

Austin Neighborhoods Council

Resolution: Support of Town Lake Park Master Plan

Whereas: The Austin community has long recognized the importance of Town Lake to the vitality and identity of our city, and voted by a two-to-one margin in January of 1985 to reject a proposal to develop the 54 acres surrounding the old Palmer Auditorium for commercial use, (Convention Center) and

Whereas: Subsequently the Austin City Council established the Town Lake Task Force to develop appropriate guidelines for preserving the beauty and recreational use of parkland along the shores of Town Lake, which resulted in the Town Lake Corridor Study that was published in October 1985, and

Whereas: Goal #7 of the Town Lake Corridor Study was to “establish Town Lake as a Great Central Park, serving as a centerpiece for the Austin Park System” and the study also recommended that “the design for the 54 acre tract shall have as a goal at least 60% open space to be dedicated parkland; the justification is to preserve views, achieve pedestrian scale, establish a rich park landscape, and create dignity and tranquility”, and

Whereas: The Austin City Council approved designating this area in 1987 as “Dedicated Parkland” as recommended in the Corridor Study as an expression of the community's desire to have this area remain as predominately open landscaped parkland and as a way of discouraging commercialization of this area, and

Whereas: In 1997 the voters of Austin approved propositions #11 and #12 that authorized a “Venue Project” that provided for the renovation of the old Palmer Auditorium for a new performing arts center along with the development of the surrounding parkland, and

Whereas: A Master Plan for the Town Lake Park, which included the renovations to the city auditorium, new community events center, parking garage and landscaped urban park areas was created during an extensive public design process (that included neighborhoods, users, park advocates and arts stakeholders) and was subsequently adopted by the Austin City Council,

Now therefore, be it Resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council urges the Austin City Council to re-affirm its commitment to the community agreements outlined in Propositions #11 and #12 approved by the voters and to the Town lake Master Plan as previously adopted by Council, and facilitate getting the project back on schedule, and

Be it further resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council requests that the City Council publicly reject the proposal to develop this dedicated parkland commercially, as suggested by the Downtown Austin Alliance and other downtown business interests.

Approved at the October 22, 2003 ANC General meeting

Bryan King
ANC President