

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

June 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day at 950 Eden Park Drive. Commissioners present: President Molly North, Vice President Kick Lee, Commissioner Susan F. Castellini, and Commissioner John Neyer. Commissioner Phyllis McCallum joined virtually. President North called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President North acknowledged seven in-person public comments about the Burnet Woods dog park.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the May 16 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

INFORMATION/ UPDATES

Jennifer Harten Retirement

Director Jason Barron congratulated Jennifer Harten, Explore Nature! Manager, on her upcoming retirement after 35 years with Cincinnati Parks. The Commissioners congratulated her and thanked her for her impressive contributions to and tenure with the Park Board.

ACTION ITEMS

Sinton: East Operations Center

Division Manager Joel Gross updated the Board on efforts to amend the current scope of work on an existing contract with KZF Design, allowing them to complete Design Document (DD) level estimation) and provide construction administration services for the Sinton Operations campus. The added scope of work is due to changes in the intended use of the finished space and will increase KZF's proposal by \$36,500. Staff responded to Commissioner questions regarding the project timeline, secured construction funding, and solar power generation and use.

Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve a change order increase of \$36,500. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

INFORMATION/ UPDATES

Planning & Design Update

Division Manager Gross updated the Board on the status of Smale Lot 23 design plans, progress on the Biochar project and repairs to Everybody's Treehouse in Mt. Airy Forest, improvements to Washington Park's irrigation system, funding and scope plans for the Ault Park Valley trail restoration, and completion of the Mt. Airy Forest stone signage repair. Staff also informed the Commissioners about a change-of-use request from the Cincinnati Recreation Commission to convert a softball field at Mt. Echo to a soccer field. Parks is exploring the request and will keep the Commissioners informed. The Commissioners and Staff discussed whether there is a known community desire for the change-of-use and Staff confirmed that there is.

The Commissioners and Staff also discussed challenges and opportunities Planning & Design faces related to the City's processes and timelines for procurement and securing competitive project bids. Commissioners and Staff shared ideas on how to improve those processes both internally at Parks and in the City as a whole.

HR Update

HR Manager Derrick Gentry provided an overview of current staff numbers, vacancies, new hires, and efforts to help employees stay healthy and cool in the heat. Staff congratulated West Service Crew Leader Rich Cross on his retirement after a 34-year tenure with Parks. Staff also updated the Commissioners on injuries and efforts to improve injury prevention and safety.

ACTION ITEM

Foundation Grants Application / Acceptance

Director Barron provided an overview of two potential grants from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, and requested the Commissioners approve the application for and acceptance of grants to support design work for the Beginner Mountain Bike Skills Course at Mt. Airy Forest in partnership with CORA, as well as funding for 2024 programming at Krohn Conservatory. Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the application and acceptance of these grants in a total amount up to \$181,250. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- Krohn's Butterfly Show is off to a great start and will run through August 18.
- The American Conifer Society gifted a Queen City Ginkgo at a ceremony attended by Mayor Pureval and Councilmember Owens. The tree will be planted at Mt. Airy Forest.
- Rapid Run Park won Cincinnati Magazine's Best of the West award for its fitness trail.
- Parks' Greenspace Team has planted seasonal displays across the city.
- An overview of upcoming summer and 4th of July events throughout Cincinnati Parks.

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION

President North expressed excitement about the Owl's Nest renovation process and asked about updates to the Park Improvement Projects 3-Year Plan. Director Barron responded that Staff have been meeting internally to update that document and hope to share it for review at the July Board meeting. President North also asked about progress on planning for Inwood Park and whether the process would be similar to the Owl's Nest project. Director Barron responded that Inwood is a high-priority project that will involve robust community engagement. Commissioner McCallum thanked the Foundation for their help in working to create a CPAC at Lytle Park.

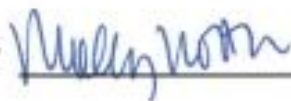
ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting date is Thursday, July 18, at 9:00am.

President North motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 A.M.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR



[External Email] Public Comment

Marijo Fraley <marijo.fraley@gmail.com>

Sun 5/26/2024 11:18 AM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

You don't often get email from marijo.fraley@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

To: Park Board Commissioners (Public Comment)

From: Marijo F. O'Connell

Date: May 15, 2024

Re: Burnet Woods Accessibility Issues

It astounds me that the body of the Park Board Commissioners continue to pursue the unnecessary dog park in Burnet Woods. The entire park is open to leashed dogs. The facts have been provided many, many times that dog parks are bad for dogs.

Burnet Woods is neglected in so many ways that I wonder if common sense might prevail before you make a final decision. Deferred maintenance continues to be largely deferred, although replacing the decorative logs on the façade of the Trailside Nature Museum is a step in the right direction. I couldn't help but notice that the landscaping (?) in front of the museum is completely neglected. Nary a tulip in sight, only weeds, but that has been the case for decades as this park only appears on someone's radar when it can be exploited. Make no mistake a dog park is exploiting, in fact, destroying natural habitat for bugs, small animals and birds and a cool spot for people. And it will continue to cost money to maintain, leeching away from the minute funds that are designated for this park.

Claiming that the dog park is accessible is ridiculous. No one without a dog and that needs a wheelchair or a walker or a cane will venture into a dog park for fear of being jumped upon thus losing their balance.

Burnet Woods needs bannisters on the concrete stairs next to the concrete slide. Bannisters are also needed on the long flight of stairs that starts at the bandstand area, through the woods and down to the playground. Optimally, there needs to be a switch back so that someone with a child in a wheelchair or stroller can access the playground. These small items are long overdue, and it sickens me that dogs take priority over people.

I'd love to see the Trailside Nature Museum open on a more regular basis for the bathrooms, and the concession stand reactivated. The concession stand could be open year- round to provide a presence in the park with coffee and lemonade and popcorn. Why are these basic items constantly pushed to the side in favor of a dog park that will destroy natural habitat? Please do not allow destruction of habitat.

Perhaps the dog park advocates can be persuaded to reallocate their contributions to upgrading the accessibility, to playground with bannisters and/a switchback, and expanded hours at the Trailside Nature Museum because it serves a broader number of people to enjoy the park. Thank you very much.

[External Email] Public Comment: PFAS Concerns from Michael Troyer

cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Thu 5/30/2024 5:00 PM

To:Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Cc:Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>;
Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Walsh, Seth
<seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Aftab, Mayor <mayor.pureval@cincinnati-oh.gov>;ilove.burnet@preserveburnetwoods.org
<ilove.burnet@preserveburnetwoods.org>

External Email Communication

Please enter the below transcript into public record for the next Board of Park Commissioners public meeting and for ongoing meetings of the City Council Climate, Environment & Infrastructure Committee. This record represents a unique response from Michael Troyer.

Email address	riffonbro@gmail.com
I oppose the use of synthetic turf or other PFAS containing materials in Cincinnati City Parks and public greenspaces, as well as for the construction of a dog park in Burnet Woods, for the following reasons: * Synthetic turf contains, among other chemicals, PFAS which will leach into the natural environment and could expose humans, dogs, and wildlife to pollutants known to cause cancer and other morbidities. * In all 12 of the indices the USEPA uses for Environmental Justice screening, the residents who live closest to the proposed site for the dog park in Burnet Woods are in the 80th percentile for exposure. In 6 of the indices, they are in the 90th percentile. In other	I agree. Reduction of exposure to PFAS chemicals/environmental contaminants is important to me.

words, the installation of the dog park will introduce additional risk to residents who already carry a disproportionate share of exposure to environmental risk.

The following areas of concern resound with me when I consider the use of synthetic turf/PFAS containing materials in public greenspaces generally or construction of the Burnet Woods Dog Park specifically: (Check all that apply)

- > I am uncomfortable with children being exposed to synthetic turf due to its known chemical components. (I agree)
- > Mature natural fields and old growth trees should be a priority for conservation and not development opportunities in our public greenspaces. (I agree)

In my own words, I oppose the use of synthetic turf or other PFAS containing materials in Cincinnati City Parks and public greenspaces, as well as for the construction of a dog park in Burnet Woods, for the below reasons. (Some evidence-based research materials relating to PFAS, synthetic turf and animal waste concentration can be found here should you want that information for your response.)

Please consider being part of the solution to reduce PFAS, PFOS, and plastics in the environment; especially, in our public parks and green spaces. With respect, thank you.

I acknowledge that upon completion of this form, an email will be sent for public record entry to the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval, and the current members of Cincinnati

I acknowledge the above emails will be sent upon clicking 'Submit'.

**City Council Climate,
Environment and
Infrastructure
Committee: Meeka
Owens, Jan-Michele
Kearney, Jeff
Cramerding, Mark
Jeffreys, and Seth Walsh.
A copy will also be sent
to Preserve Burnet
Woods.**

Your Full Name Michael Troyer

Your Email Address riffonbro@gmail.com

Your Zip Code 45208

Respectfully,

Michael Troyer

Sent: Thu, May 30, 2024 4:59 PM

Response ID: 2_ABaOnue6JXb7rSkceBXcS-hReKdJSu-KximPqYv4OtJaeyj3BWZKdnG6KNL8UoImbCYluJA

Response Number: 126

[External Email] Public Comment: June 20, 2024

Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Sun 6/2/2024 11:36 AM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 12 attachments (7 MB)

Chat Comments - CTM Meeting Dec 7 2020.pdf; CTM Dec2020 pg8.jpg; CTM Dec2020 pg10.jpg; CTM Dec2020 pg9.jpg; CTM Dec2020 pg7.jpg; CTM Dec2020 pg11.jpg; CTM Dec2020 pg6.jpg; CTM Dec2020 pg5.jpg; CTM Dec2020 pg1.jpg.png; CTM Dec2020 pg4.jpg; CTM Dec2020 pg3.jpg; CTM Dec2020 pg2.jpg;

External Email Communication

Re: Walking in a "Public Buzzsaw" Over Burnet Woods

To: Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, Cincinnati City Council, Cincinnati City Managers, et al.

Attached to this message are images captured from [minutes of the December 2020 Clifton Town Meeting](#) which included discussion over a proposal to build a standalone building in Burnet Woods for benefit of the Camping & Education Foundation (CEF). These meeting minutes are relevant to the current discussion of construction of a dog park in Burnet Woods as -

- They illustrate a clear pattern of failure to bring the public & park stakeholders along in the project discussions/decisions
- The absence of an equitable, identified, well-structured community engagement process creates an immediate resistance to a project which can be easily exacerbated in the presence of representatives ill-tempered to listen to public feedback which disagrees with their personal opinions.
- That the discussion which occurred in public meeting may have been represented differently to the sitting Commissioners than what actually occurred
- Many of the same reasons asserted for construction of the CEF building by Commissioner Goetz were also applied by Commissioner Goetz for construction of the proposed dog park; this indicates that it's not about what gets put into the park so long as something is constructed there rather than maintain the existing infrastructure already present or follow the Master Plan. This is not a rational basis for permanently altering a sensitive ecosystem, nor is it a lens of service to the community. (The CEF structure encompassed 2100 sq ft cut into the hillside where the present concession stand is located, approximately 800 ft from where the dog park is currently proposed.)

Backstory: In March 2020, the CEF proposal to renovate Trailside Nature Center for inclusion of its 'woodworking shop' was de-prioritized by the Park Board out of cost concern. There was no discussion of public fundraising, fundraising with the Foundation, grant possibility, or additional partnerships. Though many community members still felt that increased activation of the Nature

Center did not require this project, the renovation proposal was the compromise of over two years of community discussions and the final result of talks that had started between CEF & Parks in 2014 (supposedly the same timeline as dog park interest). However, **cost drivers made it a hard pass**, despite the increased accessibility and arguable activation it would add to Burnet Woods.

The CEF project was **never publicly discussed** by the Park Board again until the December 2, 2020 Special Meeting wherein Commissioner Goetz mentions that there will be presentation in the December 17th meeting about Burnet Woods, and it is his basis for cutting two separate allocations for Burnet Woods infrastructure repairs from the capital budget discussions for that year during that meeting. In later discussion (Dec 17th), even Commissioner Thomas stated this update was wholly different than what she had previously seen and she had no idea discussions were even going on about it. If there was no public discussion of the CEF project being continued after March 2020, why did CEF keep working on the project? Who encouraged CEF to continue pushing to build in Burnet Woods - and even more so - who assured them that a standalone building concept would be well-received by the Commissioners after TWO YEARS of discussion that indicated the community was firmly set against that?

As you'll see in the CTM meeting minutes, Commissioner Goetz remarks that new project renderings were **leaked to the public** ahead of the CTM meeting which took place on December 7th.

In other words, the public was never supposed to know what was being done in Burnet Woods until a vote was already in front of the Park Board on December 17th.

How is this relevant to the current dog park discussion? In December 2020, Commissioner Castellini called the INFLAMMATORY community response to the CEF issue a "**public buzzsaw**". A community response she had only been exposed to by email and through reports from staff/Comm.Goetz due to Covid restrictions on public comment. Specifically, the Commissioner questioned 'how do we avoid another public buzzsaw?'. As there are currently four Park Board Commissioners and a Director who were not present for the CEF discussions, they would not have the insight available to recognize the parallels of process failure and irrational bias.

Also in December 2020, Commissioner Goetz remarks during Commissioner Comments that he would like the Dunore Dog Park proposal removed from his plate. (How was it on his plate to begin with?) There has been no public discussion of this project from March 2020 to December 2020. *Crickets* No other Commissioner volunteers to assume any liaison role and at this point it is clear that none of the Commissioners want the task. This is the first point at which Commissioners could have recognized their lackluster enthusiasm for the task and declined further action on it. Instead, at the January, 2021 discussion, literally 1 month later, the buzz saw is set to hum over a discussion of process on community project requests when Commissioner Goetz brings up himself the Dunore Dog Park idea to **get it set aside** from what Director Kish is **trying to establish as an equitable, consistent and transparent process** for incoming community requests. His sole reason was that the group had already presented to the Board and so should not have to go through this equitable process, even as Director Kish mentions that several other community councils and CPACs have submitted formal letters for projects and they will go through the process. This includes a request for a dog park in Mt. Echo Park which the Board shows null regard for even as a dog park is the topic, in a discussion about equity, consistency and transparency. Commissioner Castellini asserts that whatever is decided, the Dunore Group deserves a response, and it is decided that community engagement should be done even though Commissioners are 1 month out of a maintenance budget discussion which focused on cutting planning costs, focusing on deferred maintenance, and not even allowing Master Plan projects

to be considered until deferred maintenance is addressed. **The decision to answer the Dunore Group as 'no' was never publicly discussed as an option - only how to proceed forward. Why? Other groups with Master Plan, less expensive, transformative, community-supported projects backed by Trust in Public Lands-data were declined at that same meeting** (ref: Kennedy Heights discussion Dec 2, 2020).

