad. It's actually a series of pads that are being contemplated for the space over by the Edith Ball therapy center – by the zoo.



This is a rough rendering of what's on the table. It includes both a toddler splash pad, and one for older kids. The project is being funded by the Prop 407 Parks bond that you supported a couple of years ago.

Please use this link to give us your thoughts on the concept design. The link will also show you more

renderings of what's being considered.

<https://bit.ly/ReidSplashPadSurvey>

This survey will be open until Sunday, July 5, so if you want to share your opinions, please keep that in mind.

*Steve K's Newsletter 11/04/19
Tucson Zoo Master Plan*

...take a breath – something fun to share on the heels of the water issue. Tucson Parks and Rec. along with our partners at the Tucson Zoological Society are hosting an open house next week to share details on the future of Reid Park, with an emphasis on the zoo master plan. It's all a part of building on the 1/10 cent sales tax the voters approved to fund that important work, as well as the Proposition 407 money that will go in support of parks and connectivity amenities.

The Open House will be held on Tuesday, November 12th from 5:30pm until 7:30pm. Both Parks staff and representatives from the Zoological Society will be on site to walk you through the plans, and to answer your questions. The Prop 407 work will include upgrades to the DeMeester Amphitheater, the walking path, playground and more. You can view the entire zoo master plan at this link: [Zoo's Master Plan](#)

The meeting will be held in the Copper Room at the Randolph Golf Complex – 602 S. Alvernon. It's some of the fun stuff the City and our TZS partners bring to the community. It would be great if you could stop by and look over what's coming.

*Steve K's Newsletter 12/26/18
August – Reid Park Zoo Management Agreement*

The Reid Park Zoo is owned by the City of Tucson. Until this summer, it had been managed by the City as well. In August, we saw the final terms for signing on the Tucson Zoological Society (TZS) management and operations of the Zoo. In fact, they had been significant partners in its staffing and operations all along, so handing them the keys made sense.



In November 2017, you approved a 1/10 cent tax increase that will be used to upgrade the infrastructure at the zoo, build out much of the zoo master plan, and fund operations. All of that will be honored by the Society as they take over management responsibilities. Several things will change, though.

All of the workers you see at the zoo will now be Tucson Zoological Society employees. Transferring them off from City payroll and onto that of the Society was a part of the new management agreement, and the sole piece that I had issues with; however, the overall benefits flowing from the agreement outweighed that part.

The City will continue to own the land, and the Society needs to work with the City when planning to expand exhibits. So, we are not at all walking away from the zoo. We recognize it to be a significant community asset, and will continue our oversight and involvement in maintaining that status. In fact, one of the parts of the deal that assures the continued first class experience you – and the animals – will have is TZS maintaining the zoo’s AZA accreditation. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums is like the NCAA of zoos. It is the national governing body assuring a quality operation.

Prior to the new agreement being signed, the TZS was already providing about half of the zoo staffing, taking a significant lead role in funding exhibits, helping to defray operations costs, planning and organizing donor events, and they were a key partner in advocating for approval of the 1/10 cent tax the voters approved last year. They clearly understand the importance of the zoo as a tourism magnet, and they clearly agree with the international animal conservation work being done through the zoo. The deal terms show a commitment by the TZS to keep the zoo affordable and accessible to the entire community.

Zoo Lights is going on right now, out at the zoo. Check their website at www.reidparkzoo.org for specifics. I am excited about working in partnership with the Society as they take control of the day-to-day management and take the lead role in planning what’s to come, in our community zoo.

*Steve K's Newsletter 9/4/18
Zoo Master Plan*

On Wednesday, we’ll consider a new zoo management agreement. The intent is to turn over the management responsibilities to the RPZS. We retain ownership of the assets, but the society runs the place. Of course, that’s a very simplified description and we’ll talk about it as we set the exact terms of the deal into place.

One part of the agreement is implementation of the Zoo Master Plan. The plan was adopted through a

series of public outreach efforts that began back in 2014 and was finally affirmed by voters in 2017. The society is now hosting public workshops to share the plan and the process by which it'll be carried out.

If you're a zoo fan and would like to take part in any of these presentations, you have to RSVP first. The presentations are going to be held at the zoo and zoo admission is free for those taking part in the workshops who have pre-registered. The dates and times set for this round of presentations are:

Saturday, September 8 @ 2 pm

Wednesday, September 12 @ 5 pm

Wednesday, October 3 @ 5 pm

If you'd like to go through the plan before attending or if you'd simply like to see what's coming out at the zoo, check this link: reidparkzoo.org/future.

Contact Melissa Mendibles at 881.4753 or email her at mmendibles@reidparkzoo.org in order to pre-register for any of the presentations.

