

Citizen: Thanks for taking my comments.

The public input portion of this Masterplan Draft proposal has been mostly non-existent.

The first comment I would like to make is that there really should be NO draft put before the council to vote on until the public has a REAL chance to have a voice in this process. Many involved with this process would like to believe that the public has been heard but they have not.

Disregarding the public's view on such an important Austin Icon and natural resource is disrespectful to the public and the Springs herself.

Back in early March I was forwarded an email that had originated from Farhad... it was announcing the April town hall meeting. It also said that there would be "Numerous Public meetings" well the "Numerous" did not happen. There were only 2. Once at the parks board and one "Town Hall Meeting" on April 5th.

In my opinion the town Hall meeting was a disaster as it gave No New Information such as time frame and closer expectations. The structure of the meeting also divided the public up into three separate groups and then had three separate meetings within those 3 separate groups. That is NOT the way you gather a true voice of the public. That is how you water down the voice of the people and get stronger control on what goes into the 'record'.

I was extremely disappointed by this obvious play against the voice of the people. Also, you call the public together supposedly to 'get public feedback', and then you make the public wait 3 hours!... 3 hours to get to speak their concerns. And when they finally get to speak they are given 3 closely timed minutes.

That also is NOT how you gather information if you are truly concerned about the voice of the public.

I have been following this process for almost a year, I have sought out information, I have written email, and I have gone to meetings.... I can tell you this; it is VERY CLEAR that whoever is behind this is NOT interested in the voice of the public. Often to find the right info or the right meeting is like a Shell Game.

I could give a long and boring list of examples, but anyone who has been close to this situation and is Honest knows the level of Hide and seek that is going on... especially in terms of the information that gets to the public. Say what you want, roll your eyes if you need the extra dramatic effect.... But it is True.

The situation is organized to show that it really cares about the public voice, yet it is designed to not allow the public to know enough clear information to understand the implication and consequences of the Master Plan.

Staff: The Barton Springs Master Plan, BSMP, is intended to be a broad brush stroke of ideas and not a working blueprint. The BSMP was shaped by public input and the

community will have a chance to provide input on all individual projects. In addition, both public comments and audio files are available on the BSMP website.

Citizen: That brings me to the Master Plan itself. You've got 6.2 million dollars and you have to charge \$10/ copy if someone really wants to read this unnecessarily overweighed document. IT is a public document that potential effects the very future of Barton Springs pool and you make the Public have to buy one?? Not exactly free and open communication... AGAIN! Equally problematic is the giant size of the document.

For what you are calling a supposed 'draft' it sure goes into a lot of History and unnecessary detail about things that don't really relate to the actual Master Plan. It is written in a way that make is difficult for anyone to understand what is really going on and what the Real plans for Barton Springs are. It is not designed to be clear.... It was not written with the public in mind. It is not a document that is easy to navigate or to understand although it is clear that there is a lot of Lip service paid to protecting the sensitivity of the springs all the while introducing ideas like "re-landscaping" the entire place and chopping down a LOT of the beautiful and historic trees.

I think it is really important for the city to fully consider the impact on the people of Austin such a project can have.

I think this Draft should be used as just that a Draft. I think new Consultants should be fairly chosen this time, and that more varitety of professional people should be included in the process of such an important Master plan. In my heart I do not believe Godfrey and his team are capable of correctly consulting a project of this scale. And from the negative feedback I've heard about what they did to the women's bathroom at Deep Eddy; I don't think they should be allowed to design the changes or the new bath house at Barton Springs.

I am not alone in this feeling. Please consider the long-term consequences to the pool the people and the city if the wrong consultants and architects handle this project. I feel strongly that the team of architects / consultants that are currently in charge of the project are woefully unqualified for a project of this scale.

PLEASE > Use the draft as a draft... use that unnecessarily big document as a good starting place for the next, new and better team of consultants and architects to work from.

I am asking that you do not recommend the current plan for approval. We need a new TEAM of people on t is project that will give the Springs the respect it truly deserves not just a bunch of lip service. Also this current draft does NOT include the voice of the public, and so on that basis alone should be disqualified as a useable document on a project of this scale and importance for he City of Austin.

We are not just talking about a little park renovation and the modernization of an old pool. This is BARTON SPRINGS!!!! It has historic and global significance; that so far I think has not been respected in the full light that it deserves > The two most notable ways> 1) Having a woefully unqualified group of consultants working on this and 2) to have very little real public input. We should be gathering public and professional

input from other parts of the WORLD.

PLEASE TREAT THIS PROJECT WITH THE RESPECT IT DESERVES!!! Please bring in a better team of people to fully and accurately assess the needs of the pool and the best use of the 6 million dollars.

Please get some International feedback from the teams of professionals out there who might have incredible useful input and information in order to make the most of this renovation period for Barton Springs.

Staff: Again, the Barton Springs Master Plan is intended to be a broad brush stroke of ideas and not a working blueprint. The consultants and the City staff both have tremendous respect for Barton Springs Pool and this process. Every effort will be made to facilitate communication and community input.

Citizen: Please do not recommend this Draft for approval to even go before the Council. The draft is not ready. It is a FIRST draft. We need a new team of people to reassess, include the public and formulate a plan this is much simpler to understand and that takes into account the environmental and historic sensitivity of Barton Springs.

Staff: Thank you for taking the time to express your thoughts on this important process and document.