A CTM community meeting and a survey **specific to Dunore** is done between February 2021 and April 2021. Despite an almost evenly split community approval rating in the survey feedback for the Dunore Park, concerns from residents near the suggested site (at greater distance than residents from the proposed Burnet Woods site) voiced in the CTM meeting and via public comment have the Commissioners reject the Dunore Park site. Staff is tasked to come back with criteria, and location suggestions for a dog park 'for the people of Clifton'. There is no further community engagement on potential or preferred sites, size, criteria, styling before Commissioners take action on a deeply flawed site document, which does not even include multiple other park and CRC options or any already developed city-owned land. Commissioners **choose, without community input**, the location of the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods - next to residences, in an environmentally sensitive area, that is misrepresented in the documentation report and is missing key detail from consideration - such as current maintenance needs, current maintenance deficits and costs, recent expenditures for Burnet Woods relative to other parks, incomplete Master Plan projects for Burnet Woods, the community priority list for Burnet Woods, it having an entirely different CPAC, community stakeholder subset, and surrounding community than Dunore Park.

- The failure to bring the community along once again sets the public buzzsaw in motion.
- **Commitment to community engagement is botched repeatedly** as one Parks Director (Neyer) promises community engagement in email responses, the next visits 2 community councils with 2 drawings and no data telling them the project is a 'done deal' over and over, the Board voices clear, intentional denial of further community engagement for no reason other than that Comm. Goetz doesn't want to get yelled at (there's no requirement for him to attend & he attends a meeting for Owl's Nest Park 4 days later which is also contentious), then the current Director tells city council that there will be more community engagement before decisions are made while not doing any valid community engagement on the subject at all.
- Throughout the process, acknowledgement of all public comment is **wrongly equalized** as 'the Board received both negative and positive public comment on the dog park'. This misrepresentation equalizes what was at one count 297 negative public emails to 4 positive emails, and an 85% negative response to a one-question survey on design deliberately biased to evoke a positive response and release to proponents 2 hours prior to public opening to give a head start on positive public comment.
- All community groups opposing the project, which includes **SEPARATE community councils, environmental groups, and volunteer groups** are misrepresented as one, singular group. Not only grossly incorrect, this creates an excuse for the Parks Director and the Park Board to NOT RESPOND TO ANY OF THEM.
- "Community engagement" done for other park projects (Glenway Park, Owl's Nest) on which Parks enlists the assistance of the Parks Foundation consist of Director Barron with a whiteboard and a marker having people call out ideas from the audience. These meetings in no way resemble best practices for a community engagement session, **induce tension in the community meetings** as one person dislikes an idea another shouts out, and illustrates that there is no resource at Parks which can support collection of **valid feedback**.

After CCAC in 2018 with its abundance of public feedback on Burnet Woods, CEF's protracted debacle in 2020, the scrapping of the community-submission process which was developed with full staff input at Director Kish's departure, and now the Dunore Park/Burnet Woods dog park equity disaster, there is still no consistent, transparent and equitable community engagement process for community-submitted projects in Cincinnati Parks.

BEFORE the Park Board makes an irreversible impact to failure of a sensitive ecosystem, that will **incur long-term damage to the park habitat** and **significant cost to Parks for maintenance** and **replacement of synthetic turf every 8 years**, as well as **create long-lasting community divisions both within Clifton and amongst Clifton, Corryville and CUF**, these surrounding communities - as well as all of the communities which have been **waiting on repairs and Master Plan projects since the 1980s** - Parks **owes it to themselves and the city** to utilize a legitimate, consistent, transparent community engagement process which follows unbiased best practices. Public comment is feedback, but it is not community engagement. Surveys are feedback, but they are not community engagement. Commissioners have an opportunity to **step back and do this right**, to make a fully-informed decision which takes all options available into consideration, especially in light of **the new city report on available city-owned property ripe for these types of projects**, and including **the option to say no**, and which **brings the whole community along** in that process.

A reminder that the Park Board has its meeting recordings available to review for corroboration of the above facts.

Cynthia Duval
President, Preserve Burnet Woods
513.477.4584
cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org

restrooms there. There are things that could be done at Burnet Woods every week of the year at little cost. By comparison, canoe rental is costly and if it were available to the public could fund programs and Trailside staff, and maybe other services such as a bait shop for the local fishermen. Will CEF have a permanent lease on the building? Jim Goetz says the CEF will raise all the funds for construction of the structure. The projected cost to renovate the existing snack stand is \$70K. An agreement for \$250K has recently been signed to support removal of invasive species. The busing of students to Trailside and increased funding of Michael George and other naturalists, as well as creation of pollinator gardens, expansion and connection of trails are all promised by the Park Board. Bob Bergstein feels that the UC/DAAP students who are participating in design of the project are ignorant of what they need to know about the Burnet Woods environment. Jim Goetz declared that Michael George will be participating in the ongoing design. **Robert Hamberg feels like this project is being imposed, rather than developing a project in concert with the people who use the park and moves that CTM Board send a letter to the Park Board and City of Cincinnati**, stating that, based on the comments offered in this meeting, Clifton Town Meeting doesn't support the CEF project as presented. Seconded by Ioanna Paraskevopoulos. Mark Jeffreys proposes addition of the suggestion that a mobile workshop be explored before the Park Board moves forward. Robert Hamberg says he hasn't seen anything this evening that suggests that Parks are interested in listening to alternatives. He believes that in

what he's heard or read this evening. The Park Board has spent the past 4 years considering the best way to fulfill this proposal, the amount of community input they've received for development of an 1800 SF structure is more than anything they've ever had. Tekla Akinyi asked that since this has been a topic since 2016, do they have proof that urban youth is more engaged by new buildings? Bob Bergstein says that he has been involved with nature and removal of invasive plants for many years through formal organizations. He only became aware of this project 3 days ago. He believes that his organization's commitment to Cincinnati Parks may depend on what the Board decides to do about this project. He believes that kids should be bussed to Burnet Woods and to our other nature centers for meaningful experiences with leaders like Michael George, whose work as manager of Trailside has been underfunded for many years, instead of the current practice of naturalists going out to schools with samples and props to show. An alternative to building and storing canoes onsite can be delivering the boats in for weekend use when the public can also access them, and then they can be removed, so not requiring a permanent building. Trailside Nature Center needs to be open on weekends, also the

Teresa Hoelle asks for Kish and Goetz to take stock of the comments on the meeting's Chat sidebar comments. She feels that maintenance and repair of Burnet Woods as it exists should be the priority, not creation of a new building. And she'd like to see the data that demonstrates that an additional building will increase the contact opportunities for children. She thinks there are collaborative opportunities with nearby makerspace woodshops at UC or at the future CCAC, removing the need to build another one in the park. Jim Goetz admits that the woodworking activity can happen offsite (currently it's happening in 18 schools around town) but he insists that this woodshop and storage shed will be unobtrusive, and that a minimum of small trees would be impacted. Plus, an official trail would be created above the workshop. Linda Ziegler/CUF says that last Saturday was the first time her neighborhood council heard about the current project plan, and she reminds Parks that CUF residents are an adjacent neighborhood that uses Burnet Woods. She regrets that it seems that UC is getting another "piece" of parkland. Jim Goetz argued that this is not a new thing, it's been in discussion since 2016. Steve Slack, CPAC (Cincinnati Parks Advisory Council) participant over the years, says he finds the location to be problematic for wildlife habitat, particularly the box turtles. Utility hookups are going to disturb the ground in a significant way. How can this not cost the Parks anything? This would be money that can be used elsewhere, so he considers this a misappropriation of funds. What he suggests instead would be a seasonal mobile set up, temporarily in place that provides an anchor for CEF activities. Jim Goetz wants to know if everyone

memory are the 2018 discussions about what citizens prefer to do or not do within Burnet Woods. The Parks Commissioners definitely want to add the CEF programming at Burnet Woods. He asks those present for specific complaints (which are abundant on the Chat line of this meeting, document attached.) Cynthia Duval states that the CEF administrators say there's no need for this building and that they wouldn't build it if the community doesn't want it. She points out that many changes have happened at the Park Board since 2014 when the discussions with CEF began, and she thinks this project should be abandoned. Jim Goetz stated that many people want more family-friendly programming in Burnet Woods and the focus of the CEF program is nature education for urban youth. He believes this will bring more youth into nature spaces. Bob Hyland says that one reason to not create this building is climate change. Construction will exacerbate a "heat island" problem. He wants to see a written statement from UC stating that it supports this project. Jim Goetz says that a new program at UC relates to CEF's content and that the decision to not renovate the Trailside building to the 4500 SF footprint proposal was based in part on the "heat island" problem. He believes the 1800 SF building footprint for CEF with green roof is preferable and acceptable. Mark Jeffreys states that he sees this as a "Process vs. Programming" problem, and that discovery of the present plans are too last-minute with not enough community engagement. Will the community have access to the boats if this project goes forward? Jim Goetz replied that in 2018, Parks Director Wade Walcutt suggested that the Commissioners consider

believes Robert Hamberg's motion is appropriate. The only justification of the current plan seems to be that the timeline of discussion has been long and time consuming, but that's not a reason that the plan is valid or meaningful. If he had known in 2018 that rejection of the CCAC proposal would end up with another group getting a building in Burnet Woods anyway, he would have supported the CCAC since its programming is all-inclusive of the community. Jim Goetz argued that this is a small building in comparison to the CCAC's proposal. Zultowsky replied that the Preserve Burnet Woods group never supported the proposed construction addition to Trailside, and there's no record of public support for this current CEF proposal. Teresa Hoelle said that moving forward with the project seems insulting to the community that CTM represents, she feels that there's been a lack of engagement, and that the Park Board has no interest taking time for more input, and that the size comparison of the two building proposals seems like a false argument. **Content of the letter CTM President will send to Park Board and City of Cincinnati: "Due to the complete lack of transparency surrounding the planning process, the damage to the irreplaceable green space, as well as the Park Board's disinterest in community feedback, the Board of CTM does not support the continuation of the proposed Camping Education Foundation project in Burnet Woods."**
Vote (10 Y, 2 A, the motion Passes)



CTM Minutes - Group: CTM Board Meeting

By Jan Brown Checco, Secretary

Date: December 7, 2020 7:00 pm

Location: Online Google Meet electronic meeting, invitations and links were sent out prior to the meeting for all to connect and listen in.

Present: Peter Block, Patrick Borders, Jan Brown Checco, Joe Brunner, Gerald Checco, Brian Duffy, Robert Hamberg, Chris Harding, Teresa Hoelle, Mark Jeffreys, Rama Kasturi, Malcolm Montgomery, Ioanna Paraskevopoulos, Buddy Goose

Absent: Jennifer Krivickas

A quorum (14) is present, meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Brunner with statement of our mission. (U) below will represent a unanimous vote.

Center when a few drawings were discovered and shared online. Complaints centered on destruction of the building's historic presence, the magnitude of a 4500 SF construction and the conceptual design's blocking of the vista down Brookline Avenue to the lake. Whatever its merits, that proposal would have cost \$3-5 million, which was not affordable for the Park Board. The present plans are for a CEF woodworking shop and storage unit with a 1800 SF footprint (drawing attached), and the CEF organization would fund the construction and maintenance of it. The commissioners intend to vote on this proposal at their meeting this month. Kara Kish was asked about the current lack of use of Trailside Nature Center (as well as other Parks nature centers.) She says they will be fully used in the future, but this year's COVID situation has prevented planned changes from taking place. Peter Block asked what part of the proposed CEF building will be open to the public? Jim Goetz says it will not be opened to the public, but that it will be owned by Parks and rented for exclusive use by the CEF program. Robert Hamberg says published comments by citizens have been rabidly negative about this project. Does Parks care? Jim Goetz lamented that the commissioners are volunteers, just like the CTM Board members, and find themselves in a terrible spot. Still in

seen anything this evening that suggests that Parks are interested in listening to alternatives. He believes that in this situation, it's not helpful to amend the motion. **Buddy Goose asks Jim Goetz if what we have to say will make any difference in his position or that of the other Commissioners?** Jim Goetz says that he's heard all of the protests already and he, as one of 5 commissioners, thinks the project's plan is acceptable as is. The CEF will have a place in Burnet Woods, and that he needs no more time

and would not ask for the Board to delay. The other 4 Park Board members are getting the same Nextdoor postings that he has been reading. Peter Block sees that there's no listening happening, and he suggests that we vote on Robert Hamberg's motion. Mark Jeffreys thinks the community engagement process Parks employs should have a place for compromise in the case of protest. Brian Duffy remembers that we have had a similar debate within the community about Burnet Woods, and CTM Board chose to not take a position. Jodie Zultowsky's husband David believes Robert Hamberg's motion is appropriate. The only justification of the current plan seems to be that the

mobile set up, temporarily in place that provides an anchor for CEF activities. Jim Goetz wants to know if everyone attending this meeting has had the chance to see the rendering of the building with the green roof? (It was

shown by Kara Kish before the commissioner was able to connect online.) He doesn't see how this plan is invasive. Time check: President Brunner suggests because we are at 9:00, we should conclude the discussion. Bob Bergstein says he wants to pay for an improved electronic format for CTM meetings. Malcolm Montgomery moves we extend the meeting to 9:30, Patrick Borders seconds. Peter Block feels everyone who came should be able to have access to Jim Goetz and Kara Kish to answer their questions. Vote to extend the meeting: (U) Malcolm Montgomery asks if the Parks Commission would delay their decision so that there can be appropriate community engagement and consideration. Jim Goetz replies that the Park Board has heard all sides of the argument, and there's nothing new in what he's heard or read this evening. The Park Board has spent the past 4 years considering the best way to fulfill this

states that he sees this as a “Process vs. Programming” problem, and that discovery of the present plans are too last-minute with not enough community engagement. Will the community have access to the boats if this project goes forward? Jim Goetz replied that in 2018, Parks Director Wade Walcutt suggested that the Commissioners consider new possibilities for programming for the parks, and specifically for Burnet Woods. Jim Goetz believes that the Park Board has been sending a message to CTM every time the topic of Burnet Woods has been on the Park Board meeting’s agenda, and that there have been 10 opportunities for input about Burnet Woods proposals, and so he feels there has been sufficient contact. Tekla Akinyi

asked if the CEF group says they require a building to create their “access to nature?” Kara Kish answered that, in her experience, built infrastructure can help provide access to natural resources, and stimulate expression and recreation. Teresa Hoelle asks for Kish and Goetz to take stock of the comments on the meeting’s Chat sidebar comments. She feels that maintenance and repair of Burnet Woods as it

Chat Comments Copied Verbatim from the Google Meets application window during the Dec 7, 2020 CTM Meeting from the point where the Burnet Woods discussion topic began.