Steve K's Newsletter 12/18/17

Zoo Management

Over the course of the summer, a group of citizens has been studying how the zoo is currently managed and looking at other jurisdictions to see if there's a different model that might make sense for us to consider. That was all happening during the run-up to the Prop 202 and 203 vote – the one-tenth cent sales tax hike earmarked for zoo capital expenses, maintenance and operations. The propositions passed and we have a draft proposal from the citizens task force related to management. With those now in front of us, I have asked for a study session to talk about how it all works together.

Before I share the memo I submitted for the study session, it's important to make two points. First, we have the option of keeping the current management form and disregarding the task force proposal. Nothing is locked-in at this time. Second, what is being considered is not "privatizing" the zoo. That's how it has been described when people have asked me about it. Privatizing would include selling off the asset and giving control and ownership to a private sector entity. What's being discussed is simply changing some of the terms of the current Management Operating Agreement we have in place with the Tucson Zoological Society. Those two are much different animals, sorry.

Here's the memo I submitted for our discussion. It touches on how we're going to manage the new sales tax revenues, how we're going to manage the planned zoo expansion, and what we're going to do with the task force draft proposal.

SUBJECT: Zoo Discussion

I request the following item be agendized at the *December 19th Study Session*:

Please set aside 30 minutes for a discussion of the zoo.

On September 28th, staff forwarded to M&C the final recommendation from the Zoo Task Force on proposed management and funding options for the Reid Park Zoo. And on November 7th, the voters approved both Proposition 202 and 203, related to a 1/10 cent sales tax increase earmarked for zoo operations and facility upgrades.

I would like the following issues to be addressed:

- a) When will the 1/10 cent sales tax begin to be collected in response to direction given by the voters?
- b) How will the Prop 202 money be separately held for application to the uses identified in the Propositions?
- c) What processes will be implemented for drawing down the 1/10 cent fund in support of the zoo?
- d) What oversight is being put into place to ensure the money allocated through Prop 202/203 is used as it was advertised to the voters?
- e) Lets discuss the findings of the Zoo Task Force. To that point, I have some issues that will need to be clarified as we consider the recommendations from the report.

Those include:

The oversight board is comprised of up to 15 members, 2 of whom are from the city. They're proposed to be non-voting. I think since we retain ownership of the facilities, we need a voting voice on that board.

The city investment into the zoo is partly a function of the Prop 202/203 funds. We need to lock down that amount so each side has it for their budgeting purposes.

Capital investments coming from the tax need to have some level of city involvement in terms of planning and implementation. As noted in the report, this is still a city asset. We can't simply turn

over the keys and stand by for 25 years while the Society operates solo through the 15 member board.

The geography of the expansion needs to be nailed down with some specificity. The language in the proposal simply says the expansion may happen and we'll agree on where at some later date. That's not a trivial detail since it impacts public open space now being heavily used. The city needs to help identify the location of the expansion, and when it comes time to contract for the work, we need some role in project scope, and likely contracting with GC's and oversight of the work.

The deal is for 25 years. There needs to be some escape clause written into the agreement based on some measurable or concrete metric. If things go south with the Society and it begins to come apart, or if for whatever reason the management structure and services to the public start to fail, the city needs a way to exit the agreement and retain management control. I'm not suggesting that's likely, but as an ongoing city asset, one sited on a major regional park asset, we have to have a way to recover our role managing it if the non-profit and/or its board disintegrates. I honestly don't quite know what that language would look like in the contract, but I'm sure this isn't a unique concern that others haven't already addressed.

Entry fees are proposed to be set solely by the Society (the board.) The city council retains a voice in our fees for golf and transit. We can't just not be a part of that decision when it comes to the zoo.

As written, the city has no role in negotiating concessions contracts. If those are going to be run through our procurement, we have to be mentioned as a player in the advertising and award of those deals.

Timing of capital projects cannot be left solely to the board to decide. We have lots of other events scheduled on a regular basis for the areas surrounding the zoo. There must be some joint responsibility for scoping, timing, and oversight of capital projects, especially those that are associated with zoo expansion.

The proposal says we "provide" utilities - who pays for them? Will there be costs to sub-meter zoo facilities so we can break out operations (utility) costs?

Thanks - - looking forward to working in support of zoo operations.

Whether or not we elect to adopt some or all of the task force recommendations, we must have tools in place to properly manage the new sales tax money. That money was "sold" to the voters based on some loosely defined zoo expansion plans. Those need specificity and a game plan for where and when that expansion will take place. The hard work of the task force also deserves to be discussed and considered. No management system is perfect. I'm sure there are areas the task force has identified that will make sense to include in the updated MOA we have with the Zoological Society.

I supported the zoo tax. I'm grateful to the voters for having supported it and I'm grateful to the task force for their work. The study session discussion happens on Tuesday. I'll report out on what we decide in an upcoming newsletter.