Jodie Zultowsky8:01 PM

The coordination with UC was just a course, right? UC would not take a position in building in Burnet Woods.

Eric Urbas8:02 PM

Can't hear Jim

Try the tele

Jodie Zultowsky8:04 PM

Kara, can you address the fact that the community did not have a chance to respond to the stand alone building in BW.

Kevin Marsh8:06 PM

LOL.....we've broken Google Meets with a huge attendance.
time to upgrade!

Bob Hyland8:06 PM

This is illustrative of how community engagement has looked all along with regard to CEF/parks

naghma malik8:06 PM

Zoom should work better

Emily Imhoff8:06 PM

Could it help if everyone mutes and turns off their video?

Eric Urbas8:07 PM

I am curious what additional community feedback was taken after the announcement that renovation of the trailside nature center could not be financially viable.

Emily Imhoff8:08 PM

Is it the number of people on, or is it the number of people using video bandwidth?

Cynthia Duval8:08 PM

Great point, Bob! A lot of people want to know what is going on and have an opportunity to give feedback.

michael mcinturf8:08 PM

video down

Eric Urbas8:08 PM

I can mute and mute at will

Bob Hyland8:08 PM

For the last two years the public has been muted on this issue! Public parks should not be for sale

Kevin Marsh8:09 PM

does anyone have the actual Google Meet instructions that indicate limitations on the account?

Eric Urbas8:09 PM

I think his microphone is not working

Brendon Cull8:10 PM

BLINK TWICE IF YOU SUPPORT THE PARKS

Kevin Marsh8:10 PM

make them very long blinks

Bob Hyland8:10 PM

With all the new proposed construction there will be no parks left!

Jan Brown Checco8:10 PM

The cameras are off!

Jodie Zultowsky8:11 PM

This situation suggests why we shouldn't make important decisions during the pandemic.

Eric Urbas8:11 PM

He should hang up and call back in.

Barbara Sferra8:11 PM

Some of us are NOT familiar. We need to see the proposal. Peter you are not correct

Bob Hyland8:11 PM

Yes listen to the public!

Cynthia Duval8:12 PM

Most have NOT seen these documents in a public forum with a feedback opportunity.

Eric Urbas8:12 PM

Somone should call him and walk him though the login process.

Peter Block8:12 PM

good point cynthia

Michele Murphy8:12 PM

I have not seen the proposal

Jodie Zultowsky8:12 PM

This is a brand new proposal. The community has not commented at all about it.

Bob Hyland8:13 PM

It's an abuse of power!

Mary Rita Dominic8:14 PM

We agree there has been insufficient presentation and feedback to users of City Parks.

Bob Hyland8:14 PM

Yep!

Eric Urbas8:14 PM

We had good support to renovate and expand the trailside nature center for this. Need to pause and take the time to build consensus for any new plan.

Jodie Zultowsky8:14 PM

We agree with you Malcolm!

Michele Murphy8:14 PM

I agree Malcolm. Thanks.

Cynthia Duval8:14 PM

CUF, Corryville and the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Committee were not engaged for input in this. This is SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT to the point of constituting a new proposal than anything we've seen before.

Mary Rita Dominic8:15 PM

Now there is no improvement planned for Trailside. That was a somewhat conciliatory gesture to the community. It's off the table now.

Barbara Sferra8:15 PM

We need the opportunity to see the proposal and provide community engagement prior to the Park Board vote.

Kevin Marsh8:16 PM

Very interesting point, Cynthia...what good is a Park Advisory Committee if they are not consulted for a proposed project in the park for which they are to advise upon?

Eric Urbas8:17 PM

YES!!!!

Apple is king

Jodie Zultowsky8:18 PM

Why would Parks agree to let a private enterprise build a woodworking shop in Burnet Woods?

Cynthia Duval8:18 PM

CEF has said publicly and repeatedly that they don't NEED this building. Why is the Park Board pushing a building that Hugh Haller himself has repeatedly said that CEF doesn't need? We shouldn't be building private non-essential buildings on public park land.

Bob Hyland8:18 PM

It's not the technology

Cynthia Duval8:21 PM

So the park is already facing extreme invasive construction from MSD...

Mary Rita Dominic8:21 PM

A building for CEF was only acceptable to the community if Trailside Nature Center benefited from such construction.

nornpower@yahoo.com8:22 PM

The community has never agreed that CEF programming in BW requires a CEF building in BW.

Mary Rita Dominic8:22 PM

Why would the Park Board put such huge amounts of money in when they don't have the resources to properly maintain current parks?

Jodie Zultowsky8:23 PM

So there will be 2 buildings across the road from each other that will be locked to the community. What is the benefit to the park and the community?

Tk Akinyi8:23 PM

Is that 1800 sq foot of greenery?

Cynthia Duval8:23 PM

Or you can do none of the above and cut CEF's building loose.

Jodie Zultowsky8:23 PM

That's a false choice. They don't need a building to program in the park.

Tom Lohre8:24 PM

Given the tenacity of opposition, it seems impossible for any building in Burnet Woods.

Bob Hyland8:25 PM

None. Hasn't been for years

So it's storage for a private foundation in a public park?

Cynthia Duval8:26 PM

This new position breaks with a 70-year history of the Park Board protecting this Park after they sold the last part of it to UC in 1950

Mary Rita Dominic8:26 PM

Will the community have access to the woodshop equipment?

Jodie Zultowsky8:27 PM

Could you explain why parks thinks this is good for the public? For Clifton?

Seems like it is just good for CEF and its wealthy supporters.

Eric Urbas8:27 PM

I would like hear from CEF why they want and need this new building? I

Understand the park board wants it, but does the purpose seems geared toward exclusive use by CEF.

nornpower@yahoo.com8:28 PM

So net net I see no direct benefit to BW or the community of a CEF building at the lake.

Cynthia Duval8:29 PM

The prior Park Board rejected a library, which is arguably more beneficial to the community than any other proposal we've seen in 30 years.

Peter Block8:29 PM

Plus there is no recognition of turning down CCAC.

Gerald Checco8:29 PM

No intellectual consistency

Bob Hyland8:30 PM

Don't need a building to do that

Unknown8:30 PM

What does Clifton get out of this project?

Erin Payne8:30 PM

Question for Jim Goetz: do you know what cultural appropriation is? Have you considered negative impacts of programming based on fake Native American "values"? Has the Park Board or CEF consulted local Native leaders on this?

Bob Hyland8:30 PM

Because the water quality is likely harmful to human health!

Mary Rita Dominic8:31 PM

So will the community be able to rent canoes for recreational use?

Jodie Zultowsky8:31 PM

So will we all have access to the boat launch? Can I bring my own canoe?

Cynthia Duval8:31 PM

"The strength of an educational program lies not in buildings or equipment, but in people." John Holden - from the CEF website Leadership section.

Gerald Checco8:31 PM

The programming of CEF is more destructive to nature than any other recent proposals.

Bob Hyland8:31 PM

Drop the mic @cynthia!

Tom Lohre8:31 PM

"Save Burnet Woods" will prevent this from happening. Put it in another park.

Timothy Mara8:31 PM

How do fishermen feel about canoes on the lake?

Cynthia Duval8:31 PM

Will these other collaborative groups eventually be given buildings in parks?

Mary Rita Dominic8:32 PM

There are parts of the lake that are dangerous to canoers because of fallen trees near the surface that need to be dredged out.

Unknown8:32 PM

This is an ambush.

Bob Hyland8:32 PM

BS

Timothy Mara8:32 PM

Will people be free to bring their canoes to the lake and fish from their canoes?

Teresa Hoelle8:32 PM

least envasive?

Erin Payne8:32 PM

Cultural appropriation is destructive to everyone

nornpower@yahoo.com8:34 PM

A lot of organizations have programming good for nature experiences for youth. Only CEF seems to require a private building in a public park to provide its own programs for its own constituents.

Bob Hyland8:35 PM

Don't need a building for programming how can't you understand that?

Cynthia Duval8:35 PM

Nothing has stopped CEF from doing this programming in Burnet at Trailside for the last 6 years.

Peter Block8:35 PM

Urban youth is a code word for black kids.

Eric Urbas8:35 PM

Will CEF do the programing without the building?

Jodie Zultowsky8:35 PM

Can we see a sample of the programming? And does it need a building?

K P8:36 PM

Love the mission to underserve inner-city youth. Makes no sense to build another building that could sit empty a few years from now--like Trailside. Why do they need 1800 square feet to build canoes in the woods? Build somewhere else and store them in the Trailside building.

Cynthia Duval8:36 PM

CEF has not contributed significant public programming in the last few years.

There has been nothing stopping them. PBW & Stewards have gotten significant family friendly programming in place over the last 2 years.

Bob Hyland8:37 PM

Quick follow up please?

Peter Block8:37 PM

what is the name of the program. led by a business professor

K P8:37 PM

Maybe UC has storage space. They're right there!

Cynthia Duval8:37 PM

What will Explore Nature be doing at Trailside while CEF is running Burnet Woods? Will we lose Park jobs over this?

CTM Board of Trustees8:37 PM

Very brief

Emily Imhoff8:37 PM

Is CEF run by Native Americans? Their website uses Native terms so I thought it was, but then someone mentioned it was run by non-Native people?

Eric Urbas8:37 PM

Maybe UC has some land it could be built on?

Bob Hyland8:38 PM

Don't lie Jim, you know we didn't support it

Erin Payne8:38 PM

it is based on their native american themed summer camp in MN that has no relationship with Native communities there

Peter Block8:38 PM

could everyone put on their video

Mary Rita Dominic8:38 PM

The UC coordination was only project ideas by students as part of a class project.. There was similar project about 10 years ago that generated many (better) creative ideas that were rejected by the Park Board because there simply was no funding.

nornpower@yahoo.com8:38 PM

Provide the opportunities but not a building- CEF has and can provide programs without a building. If they need a building look at Bishop, it is manipulative to say we must allow private buildings in BW to serve urban youth. It is the programming and that does not require an on site building.

Emily Imhoff8:38 PM

:(

Gerald Checco8:39 PM

Pulling existing concrete to replace with wood, is green washing. The net is an increase of carbon

Jodie Zultowsky8:39 PM

Please read Phil Deloria's book - "Playing Indians." This is retrograde cultural appropriation.

nornpower@yahoo.com8:39 PM

Youth does not need this building to have green space activity. That is just manipulative

K P8:39 PM

Everyone here loves the mission for urban youth to benefit by the park. It's important. The building doesn't make sense.

Bob Hyland8:40 PM

You all should be ashamed of yourselves

Ioanna Paraskevopoulos8:40 PM

Not loving the phrase "urban youth"

Peter Block8:40 PM

it could be a racist project. White savior for sure

Unknown8:40 PM

Mt. Airy is prime urban park, too!

Bob Hyland8:40 PM

Clueless

Cynthia Duval8:40 PM

Why isn't the Park Board focusing on better quality parks in the urban neighborhoods per Commissioner Thomas' comments at the budget meeting regarding the \$70 million infrastructure needs?

Eric Urbas8:40 PM

Thanks all the volunteers those in favor and those against and those who are undecided.

Cynthia Duval8:41 PM

Urban Youth should not need bussed for a good quality park. We need quality parks everywhere, not more buildings.

Erin Payne8:41 PM

look up CEF's law of the woods credited on their website to Ernest Thompson Seton

Bob Hyland8:41 PM

where's your community support tonight, Jim?

K P8:41 PM

I don't agree it's racist. It's fact. I work with urban youth in OTR. Most students in the school I've involved with have no access to woods--nature. The mission is fabulous, and important. No need for this building that can very possibly sit empty in 3 years like Trailside.

Cynthia Duval8:41 PM

So one small group, led by CEF, has created a new master plan for the Park?

Bob Hyland8:41 PM

Nobody is debating disparities in access

Mary Rita Dominic8:42 PM

The timeline shows conversations with CEF and Cincinnati Parks Board began in 2014. The public didn't hear about it until 2018.

Bob Hyland8:42 PM

Not this

Mary Rita Dominic8:43 PM

Then we should blame CTM for not informing the community?

Bob Hyland8:43 PM

Tell everybody where the community engagement consultant CEF hired lives...

Minnesota

Cynthia Duval8:43 PM

That have never seen this proposal. The last iteration was a model of the trailside renovation. No one was informed of the change to this proposal.

Peter Cosco8:43 PM

There are many stakeholders who have not had recent input- other neighborhoods, BPAC, etc.

Gerald Checco8:44 PM

CTM? involved??????

Ioanna Paraskevopoulos8:44 PM

CTM should have had a presentation at least one month in advance.

Malcolm Montgomery8:44 PM

can any Trustee recall receiving any communications from the Park Board regarding Burnet Woods?

Eric Urbas8:44 PM

Why not work with some of the private land owners on the east side of burnet woods on bishop to buy some of this property and add to the park. Then maybe this new building could be part of a net increase to the park?

Peter Block8:44 PM

input has no meaning if there is no listening

Bob Hyland8:44 PM

Exactly @Peter Block

K P8:44 PM

Agree, Peter

Ioanna Paraskevopoulos8:44 PM

Yes this is not consequential community engagement.

Unknown8:45 PM

You're saying CTM kept this plan from the community?

Peter Cosco8:45 PM

What about CUF, Corryville?

Cynthia Duval8:45 PM

We are trusting CEF to be the representative of Urban Youth needs. ??

Bob Hyland8:45 PM

Anthropocentric!!!!!!!!

Patrick Borders8:46 PM

It's a pond - not a lake.

Gerald Checco8:46 PM

Agreed with Ioanna and Peter. This is a backward community engagement.

Jodie Zultowsky8:46 PM

Is this interpretation or manufacturing? This is a workshop. "Maker space" could be anywhere.

Tk Akinyi8:46 PM

You do not expose kids living in an urban area to more buildings

Bob Hyland8:46 PM

Then find a partner who is going to buy a house on Bishop, green it, and portage the boats to the pond

Tk Akinyi8:47 PM

Professional input to kill greenery?

Bob Hyland8:47 PM

Yes @Tk

Tk Akinyi8:47 PM

It will be just another building to urban kids

nornpower@yahoo.com8:48 PM

Community engagement (using the term loosely) thus far has said no thanks . So the concerted efforts of CEF and Parks contrary to the feedback is questionable.

And Kara I don't see hoe

Emily Imhoff8:48 PM

I have also thought of the "buy a nearby house" idea. Seems like a good idea and climate friendly?

Mary Rita Dominic8:48 PM

It's a pond (not a lake) with a lot of environmental issues that need to be addressed. Runoff from MLK, quality of water, navigability, access for boaters??? There are no longer ducks and geese nesting there. Why??

K P8:48 PM

On The Camping and Education Foundation's own website they say:

"The strength of an educational program lies not in buildings or equipment, but in people.

nornpower@yahoo.com8:48 PM

w your interpretative elements require private buildings.

Tk Akinyi8:48 PM

You did not address the comment on did you get comments from the urban community asking for this beyond your neighbors?

Bob Hyland8:49 PM

This is absolutely ridiculous that you are pushing back against what you're hearing. You are public servants, the public doesn't want the building. Period.

nornpower@yahoo.com8:49 PM

I don't see hoe Kara's interpretive elements Remi ore a private building.

Erin Payne8:49 PM

i do question the quality of native american themed programming created by white people

Unknown8:50 PM

Interesting that no one from CEF is here to present.

Jodie Zultowsky8:50 PM

Thank you, Teresa! Well put.

Tk Akinyi8:51 PM

Very well put Teresa, what urban community have they actually engaged with that asked for another building?

Bob Hyland8:51 PM

This is some neoliberal bologna

Cynthia Duval8:51 PM

It sounds like they need a mobile shop, not a fixed site.

Emily Imhoff8:51 PM

Erin, I agree. This is 2020...

Cynthia Duval8:51 PM

TK, please keep asking. There has been no answer yet to your question.

Gerald Checco8:52 PM

I am in agreement with Cynthia! A mobile truck would be less costly and able to serve kids where they are

Eric Urbas8:52 PM

A mobile workshop seems like a good compromise to see how much this really benefits everyone. Before a new building is committed to.

Timothy Mara8:52 PM

There are at least two large caliper trees in or very close to the space - one pinoak and the other beech. Plus the construction process will disturb the roots of others.

Cynthia Duval8:52 PM

This building will not provide revenue for those public improvements per the MOU. Parks will expend infrastructure dollars regardless of CEF.

Bob Hyland8:53 PM

They don't know what that means

Mary Rita Dominic8:53 PM

UC students are only interested because it boosts their resume to get this new certificate.

Eric Urbas8:53 PM

Never heard as well until Dec 4th.

Bob Hyland8:53 PM

There are plenty of UC students who oppose this, and you're going to hear from them

Tk Akinyi8:53 PM

That's true on UC students using this...so stop using urban kids as the excuse

Jodie Zultowsky8:54 PM

To be clear about UC students: they were in a class paid for by CEF and were told their plans had to include this building.

Cynthia Duval8:54 PM

It is not the same proposal.

Bob Hyland8:54 PM

How's it going?

Peter Cosco8:54 PM

Why not build a building up on Bishop in one of the Park's spaces in green space there?

Peter Block8:54 PM

This is a colonial project.

Cynthia Duval8:54 PM

Not a savings as they wouldn't spend that money.

Bob Hyland8:55 PM

By definition colonial

Mary Rita Dominic8:55 PM

Many of us were not that impressed by the talk of this program in 2016 or 2018.

Herb Robinson8:56 PM

Exactly where is this expansion going to be built?

K P8:56 PM

I'm not seeing the excitement Jim is talking about

Cynthia Duval8:57 PM

Good point, Steve. CEF is gone all Summer.

Bob Hyland8:57 PM

Bingo! "Let's build a new building in a 50mil+ deferred maintenance park system"! Brilliant!

Eric Urbas8:57 PM

I think two canoes being worked on could fit in a garage (maybe 500 square feet). Why not repurpose the unused concession stand? It is a little small but at least this building would be used again.

Peter Block8:57 PM

lets start a movement.

K P8:57 PM

I missed the part about Trailside. Why can't they just build canoes in the empty lobby there?

Bob Hyland8:57 PM

It's atrocious!!!!

Cynthia Duval8:58 PM

Preserve Burnet Woods & CTM are the only parties that have supplied the public a copy to view.

Bob Hyland8:58 PM

Oh my god!

Barbara Sferra8:58 PM

Show us the plans.

Herb Robinson8:58 PM

Where can you find or see the rendering of the building?

Michael Elovitz8:58 PM

Teresa made a good point about "who will maintain this building in the future".

The park board was very reluctant to allow mountain bike trails to be built in Mt.

Airy. Questions were asked "will CORA maintain these new trails

'forever' " (literally they were asked "forever"). My understanding is that CORA

needed to demonstrate a robust, extremely long-term maintenance program for

trails (emphasis on trails). This project is putting trust in a private entity to

maintain an 1800 sqft building

Bob Hyland8:58 PM

Tk has had her hand raised for 20 minutes!

Tk Akinyi8:58 PM

Can Jim and Kara professionally demonstrate that they did engage the urban

community since they have been in discussions since 2016? Otherwise, no need

to use them as an excuse for private motifs.

Bob Hyland8:59 PM

They don't care obviously

Tk Akinyi8:59 PM

But use that community to try and justify dubious motifs!

Bob Hyland8:59 PM

CTM please oppose formally oppose this sham!

Eric Urbas9:00 PM

Thanks to all the volunteers it is can feel thankless at times but we will get a

better outcome through the difficulty.

Ioanna Paraskevopoulos9:00 PM

Parks should hold the item until CTM can discuss thoroughly.

nornpower@yahoo.com9:00 PM

This is a bad idea—agreed.

Ioanna Paraskevopoulos9:00 PM

We don't have enough time to discuss it thoroughly tonight. Not CTM's fault.

Eric Urbas9:00 PM

You have the parks commissioner here. Let the public be heard by him.

Bob Hyland9:01 PM

You haven't addressed them, you've arrogantly reacted to them

Mary Rita Dominic9:01 PM

The Park Board has skimmed the surface on the real issues. You've not listened.

Timothy Mara9:01 PM

Not so, Jim, this is a new plan that nobody saw until the last couple days.

Cynthia Duval9:02 PM

Yes, you would.

Jodie Zultowsky9:02 PM

I've never heard anyone outside of CEF express enthusiasm for building in the park. In any venue.

nornpower@yahoo.com9:02 PM

Yes you are aware, but you ignore us.

Tk Akinyi9:02 PM

Are you aware you are using urban kids as an excuse?

Bob Hyland9:02 PM

No integrity. You listen to \$\$\$\$\$

Peter Block9:02 PM

we need a separate effort to block this. with lawyers.

Cynthia Duval9:03 PM

Park Boards for the last 70 years said no new buildings in Burnet Woods.

Mark Jeffreys9:03 PM

Given the nature of the feedback, I think it merits exploring some of the alternative solutions suggested e.g. a Mobile Workshop. That does seem new. It also seems to address the concerns of many here while advancing the programming. That feels like it should be explored further given the input not only from CTM here, but CUFNA

Timothy Mara9:03 PM

The case for this plan is woefully lacking in analysis. For example, does the PB have an inventory of trees and other plants that would be destroyed by this project? What wildlife is affected? Etc.

Bob Hyland9:04 PM

Tk still has her hand up for like 30 minutes!!!!

Mary Rita Dominic9:04 PM

Sounds not useful to continue the discussion as Jim has just said nothing said here is going to change to vote of the Park Boards.

Tk Akinyi9:05 PM

@ Mary unfortunately it sounds like that

Bob Hyland9:05 PM

That's a yes from me

Ok now let's get real

Bob Hyland9:06 PM

There's no reasonable response

Tom Lohre9:06 PM

Thank you.

Bob Hyland9:08 PM

Because they don't know or don't want to follow best practices for community engagement

Cynthia Duval9:10 PM

As CEF does not participate in our community initiatives in Burnet, this could deflate some of our community volunteers.

Tk Akinyi9:10 PM

Yes! Bob!

Eric Urbas9:10 PM

Let's use the new building money to restore the busing for these kids.

nornpower@yahoo.com9:11 PM

Great points Bob Bernstein!

Bob Hyland9:12 PM

The gentrification in this city is a blight

Don't gentrify Burnet Woods

Bob Hyland9:14 PM

Clearly

Cynthia Duval9:14 PM

You can use funds that you would use anyway. This represents no savings to Parks nor revenue.

Eric Urbas9:14 PM

Now that is some good news.

Cynthia Duval9:15 PM

Why isn't Explore Nature doing that?

Bob Hyland9:15 PM

Preserve Burnet Woods has removed more invasive from BW in the last two years than parks has in the last 20

Peter Block9:15 PM

Looked at website. On CEF leadership, it is all white.

Unknown9:15 PM

What about the lease? No answer.

K P9:16 PM

LOVE all that. Building not needed.

Cynthia Duval9:16 PM

None of this requires a building.

Barbara Sferra9:16 PM

Joe please let others talk.

Mary Rita Dominic9:16 PM

Where is the money for all that programming and trail building coming from?

Mark Jeffreys9:17 PM

The compromise idea of a Mobile Workshop seems reasonable - could still bring the kids in without the building. Not sure why that is not an option to take back and explore

Bob Hyland9:17 PM

Don't need a new building, Jim. Do the right thing.

Tk Akinyi9:17 PM

My question was ignored and also Bob's comment on canoeing not being a gateway to nature due to expense for urban kids. Please demonstrate and support your comment that this would be beneficial to all those urban youth you reference! Otherwise if you want to sell a building just say so!

Bob Hyland9:18 PM

Kudos Mr. Hamberg!

Teresa Hoelle9:20 PM

agreed

Timothy Mara9:20 PM

Tk's question and others not answered

Jodie Zultowsky9:20 PM

Here, here! Thanks, Bob.

Kevin Marsh9:21 PM

Thank you Buddy Goose for asserting your rights to ask questions during the debate of a motion!!

Cynthia Duval9:21 PM

Can we sent the comment transcript to the Commissioners?

Decided on a trailside renovation under the MOU

Tk Akinyi9:22 PM

Sounds like the decision has been made

Bob Hyland9:22 PM

BS

Tk Akinyi9:22 PM

least invasive, not burnet woods

Mary Rita Dominic9:23 PM

Not taking input, obviously

Bob Hyland9:23 PM

What a disgrace

Don't worry we will

Mary Rita Dominic9:24 PM

Five political appointees of John Cranley doing his bidding.

Tk Akinyi9:25 PM

And engage communities before you use them as an excuse

Unknown9:25 PM

They don't want a compromise.

Bob Hyland9:26 PM

Two wrongs don't make a right

Malcolm Montgomery9:26 PM

motion is not of opposition, but rather not to support

Cynthia Duval9:27 PM

Unfortunately, the Park Board delay is not likely based on this conversation. CTM may not get its own voice heard without an official position.

Eric Urbas9:27 PM

The four other park commissioners are Brad Lindner, Susan Castellini, Linda Thomas, and Kevin Flynn. All the park board commissioners are Mayoral appointees.

Kevin Marsh9:28 PM

For clarity, mayoral appointees must be approved by a majority of City Council. The Mayor is not a monarch.

Bob Hyland9:29 PM

That is what YOU supported, not the community. You don't know what community engagement means

K P9:29 PM

Why is the addition needed to the Trailside???

Mary Rita Dominic9:29 PM

The 4500 sq ft facility was never fully understood or presented to the community.

Malcolm Montgomery9:29 PM

bait and switch

Bob Hyland9:29 PM

The Park Board supported it, not the community

nornpower@yahoo.com9:29 PM

Jim- the community never supported your CEFTNC idea

Eric Urbas9:29 PM

You can email the Parks Board at cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov

Cynthia Duval9:30 PM

The addition was never supported. That was the forced compromise.

Bob Hyland9:30 PM

This is a massive abuse of power, but the people have the power and that's what's about to be made clear

Bob Hyland9:32 PM

Get the picture now?

Thank you CTM.

Gerald Checco9:33 PM

Election

Eric Urbas9:33 PM

A key part of the problem is this is being presented two weeks before formal action and that there should be no delay. This is usually the best time to delay a decision.

Cynthia Duval9:33 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to speak, CTM.

Gerald Checco9:33 PM

How many people voted?

Eric Urbas9:33 PM

Thanks again to all the volunteers!

Malcolm Montgomery9:33 PM

The Park Commissioners does not answer to the public, but only to the Mayor.

That is the pressure point

Bob Hyland9:33 PM

Tk, will you email me please? bob@preserveburnnetwoods.org

nornpower@yahoo.com9:34 PM

Thank you CTM for standing up for the right of the community to engage!

Unknown9:34 PM

Not two week 10 days.

Eric Urbas9:35 PM

6 years from each of them. It is a tremendous commitment. Thank you all.

Clifton Cultural Arts Center9:35 PM

Thank you all for your hard work and commitment to our community!

Teresa Hoelle9:35 PM

thank you Buddy, Rama and Patrick!

Ioanna Paraskevopoulos9:36 PM

Thanks, all.

Gerald Checco9:36 PM

Thank you all!

Malcolm Montgomery9:36 PM

Special thanks to Buddy for having given so much to the community, in CTM and beyond!

Brian Muething9:36 PM

Oppose.

[External Email] Public Comment 6/20

Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Tue 6/4/2024 9:10 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Good evening -

In checking with Dr. Conover, he reports that he has had an MRI and continues to be in extreme pain.

Despite his having contacted Parks staff at the time of the attack, Dr. Conover also reports that he has not been contacted at all by Parks staff to express concern, gather details for a report, anything. This is extremely disappointing on both a personal and institutional level.

Dr. Conover has been volunteering his expertise in botany to Cincinnati Parks for over 30-years, including consults on plantings and invasive species removal, leading hikes at Burnet Woods, Bender Mountain, Parker Woods, Buttercup Valley, Mt Airy and many more. Throughout the naturalist community, he is regarded as a local treasure.

It is likely that the injuries he suffered to his back will have lifelong ramifications. As will the lack of compassion he's received from Parks.

Cynthia Duval
President, Preserve Burnet Woods
513.477.4584

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cynthia Duval** <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Date: Sat, May 11, 2024, 5:02 PM

Subject: Fwd: Fw: Can you write up what happened to Denis at Burnet

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>, Mobley, Jenny <Jenny.Mobley@cincinnati-oh.gov>, Barron, Jason <jason.barron@cincinnati-oh.gov>, shawn dent <shawn.dent@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: Lisa Haglund <lisahaglund61@gmail.com>

Good afternoon -

On April 28th, Dr. Denis Conover was leading a group hike in Burnet Woods when he and his leashed dog were attacked by a 'dropped leash'/off-leash pit bull. Dr. Conover is reporting a serious back injury which may require an MRI and surgery. A write up from an incident witness is included.

This incident occurs on the heels of another intimidation incident reported wherein an individual who appears to be living out of his vehicle with a dog in tow has been seen abusing the animal and carrying a gun in Burnet Woods. This is a person Parks on-site staff is aware of and have reported that

they also feel intimidated by him when they have asked him to leash his dog. People have left the park on seeing him carrying a gun with an off-leash dog in the park and exhibiting intimidating behavior.

Recently, Burnet Woods has had the good fortune to have a patrol officer who actually gets out of their vehicle and walks around the park. This is much appreciated. However, it has been reported by our volunteers that on speaking with the officer about the man with the off-leash dog living out of his vehicle in the park, that the officer responded that the dog was not a threat and she did not intend to ask the owner to leash the dog. This is a disappointing response, especially considering that the dog was not leashed when the officer spoke with this individual. Persons enjoying the park and volunteers serving the park should not have to worry about out of control dogs, nor should their concerns be dismissed as unimportant.

Burnet Woods has had a recurring issue with out of control off-leash dogs - you may recall an incident 2-3 years ago where an ER Doctor that was enjoying the park was sent to the hospital with a shredded arm from an off-leash pit bull attack. Another incident where a leashed dog was killed by another off-leash dog last year. There appears to be no enforcement of the leash laws by either CPD or Cincinnati Parks staff in Cincinnati Parks, and specifically in Burnet Woods.

In light of yet another attack and injury by an off-leash dog, we request that leash laws be enforced in Burnet Woods as they are part of a city and county ordinance.

Cynthia Duval
President, Preserve Burnet Woods
513.477.4584

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Denis Conover** <conovedg@hotmail.com>

Date: Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 3:58 PM

Subject: Fw: Can you write up what happened to Denis at Burnet

To: Brian Keane <keaneb@miamioh.edu>, new steve pelikan <spelikan@gmail.com>, cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Hi,

Yeah, I think it should be reported to somebody.

We were walking up the hill, to the south, when a medium sized pit bull with a collar and a leash appeared. No human or owner. The dog spotted us and came running for Lilly. The dog knocked Denis over. I grabbed the leash of the pit bull and held it back from Lilly. I could hear the owner of the dog yelling for the dog and I yelled at them to come help. A black woman, 30s-40s, came and took her dog from me. She asked if the dog bit anyone. I think it did bite Lilly but she wasn't bleeding and had no obvious damage. Denis said no the dog didn't bite anyone. He couldn't get up, said his back hurt. He

called Drew who said he was close by. The lady stayed for a little bit but then left and then drew came like a minute or 2 after the whole thing happened. It all happened really quickly.

Approximate location: 39.1371226, -84.5174052

Approximate Time: 3pmish? Not super sure. Denis called Drew right after it happened.

It's definitely a solid example for why people should leash their dogs. Lilly seemed fine and normal afterwards. Denis was definitely not okay.

Let me know if I can do anything else!

Cheers,

Bridget Taylor

On Sun, Apr 28, 2024, 4:36 PM bob bergstein <bergstein123@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Bridget,

I just spoke to Denis on the phone. Can you write up a full description of all you remember about what happened including sequence of events, and description of dog and owner.

It's always good to have full contemporary description, for use in possible police report or insurance.

Denis is hurt (back) and upset about this. I may talk to Drew about what to do.

From Bob Bergstein

[External Email] Public Comment: Burnet Woods Dog Park

Corryville Community Council <community@corryville.org>

Mon 6/10/2024 12:30 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: Barron, Jason <jason.barron@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 2 attachments (1,020 KB)

Burnet Woods Dog Park - Corryville Letter_June 2024.pdf; Corryville_Dog Park Opposition_2021 Letter-2022 Letter -2023 OpEd.pdf;

You don't often get email from community@corryville.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Dear Cincinnati Parks Commissioners,

As Cincinnati Parks reviews bids to demolish a portion of Burnet Woods to construct an artificial turf dog park, the Corryville Community Council reiterates its opposition to a dog park in Burnet Woods. Please find attached our prior statements opposing a dog park in Burnet Woods (2021 letter, 2022 letter, 2023 Op-Ed).

Demolishing a primary entrance to the park as we celebrate Burnet Woods' 150th birthday this year would be a sad sight, especially considering past resistance to development in the park and that 85% of responses to Cincinnati Parks one-question survey about this project were critical.

Burnet Woods is an important asset to the Corryville community, and we are asking Cincinnati Parks to conduct professional community engagement on this issue -- before it's too late.

Sincerely,
For the Corryville Community Council
William Crawford Jr.
President

Corryville Community Council
Meets 2nd Tuesday of the Month
6:00p, Corryville Recreation Center



10 June 2024

Re: Proposed Burnet Woods Dog Park

Dear Cincinnati Parks Commissioners,

As Cincinnati Parks reviews bids to demolish a portion of Burnet Woods to construct an artificial turf dog park, the Corryville Community Council reiterates its opposition to a dog park in Burnet Woods. Please find attached our prior statements opposing a dog park in Burnet Woods (2021 letter, 2022 letter, 2023 Op-Ed).

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Burnet Woods is an important asset to the Corryville community, and we are asking Cincinnati Parks to conduct professional community engagement on this issue -- before it's too late.

Sincerely,

For the Corryville Community Council -

William Crawford Jr.

President

CORRYVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

OPINION

WRITING LETTERS OR OP-EDS: Letters of up to 200 words may be submitted by filling out the form at static.cincinnati.com/letter/ or emailing letters@enquirer.com. Include name, address, community and daytime phone number. Op-eds are submitted the same way except they should be 500-600 words and also include a one-sentence bio and head shot. Submissions may be edited for space and clarity.

Board should rethink Burnet Woods dog park

Your Turn

Corryville Community Council
Guest columnist

Like all of Cincinnati's 52 neighborhoods, Corryville is distinct. The precise mix of our population, assets and challenges are unique. So, it is disappointing when we are routinely lumped in as part of Clifton, especially when some leverage this confusion in attempts to develop one of Corryville's best assets – Burnet Woods.

Corryville is home to many of the University of Cincinnati's nearly 50,000 students each year. We recently celebrated the Corryville branch library, when the 1907 Carnegie building reopened after extensive renovations. Our community council meets monthly in the Corryville Recreation Center, which offers a diverse array of programming.

We enjoy the service of several Metro bus routes and will soon host sections of Cincinnati's first Bus Rapid Transit routes. We are a destination for thousands of patients and their families who seek top-notch medical care from the dedicated nurses, doctors and other health care professionals who work at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center or UC Health.

Most importantly, Corryville is home to a caring and committed group of residents and business owners.

Corryville also faces challenges, including pedestrian safety and air quality. A short distance from Interstate 71 and split in two by the busy thoroughfare of Martin Luther King Drive, Corryville offers an easy route for drivers from across the region to seek care at a hospital, view a Bearcats game, visit the zoo in neighboring Avondale, or play or hike in one of our parks. The heavy traffic, however, contributes to public health concerns.

Fortunately, Corryville's assets help to mitigate those concerns. It's why Burnet Woods is so precious to our neighborhood. The forested park offers safe walking or hiking paths and serves as a lung for Corryville and all of Uptown, turning traffic emissions into oxygen and absorbing the noise of thousands of automobiles that travel through the heart of Corryville every day.

Historically, Burnet Woods falls within Corryville's boundaries, but we're happy to share the park with Clifton, CUF, Avondale, Mt. Auburn and neighbors across the city and beyond, whether life-long residents or picnickers just passing through. We recognize that Burnet Woods is not just a Corryville asset – it's a

draw for our neighbors across the region.

We're grateful for Cincinnati Parks staff who care for Burnet Woods and for the community members who, throughout the decades, have sought to protect the park against numerous development proposals.

For the record, the Corryville Community Council stands with those community members opposing the latest Burnet Woods development proposal – a synthetic turf dog park in close proximity to Corryville homes. As a community council, we have shared our opposition to a dog park in Burnet Woods with Cincinnati Parks commissioners. They have not responded to our concerns.

Clifton itself rejected a similar development in Dunwoody Park, a greenspace entirely within its own neighborhood boundaries. Naturally, it's disheartening to see Cincinnati Parks advance a development proposal in Burnet Woods against the wishes of the Corryville Community Council and many others.

We hope commissioners will reconsider their plans to put a dog park in Burnet Woods. In the meantime, here's our message for all who visit Burnet Woods or the many other offerings we are grateful to live among every day: "Welcome to Corryville. Please treat our home as you do your own."



Board of Park Commissioners
Cincinnati, Ohio

17 May 2022

Board of Park Commissioners
Interim Director John Neyer
Division Manager Rocky Merz

Re: Proposed "Clifton" Dog Park

To the Board, Director Neyer, Manager Merz:

The Corryville Community Council is aware that the Board of Park Commissioners recently received conceptual drawings for the purpose of fundraising for a dog park in Burnet Woods (3.17.22 Parks meeting packet, page 130). While generally supportive of the idea of a Dog Park in Uptown, and neutral on other suggested locations in the Uptown area (6.7.21 & 7.15.21 Clifton Dog Park Analysis), we remain opposed to a dog park in Burnet Woods.

We understand that a dog park will require \$150,000 in parks funds, with an additional \$100,000 to be raised by dog park supporters. We further understand that Cincinnati Parks is facing a long list of deferred maintenance across the parks system. With this in mind, we believe it is important that any new park development, especially a dog park that will require significant ongoing maintenance, be fully vetted and broadly supported by the community.

It has come to our attention that the Burnet Woods Parks Advisory Council (BPAC) unanimously opposes a dog park in Burnet Woods. BPAC's most recent resolution raises concerns over environmental and residential impacts, lack of parking, incompatibility with the existing character and use of the park, lack of access to water, lack of equitable citing criteria, degradation of an existing greenspace, lack of sustainable funding for ongoing maintenance, etc. (4.6.22 BPAC meeting minutes). We believe these concerns merit further study of the appropriateness of placing a dog park in Burnet Woods. Further, immediate neighbors to the planned site, including Corryville residents, **who were not engaged by Cincinnati Parks prior to site selection**, have since raised concerns, including parking limitations, sanitation, and conservation (3.2.22 Parkside Neighbors Letter).

It is not clear that consensus has been reached across Uptown neighborhoods regarding a dog park in Burnet Woods. We do not feel that Cincinnati Parks has adequately answered the questions and concerns raised by BPAC and other groups, nor has Cincinnati Parks adequately engaged park neighbors, whose day-to-day quality of life will be affected. The planned dog park also **deviates from the Burnet Woods Master Plan**, which was adopted after extensive community input.

We request that Cincinnati Parks and dog park supporters refrain from progressing further on the Burnet Woods location or fundraising for a dog park while Cincinnati Parks works to answer the questions and concerns of neighborhood groups, conducts a community survey including all

CORRYVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



neighborhoods identified in Parks' dog park siting criteria, and develops a plan for equitable distribution of dog parks across the city park system.

Thank you for your consideration.

For the Corryville Community Council -

William Crawford Jr

President



Board of Park Commissioners
Cincinnati, Ohio

14 July 2021

Director Kara Kish
Division Manager Rocky Merz

Re: Proposed "Clifton" Dog Park

To the Board, Director Kish, Manager Merz:

The Corryville Community Council is aware that the Board of Park Commissioners is currently considering creating a Dog Park in the Uptown area (6.7.21 & 7.15.21 Clifton Dog Park Analysis). While generally supportive of the idea of a Dog Park in Uptown, we are opposed to the location of a Dog Park in Burnet Woods. We are neutral on the other suggested locations in the Uptown area.

Our request here is that the name of the Dog Park, wherever it is eventually located, represent the neighborhood in which it is located or have a more neutral name like "Uptown Dog Park." Some of the locations which have been suggested in the above-referenced document have been incorrectly assigned to the wrong neighborhood – the "Losantiville Triangle" site is in Mt. Auburn, not Corryville; and all three Burnet Woods sites are first and foremost in Corryville (see attached image). Proper naming of sites in accordance with their hosting neighborhood will assure good Park – Community relations and eliminate potential confusion.

Thank you for your consideration -

For the Corryville Community Council

Leah Hollstein, Secretary

[External Email] Public Comment from Karly Morgan

Karly Morgan <ilove.burnet@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Thu 6/13/2024 1:55 PM

To:Aftab, Mayor <mayor.pureval@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Please enter the below transcript into public record for the next Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners public meeting and ongoing for public meetings of the Cincinnati City Council Healthy Neighborhoods Committee. This record represents a unique response from Karly Morgan.

Email address	karlyamorgan@gmail.com
In my own words, I feel that my voice has been excluded from organized public discussion designed to provide actionable feedback regarding the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods as a result of the Park Board’s violations of best practices in community engagement in the following ways:	Failed to get multiple proposals. Putting synthetic turf taking away vital ecosystem and habitats.
Best practices in Community Engagement call for centering the voices of individuals who will be most directly impacted by the issue at-hand. The Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners has remained unengaged and has even ignored residents of multifamily housing directly next to the selected site for a dog park in Burnet Woods. The Park Board’s decision to ignore those	I agree that the Park Board has failed to center voices of those most directly impacted by the location chosen for a dog park in Burnet Woods.

who would be most directly impacted by a dog park in Burnet Woods is failure to professionally engage the community on this issue.

The City of Cincinnati has neighborhood councils for the purpose of ensuring a link between citizens and decision makers. From the city's own website: "These organizations [i.e., community councils] ensure that neighborhood development responds to the needs and goals of its citizens." Despite the two community councils whose boundaries include Burnet Woods having passed resolutions against the dog park, the Park Board is choosing to use a heavy-handed approach to the development in violation of the entire premise behind our city having community councils. Similarly, Cincinnati Parks has Park Advisory Councils (CPACs), to, according to the Cincinnati Parks Board website, "build and maintain public support for Cincinnati Parks by providing feedback to the Cincinnati Park Board and exchanging and sharing information and providing mutual support between CPACs."

I agree that the Park Board has violated the covenant of community representation by ignoring the opposition of the CUF Neighborhood Association and Corryville Community Council regarding the dog park.

I agree that the Park Board has violated the covenant of trust with its own volunteer Park Advisory Council for Burnet Woods by ignoring their resolution against the dog park.

Park CPACs often donate hundreds of volunteer hours to maintain park spaces and host community events. In violation of its own stated purpose for CPACs, the Cincinnati Park Board has ignored multiple resolutions passed by the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council (BPAC) in opposition to the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods.

As it relates to community engagement on the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods, and in addition to the points above, the Park Board of Commissioners has further violated the public trust in numerous ways, including: · masquerading an old survey about a proposed dog park in a different Cincinnati park as community engagement on a dog park in Burnet Woods · using accessibility as a red herring to advance the dog park in Burnet Woods before determining if the amenity is desired by the community in the first place · ignoring other, decades old infrastructure and accessibility needs in Burnet Woods in order to prioritize the pet project of a dog park in Burnet Woods · excluding

I agree that the Board of Park Commissioners has damaged the public trust in its failures to develop and execute a professional, equitable and unbiased community engagement process applied consistently to projects in Burnet Woods and the Cincinnati Parks system.

various groups and stakeholders, including the most vulnerable, from engagement and decision making · mocking the community engagement process itself and those who are demanding best practices in community engagement · boasting that as Commissioners they will use their power to make amenity-siting decisions for the community because they don't believe in the community · greenwashing the clear, evidence-based ecological destruction the dog park will cause · undermining the legitimacy of process by ignoring the fact that two sitting Park Board Commissioners have a conflict of interest by residing near enough to the proposed dog park that their private property values could materially benefit from the development

I acknowledge that upon completion of this form, an email containing responses will be sent for public record entry to the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval, and the current members of Cincinnati City Council Healthy Neighborhoods Committee: Jan-Michele Kearney, Reggie Harris,

I acknowledge the above emails will be sent upon clicking 'Submit'.
I acknowledge that a summary of responses may be submitted to members of Cincinnati City Council.

**Scotty Johnson, and
Victoria Parks. A
Summary of responses
may be compiled and
provided to City Council
also. A copy will also be
sent to Preserve Burnet
Woods.**

Your Full Name Karly Morgan

Your Email Address karlyamorgan@gmail.com

Your Zip Code 45239

Respectfully,

Karly Morgan

Sent: Thu, Jun 13, 2024 1:55 PM

Response ID: 2_ABaOnuesXBjmuZSyF4Tag0gdoXTqG9KW5SNyZhe0v_Z0jOuM12QUGBwGU0QA-dN9xjioMfE

Response Number: 80

[External Email] Public Comment Burnet Woods

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Thu 6/13/2024 9:21 AM

To:#COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from stichbear@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Dear Council, Commissioners and Park Director,

I am writing to ask that plans for a fenced, off leash, dog area in Burnet Woods be moved to a different location that has previously been developed. Thinking outside the box, with a focus on sustainability much like our UC students recently presented to you. I support their efforts.

Healing the divide that was created in our community by skipping the community engagement piece of the proposal for Burnet Woods, would be most appreciated.

Start again by ASKING the community if they would like an off leash area for dogs in the first place. The one question "survey" that Parks put out in December 2023, AFTER the site was chosen without any community input whatsoever, showed approximately 85% of respondents were AGAINST the current location proposal.

Having an Audubon IBA in the heart of our city is a real honor.

Please celebrate and maintain the treasure that we have, in large part because of the countless hours our volunteers have spent in maintaining the ecosystem and in helping to keep the park maintained. The way the Park Board mishandled this project has been a real slap in the face to stakeholders and volunteers who feel that their voices don't matter as much as the voices surrounding the original project site, which was Dunore Park.

We feel marginalized and we feel that removal of greenspace against the will of the people most affected and ignoring the impact (noise, smell, traffic, toxins, pathogens and loss of both beloved greenspace and peace) this will have on their daily lived experience is a textbook example of environmental injustice.

The Cincinnati Green Plan has to not be empty promises.

Our park has already been encroached by human development enough. Where is the line before the delicate ecosystem of Burnet Woods crumbles?

We have the Nature Center/museum/planetarium that needs to be made ADA accessible.

The money being used for an unwanted project could be better spent elsewhere in the park.

The Bandstand is not accessible for musicians or the community members who need a ramp or a railing to gain access.

The lower basin shelter is not accessible for families to gather who have members that require mobility devices. The playground in the basin, completely inaccessible.

The playground that we do have that COULD BE made accessible, is probably one of the cruelest playgrounds that a person with a disability could visit! We have one single piece of equipment that overlooks the entire area and sidewalks to nowhere that drop off and wooden barriers and mulch.

Come visit and bring a wheelchair or walker and see it for yourself!

As a parent with a child who needs some accommodations I can tell you that the playground at Burnet Woods is infuriating to me. So many missed opportunities for inclusion!

For years the Advisory Council has asked for a sidewalk from the street to the playground and we've been ignored. The Advisory Council has asked for improvements with a focus on accessibility, and those requests have gone unaddressed.

WHY is this expensive "dog park" project, which is NOT on the master plan being moved forward? Can anyone explain, because it makes no sense to anyone who is familiar with the park's very real needs? Sincerely disappointed in the choices of Park's leadership right now. Never in my lifetime did I think that I would ever have to go up against a Park Board to protect a park. Disheartening to say the least.

Sincerely,
Shari Frost

[External Email] Public Comment: PFAS Concerns from Kevin Marsh

Kevin Marsh <ilove.burnet@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Sun 6/16/2024 7:41 AM

To:Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Cc:Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>;
Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Walsh, Seth
<seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Aftab, Mayor <mayor.pureval@cincinnati-oh.gov>;ilove.burnet@preserveburnetwoods.org
<ilove.burnet@preserveburnetwoods.org>

External Email Communication

Please enter the below transcript into public record for the next Board of Park Commissioners public meeting and for ongoing meetings of the City Council Climate, Environment & Infrastructure Committee. This record represents a unique response from Kevin Marsh.

Email address	marshishere@gmail.com
I oppose the use of synthetic turf or other PFAS containing materials in Cincinnati City Parks and public greenspaces, as well as for the construction of a dog park in Burnet Woods, for the following reasons: * Synthetic turf contains, among other chemicals, PFAS which will leach into the natural environment and could expose humans, dogs, and wildlife to pollutants known to cause cancer and other morbidities. * In all 12 of the indices the USEPA uses for Environmental Justice screening, the residents who live closest to the proposed site for the dog park in Burnet Woods are in the 80th percentile for exposure. In 6 of the indices, they are in the 90th percentile. In other	I agree. Reduction of exposure to PFAS chemicals/environmental contaminants is important to me.

words, the installation of the dog park will introduce additional risk to residents who already carry a disproportionate share of exposure to environmental risk.

The following areas of concern resound with me when I consider the use of synthetic turf/PFAS containing materials in public greenspaces generally or construction of the Burnet Woods Dog Park specifically: (Check all that apply)

- > Lack of unbiased community engagement on IF or where a dog park should be located for the impacted communities (I agree)
- > Our water and air quality are in a state of decline not being taken seriously enough by elected leaders. (I agree)
- > Concerns about the financial crisis currently faced by Cincinnati Parks (I agree)
- > Lack of a cohesive plan to implement amenities such as dog parks equitably across the entire park system (I agree)
- > I am uncomfortable with children being exposed to synthetic turf due to its known chemical components. (I agree)
- > Lack of transparency in the decision-making process which allowed this project to fast-track past other pressing park needs related to infrastructure repair, accessibility needs, staffing needs, etc. (I agree)
- > This project will degrade greenspace unnecessarily when it could be used to add greenspace to the community through use of an already developed location. (I agree)
- > This proposal is causing great conflict in my community and between my neighbors. (I agree)
- > Concerns that our parks are already failing at regular maintenance in terms of existing infrastructure and daily maintenance needs (litter removal, facility repair, invasive species removal, etc.) and are heavily reliant on volunteer labor to meet basic needs. (I agree)
- > Mature natural fields and old growth trees should be a priority for conservation and not development opportunities in our public greenspaces. (I agree)

In my own words, I oppose the use of synthetic turf or other PFAS containing materials in Cincinnati City Parks and public greenspaces, as well as for the construction of a dog park in Burnet Woods, for the below reasons. (Some evidence-based research materials relating to PFAS,

It has become very clear across the US and other countries that PFAS chemicals are a danger to our long term health. In many municipalities PFAS chemicals have been banned for use in public land projects. I do not want Cincinnati to create a permanent harm to future health by allowing PFAS chemicals.

synthetic turf and animal waste concentration can be found here should you want that information for your response.)

I acknowledge that upon completion of this form, an email will be sent for public record entry to the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval, and the current members of Cincinnati City Council Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Committee: Meeka Owens, Jan-Michele Kearney, Jeff Cramerding, Mark Jeffreys, and Seth Walsh. A copy will also be sent to Preserve Burnet Woods.

I acknowledge the above emails will be sent upon clicking 'Submit'.

Your Full Name Kevin Marsh

Your Email Address marshishere@gmail.com

Your Zip Code 45220

Respectfully,

Kevin Marsh

Sent: Sun, Jun 16, 2024 7:41 AM

Response ID: 2_ABaOnudajgX_z7LXuWL6inbJd_fCf-NB39IfUatBGT2KLWzUDdXzdaq1nXuZ46LEnmAGz2k

Response Number: 127

[External Email] Public Comment from Kevin Marsh

Kevin Marsh <ilove.burnet@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Sun 6/16/2024 7:58 AM

To:Aftab, Mayor <mayor.pureval@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>;Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Please enter the below transcript into public record for the next Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners public meeting and ongoing for public meetings of the Cincinnati City Council Healthy Neighborhoods Committee. This record represents a unique response from Kevin Marsh.

Email address	marshishere@gmail.com
In my own words, I feel that my voice has been excluded from organized public discussion designed to provide actionable feedback regarding the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods as a result of the Park Board’s violations of best practices in community engagement in the following ways:	Civic engagement is a core principal of how Cincinnati operates. The City (on its own webpage) declares "We passionately believe that actively involving our community members, stakeholders, and the broader community is crucial for achieving our objectives and making positive changes. The City’s Community Engagement Policy serves as a clear statement of our commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and intentional involvement in all aspects of local government. This policy is developed in response to City Council Ordinance no. 0358-2021 and will align with the City’s internal regulations guiding staff. " The Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners has ignored a variety of input received during 2023 and 2024 including surveys, public speaking, correspondence. This "head in the sand" approach is the antithesis of engagement.
Best practices in Community Engagement call for centering the voices of individuals who will be most directly impacted by the issue at-hand. The Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners has remained unengaged and has even ignored residents of multifamily housing directly next to the selected site for a dog park in Burnet Woods. The Park Board’s	I agree that the Park Board has failed to center voices of those most directly impacted by the location chosen for a dog park in Burnet Woods.

decision to ignore those who would be most directly impacted by a dog park in Burnet Woods is failure to professionally engage the community on this issue.

The City of Cincinnati has neighborhood councils for the purpose of ensuring a link between citizens and decision makers. From the city's own website: "These organizations [i.e., community councils] ensure that neighborhood development responds to the needs and goals of its citizens." Despite the two community councils whose boundaries include Burnet Woods having passed resolutions against the dog park, the Park Board is choosing to use a heavy-handed approach to the development in violation of the entire premise behind our city having community councils. Similarly, Cincinnati Parks has Park Advisory Councils (CPACs), to, according to the Cincinnati Parks Board website, "build and maintain public support for Cincinnati Parks by providing feedback to the Cincinnati Park Board and exchanging and sharing information and providing mutual

I agree that the Park Board has violated the covenant of community representation by ignoring the opposition of the CUF Neighborhood Association and Corryville Community Council regarding the dog park.

I agree that the Park Board has violated the covenant of trust with its own volunteer Park Advisory Council for Burnet Woods by ignoring their resolution against the dog park.

**support between CPACs.”
Park CPACs often donate
hundreds of volunteer
hours to maintain park
spaces and host
community events. In
violation of its own
stated purpose for
CPACs, the Cincinnati
Park Board has ignored
multiple resolutions
passed by the Burnet
Woods Park Advisory
Council (BPAC) in
opposition to the
proposed dog park in
Burnet Woods.**

**As it relates to
community engagement
on the proposed dog
park in Burnet Woods,
and in addition to the
points above, the Park
Board of Commissioners
has further violated the
public trust in numerous
ways, including: ·
masquerading an old
survey about a proposed
dog park in a different
Cincinnati park as
community engagement
on a dog park in Burnet
Woods · using
accessibility as a red
herring to advance the
dog park in Burnet
Woods before
determining if the
amenity is desired by the
community in the first
place · ignoring other,
decades old
infrastructure and
accessibility needs in
Burnet Woods in order to
prioritize the pet project
of a dog park in Burnet**

I agree that the Board of Park Commissioners has damaged the public trust in its failures to develop and execute a professional, equitable and unbiased community engagement process applied consistently to projects in Burnet Woods and the Cincinnati Parks system.

Woods · excluding various groups and stakeholders, including the most vulnerable, from engagement and decision making · mocking the community engagement process itself and those who are demanding best practices in community engagement · boasting that as Commissioners they will use their power to make amenity-siting decisions for the community because they don't believe in the community · greenwashing the clear, evidence-based ecological destruction the dog park will cause · undermining the legitimacy of process by ignoring the fact that two sitting Park Board Commissioners have a conflict of interest by residing near enough to the proposed dog park that their private property values could materially benefit from the development

I acknowledge that upon completion of this form, an email containing responses will be sent for public record entry to the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval, and the current members of Cincinnati City Council Healthy Neighborhoods Committee: Jan-Michele

I acknowledge the above emails will be sent upon clicking 'Submit'.
I acknowledge that a summary of responses may be submitted to members of Cincinnati City Council.

**Kearney, Reggie Harris,
Scotty Johnson, and
Victoria Parks. A
Summary of responses
may be compiled and
provided to City Council
also. A copy will also be
sent to Preserve Burnet
Woods.**

Your Full Name Kevin Marsh

Your Email Address marshishere@gmail.com

Your Zip Code 45220

Respectfully,

Kevin Marsh

Sent: Sun, Jun 16, 2024 7:57 AM

Response ID:

2_ABaOnueAAYhisL8u2ZE_2uQSg7ocuzSB51liPSQT4Pjoe4UChbQUNMPo32Epzdn95xYmqvI

Response Number: 81

[External Email] Public comment 6/20/2024

julie crossen <juliecrossen@hotmail.com>

Tue 6/18/2024 3:29 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Cincinnati Park Board

June 18, 2024

Regarding the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods:

Please do not agree to pay half a million tax dollars for a dog park INSIDE a park, a tremendously valuable park in fact. To do so would be absurd. Burnet Woods is a magnificent park with a sensitive ecosystem. Putting a dog park in such an environmentally important area would be absurd.

This dog park is unwanted by 85% of respondents to the Parks Board's survey and yet this fact has fallen on deaf ears.

How can this even be considered for Burnet Woods, a natural wonderland in the middle of a dense city population?

Adding astroturf PFAS to natural spaces is absurd! We are inundated with information about the toxic environment, our health and all living creatures' health is constantly being challenged by bad decisions made by humans.

Studies show how unhealthy dog parks are due to toxic chemicals in astroturf as well as super high heat generated from the plastics.

We are living in climate turmoil with loss of habitat to native flora and fauna. More natural space is needed, not more PFAS, please!!

Yours in concern,

Julie Crossen

[External Email] No Dog Park in Burnet Woods

Tricia Gold <tricia.gold18@gmail.com>

Tue 6/18/2024 4:29 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

You don't often get email from tricia.gold18@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Dear Cincinnati Park Board Members

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposal to install a synthetic turf dog park within our beloved natural urban park, Burnet Woods.

As a resident and frequent visitor of Burnet Woods, I value this green space for its natural beauty, tranquility, and its role as an IMPORTANT birding habitat. Our urban parks provide essential benefits such as improving air quality, supporting biodiversity, and offering a place for community members to connect with nature.

The introduction of a synthetic turf dog park threatens to compromise these vital aspects of our park. Synthetic turf can contribute to environmental issues such as heat retention, which can exacerbate urban heat island effects and be dangerous to the health of dogs using it in the summer. Furthermore, the use of synthetic materials raises concerns about chemical leaching and long-term environmental impact, posing potential risks to both human health and wildlife.

Moreover, the installation of a synthetic turf dog park may not align with the interests and preferences of all park users. Many residents, including myself, visit the park to enjoy its natural environment, especially birding. Preserving this natural setting is crucial for maintaining the park's unique charm and ecological value.

Instead of proceeding with a synthetic turf dog park, where the ONLY bid was over \$500,000, why not use the money instead to address accessibility issues within the park such as the need for an elevator in the Trailside Nature Center so everyone can access the classrooms and the valley area.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you reconsider the proposal for a synthetic turf dog park within Burnet Woods. Let us work together to protect and enhance our park for current and future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my urgent concerns prior to the vote this Thursday, June 20th.

Sincerely,

Tricia Gold

[External Email] Proposed site of dog park in Burnet Woods: Public Comment, June 20, 2024

Haglund, Lisa (haglunla) <HAGLUNLA@UCMAIL.UC.EDU>

Wed 6/19/2024 4:31 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from haglunla@ucmail.uc.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Dear Commissioners North, Lee, Castellini, McCallum and Neyer,

The current 3 year Park Improvements Plan includes siting a dog park in Burnet Woods, including the statement: "Once funding is secured, the project will be bid . . ." on Cincinnati Parks website. Apparently, funding has not yet been secured. Now we learn that there was only one publicized bid for the project, which was more than 25% over budget: \$566,076.00 for a \$450,000 projected price tag. Both these numbers are absurdly high, and reflect quite poorly on Parks, given the extremely large concurrent deferred maintenance issues in Parks on the whole, as well as in Burnet Woods.

This new outrage represents a yet lower point of descent into what has been an ongoing ridiculous mess of a proposed project. The whole idea of tearing out green space in a public park, to replace it with plastic turf, within 200 yards of a public library, and within 200 yards of residents who would be directly affected and who were not involved in the choice of the site, is ludicrous.

Please back away from the proposed site of a dog park in Burnet Woods, and ask Parks staff to identify potential sites that are already paved over or compromised, that already have potable water available and sanitary sewer drainage already established, and solicit community input for this project. I suspect that these modifications would go a long way toward eliminating the budgetary issues, and allowing restoration of the amenities promised to the people who raised money for this project, only to see some of the items they had been promised get left out of what went out for bid.

Sincerely,

Lisa Haglund

[External Email] Urgent message to City Council, the Mayor and the Cincinnati Park Board members

Susan <somnamblst@gmail.com>

Wed 6/19/2024 1:52 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 3 attachments (4 MB)

Why Plastic Grass is Unconscionable.docx; ForeverLawn_PFAS_statement.pdf; Eurofins_totalFlourine_Quote 200009562 _Susan Forman_Date18 March 2024.pdf;

External Email Communication

Dear City Council members, Park Board and Mayor Pureval,

I am writing about a travesty in the making, that is not too late to rectify. My reasons are laid out in the attached document with graphics. Please find it in your heart to do the right thing by all the living things that will be adversely affected.

Sincerely,
Susan Forman
2447 Fairview Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45219
513-886-6846

Why Plastic Grass is Unconscionable, and City Council should ban it in our public spaces to protect the public health.

The Park Board has publicly stated that the Burnet Woods dog park will use PFAS free artificial turf. An FOIA request revealed a document that ForeverLawn provided Cincinnati Parks. It is an obtuse document that does not merit the no PFAS claim that the Park Board has publicly made. See attached.

Only a Total Fluorine Analysis performed by Eurofins can determine the level of PFAS in ForeverLawn's K9 turf.

The Park Board has resisted repeated requests to subject ForeverLawn's K9 turf to Total Fluorine analysis. Is this setting up the Park Board for litigation? Kyra Bennett of PEER has blown the whistle on the known hazards of artificial turf, and the greenwashing activities of the Synthetic Turf Council.

Artificial Turf – A Plague on the Earth

In 2019, PEER and The Ecology Center discovered PFAS in the blades and backing of artificial turf. Since then, artificial turf manufacturers have conceded that PFAS are added to the machines to aid the extrusion of the hot plastic and as “a slip agent that is intentionally added to the molten hydrocarbons to make the plastic grass blades free of defects.”

<https://peer.org/commentary-artificial-turf-a-plague-on-the-earth/>

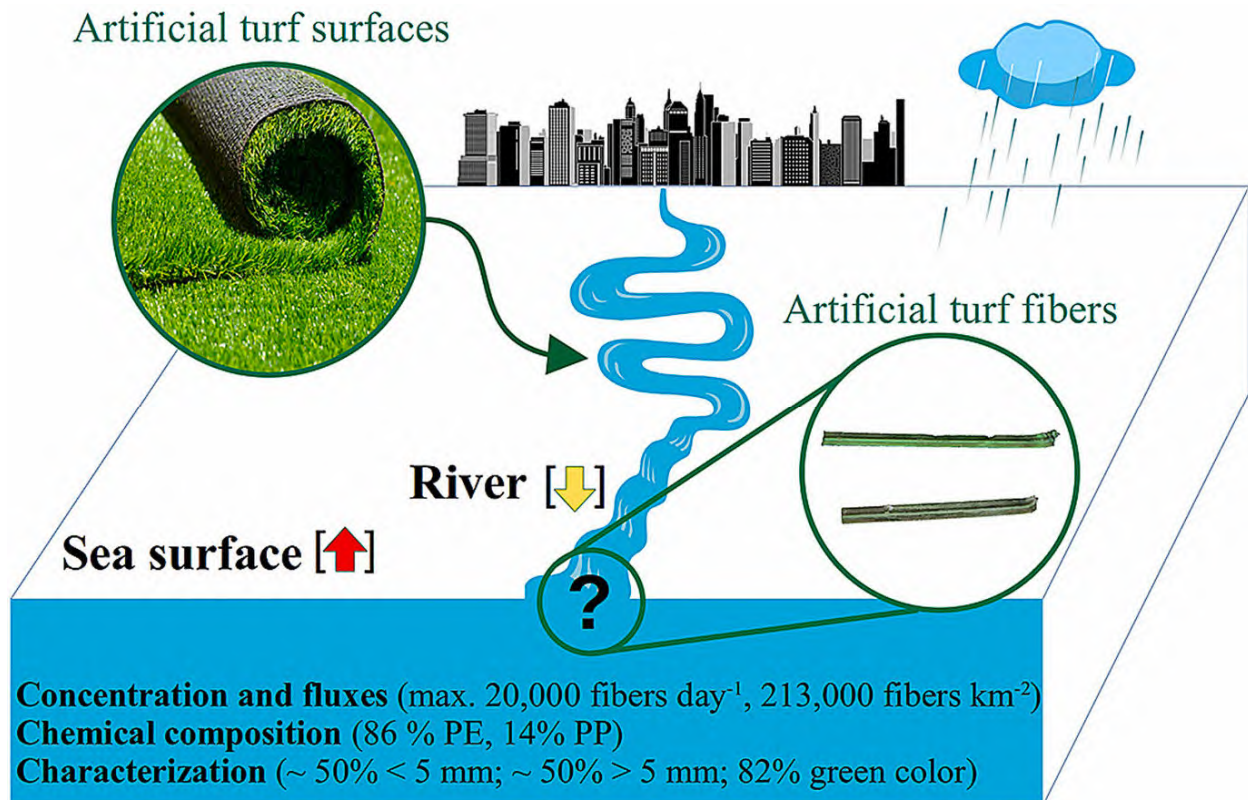
Artificial turf sheds microplastics.

The dark side of artificial greening: Plastic turfs as widespread pollutants of aquatic environments

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965>

Until now, the concerns associated to artificial turf surfaces dealt with sociocultural aspects (Francis, 2018), their end-of-life treatment (Francis, 2018; Ramboll, 2020), the increase of urban runoff (Chang et al., 2021), potential impacts on local biodiversity (Francis, 2018; Sánchez-Sotomayor

et al., 2023), leaching of potentially toxic chemicals (Cheng and Reinhard, 2010; Gomes et al., 2021; Källqvist, 2005; Lauria et al., 2022), and their contribution to climate change (Jim, 2017). We can now state that the risks of impact extend also to surrounding ecosystems due to the release and dispersal of artificial turf debris. Extensive replacement of natural land covers by artificial turf surfaces will likely add a significant and irreparable plastic legacy to the global nature.



Artificial turf in Uptown's Urban Heat Island is Environmental Injustice

Corryville, the closest neighborhood to the proposed dog park has a deficient nature score while the Clifton Gaslight neighborhood enjoys the opposite. Perhaps this is why there was no community outreach or engagement afforded the nearest neighbors to this proposed dog park, voted on by the Park Board on July 15, 2021. Did this decision violate Park Board best practices? Why are so many other projects getting community engagement, when Corryville and CUF were given none?

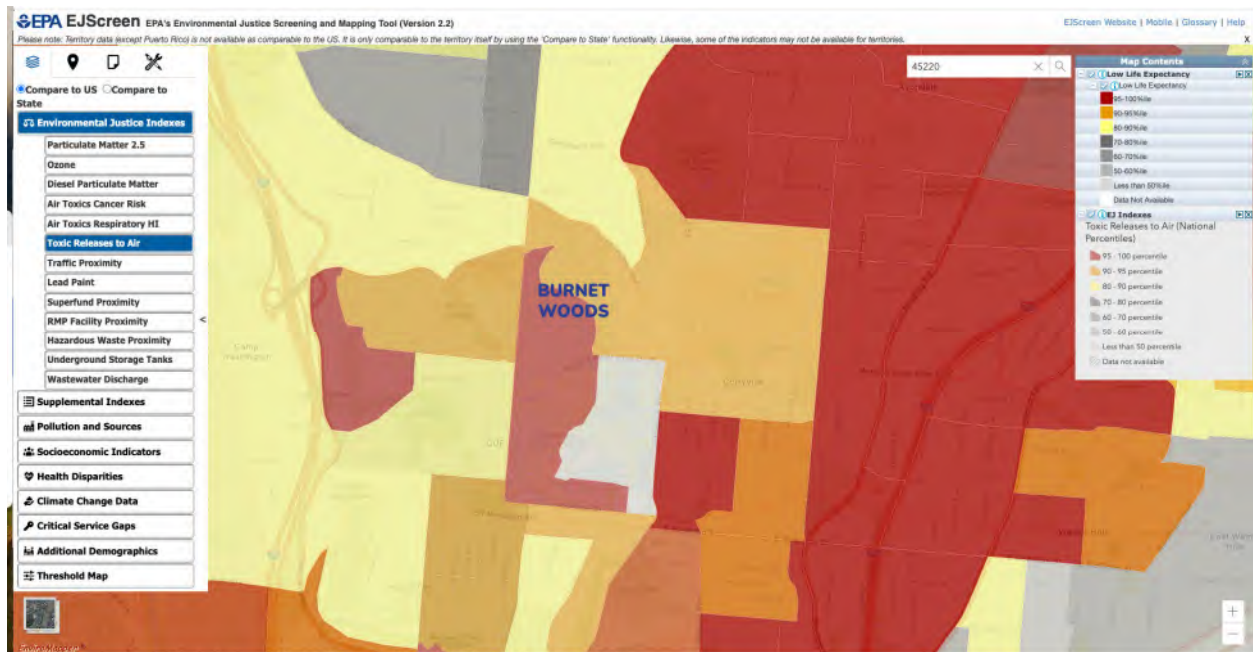
7/15/21 Park Board meeting

[youtube.com/live/7FqmtzJsGmM?feature=share&t=4768](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FqmtzJsGmM?feature=share&t=4768)

President Goetz expressed the Board is now looking for community input on the specifics of the project at this site, not on the site selection. There was discussion about preparing various proposals for different sizes and costs. It was clarified staff would deliver in August an estimate for a 20,000 square foot dog park with options for smaller, site concepts, and any barriers and costs for bringing water to the site. There was discussion about whether to notify project stakeholders that other sites were no longer considered, and it was determined this information would be reflected in the meeting minutes.

Corryville has 1.6% tree canopy cover which is ranked 45th of all communities assessed. It has Very high exposure to cancer risk and respiratory disease risk due to air toxins, and Very high exposure to ozone and diesel particulate matter. Around 52.9 % of Corryville residents are living in poverty (44th of all communities assessed) and 11.5 % of households are SNAP recipients (ranked 12th of all communities assessed). In addition, Corryville has some of the highest percentages of residents that rent (92%), spend more than 30% of their income on rent (58.1 %), spend more than 30% on mortgages (49.3 %), and have among the highest energy costs for all communities assessed (7.37%).

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/sites/oes/assets/Corryville%20-%20CEI.pdf>



Corryville Statistics

Health			
Indicator	Rank	Value	
Life Expectancy	39	69.6	-
Disease Prevalence Estimates:	Rank of % w/Condition	% with Condition	Persons with Condition
Asthma	12	9.7%	375
Cancer	2	2.4%	92
Diabetes	7	8.8%	340
High Blood Pressure	5	21.5%	830
Heart Disease	5	4.1%	159
Kidney Disease	7	2.1%	80
Obesity	9	29.8%	1,150
Lack of Health Insurance	20	10.9%	420
Persons w/ Independent Living Difficulty	26	3.0%	115
Persons Living w/ Disability	7	7.7%	299

Ecosystems and Infrastructure		
Indicator	Rank	Value
Tree Canopy Coverage	44	1.6%
Greenness of Land Surface	44	20.6%
Percent Land in Parks and Greenspaces	48	1.6%
Impervious Surface	44	73%
Heat Island Exposure	48	2.09
Walkability	-	Above Average to Most Walkable
Persons w/ Low-Income and Low Food Access	1	0.0%
Transit Accessibility	-	Excellent
Daytime Population vs. Resident Population	45	470.5%
Commuters Leaving Each Day	-	2,036
Commuters Using Public Transit	15	3.6%

Socio-Economic Indicators				Built Environmental Hazards		
Indicator	Rank	%	#	Indicator	Relative Exposure Level	Value
Persons Living in Poverty	44	52.9%	2,043	Traffic Exposure	High	-
SNAP Recipient Households	12	11.5%	214	Potential Lead Paint Exposure (Houses Built pre-1960)	Low	44.80%
Educational Attainment:				Cancer Risk from Air Pollution	Very High	-
Less than High School	-	2.4%	-	Respiratory Disease Risk from Air Pollution	Very High	-
HS or Equivalent	-	6.6%	-	Proximity to Water Pollution Sources	Moderate	-
Some College	-	3.6%	-	PM2.5 Levels in Air, µg/m3	High	9.75
Associate's Degree	-	4.3%	-	Ozone Concentration, ppb	Very High	46.75
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	-	18.0%	-	Diesel Particulate in Air, µg/m3	Very High	1.21
Educational Attainment Index	42	0.27	-	Proximity to Superfund Sites	High	-
Extreme Housing Burdens:				Proximity to Potentially Toxic Industrial Activity	Very High	-
Renter-Occupied Housing (as % of All Housing Units)	42	92.0%	1,713	Proximity to Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities	Extreme	-
Renters Spending 30% of Income or More on Rent + Utilities	48	58.1%	1,082	Neighborhood Planning		
Renters Spending 50% of Income or More on Rent + Utilities	47	35.8%	667	Indicator	Description	
Homeowners Spending 30% of Income or More on Mortgage + Utilities	47	49.3%	74	Community Councils	Corryville Community Council	
Average Energy Costs (as % of Income)	46	7.4%	-	Community Development Corporations	NA	
Persons without Vehicle Access	28	9.0%	348	Community Plans	University Impact Area Solutions Study (2016)	

America's access to nature

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/interactive/2024/nature-health-maps-neighborhood-city/>

In rural America, it doesn't matter if you are rich or poor, Black or White, dropped out of high school or have a PhD: you are still likely to have access to health-supporting nature. But in cities, differences in access to nature are as stark as other forms of inequality.

Countless studies have shown that people who spend less time in nature die younger and suffer higher rates of mental and physical ailments.

"There's a really, really strong case for proximity to nature influencing health in a really big way," said Jared Hanley, the co-founder and CEO of NatureQuant, an Oregon start-up whose mission is to discover what kind of

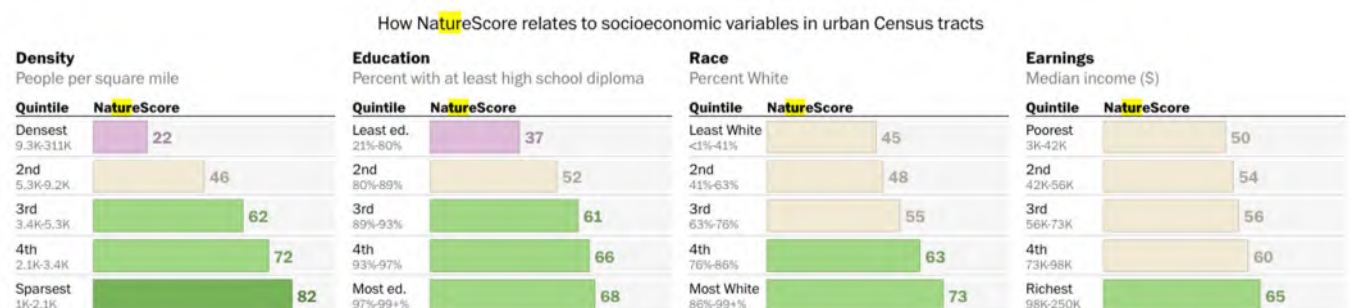
nature best supports human health, map where it is and persuade people to spend more time in it.

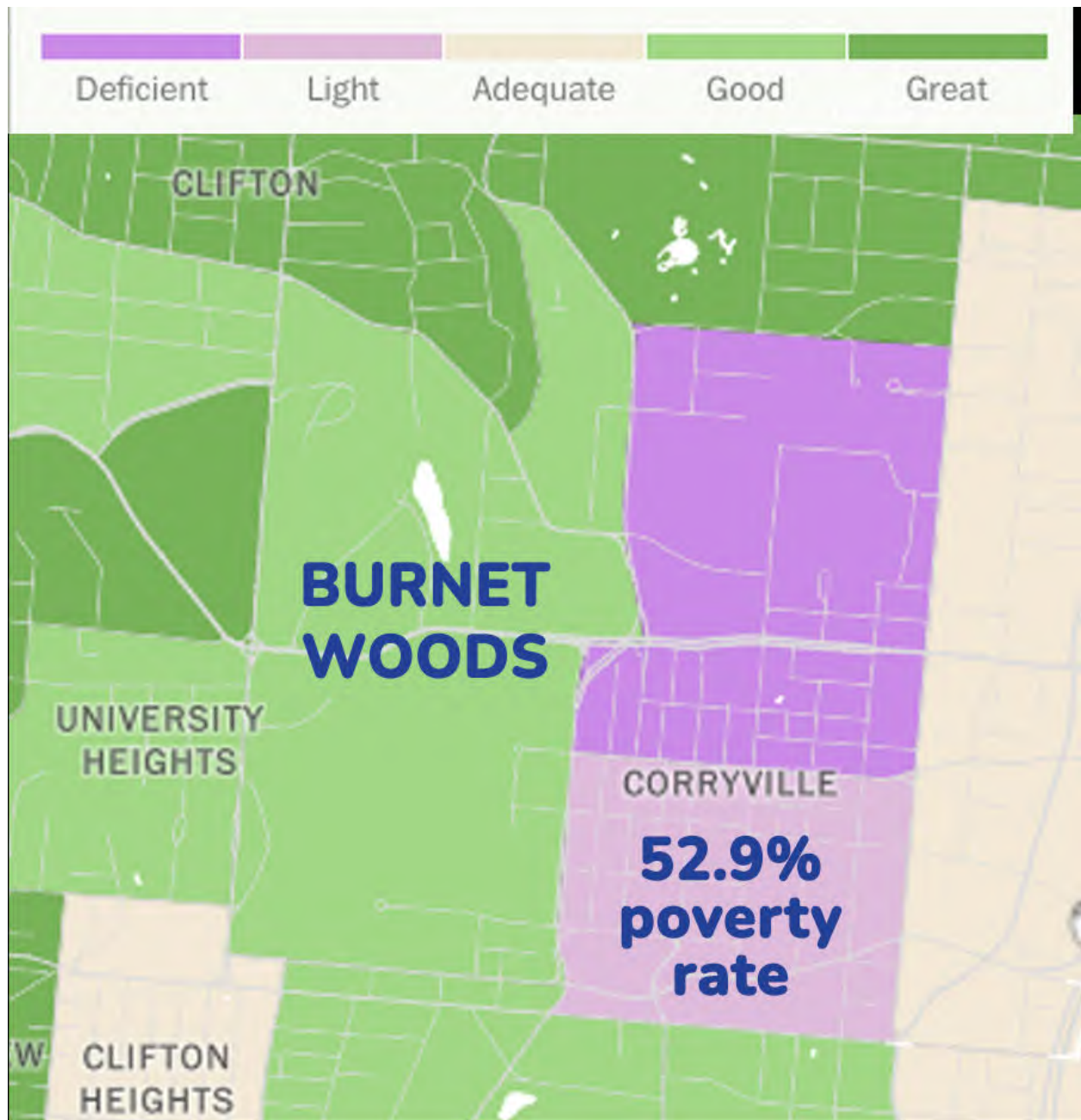
For example, among the fifth of Census tracts with the lowest levels of education, the average NatureScore is just 37, compared with an average score of 68 in the most educated Census tracts. The Census tracts with the lowest share of White people have an average NatureScore of 45, compared with 73 in the tracts with highest share of Whites.

Using satellite imagery and data on [dozens of factors](#) — including air and noise pollution, park space, open water and tree canopy — NatureQuant has distilled the elements of health-supporting nature into a single variable called NatureScore. Aggregated to the level of Census tracts — roughly the size of a neighborhood — the data provide a high-resolution image of where nature is abundant and where it is lacking across the United States.

Quantifying nature reveals unsettling truths — about how the densest neighborhoods are often bereft of nature, and about how the poorest city dwellers have the least access to the nature's health benefits.

The denser the city, the less health-supporting nature you are likely to find. Among the 500 most populous cities in the United States, Suffolk, Va., with just 147 people per square mile, has the highest NatureScore. Union City, N.J., is by far the densest — almost 30,000 people per square mile — and has one of the lowest NatureScores.





Will the City be a party to future lawsuits challenging the toxicity of artificial turf in a zip code where the toxins indices are already higher than other neighborhoods, due to the Park Board publicly claiming that the artificial turf dog park will be PFAS free?

Lawyers to Plastics Makers: Prepare for 'Astronomical' PFAS Lawsuits

“To say that the floodgates are opening is an understatement,” said Emily M. Lamond, an attorney who focuses on environmental litigation at the law firm Cole Schotz. “Take tobacco, asbestos, MTBE, combine them, and I think we’re still going to see more PFAS-related litigation.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/28/climate/pfas-forever-chemicals-industry-lawsuits.html>

In Conclusion

It is not too late for the Park Board to admit that this bait and switch from Dunore Park in the Gaslight to Burnet Woods smacks of white privilege NIMBY. And that Corryville and CUF’s urban heat island temperatures and disparate exposure to toxins means this decision smacks of environmental injustice. It reeks of white privilege suggests that a group of well-connected residents living in the Clifton Gaslight, had unequal access to two Gaslight living Park Board members to do their bidding, despite overwhelming opposition from the people who live closest to a green space that belongs to all of us.

	MLK	Fairview	Dunore	Losantiville Triangle	Burnet Woods Southwest	Burnet Woods Northeast	Burnet Woods Valley
Size	76,000 sq ft.	24,000 sq ft.	15,000 sq ft.	62,000 sq ft.	37,000 sq ft.	21,000 sq ft.	20,000 sq ft.
Site Fit	No conflicts	Adjacent to playground, sports fields and picnic area	Adjacent to small playground. Across from cemetery	No conflicts. Across from dog daycare center	Site sometimes used for events & general recreation	Currently wooded, quiet corner of park	Not accessible. Conflicts with shelter use
Neighborhood	Clifton	CUF	Clifton	Corryville	CUF & Clifton	CUF, Clifton & Corryville	CUF, Clifton & Corryville
Parking	Street parking	Park road parking	Street parking	Street parking Room for parking lot	Park road & street parking	Park road & street parking	Park road & street parking
Distance From Homes	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
Water Access	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓



ForeverLawn PFAS Safety Statement

Since our inception, ForeverLawn has prioritized both quality and integrity of product, understanding that to properly serve our customers and communities we must provide a solution that enhances and fosters safety, accessibility, and longevity. Guided by this conviction, we have selected both materials and partners with the utmost caution to ensure we produce the best and safest synthetic grass solutions.

As a result of this, we say with absolute certainty that the entire ForeverLawn family of products are not constructed with any per- and/or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and have reverified with our suppliers that all components used are PFAS-free. It should be noted that while our materials and products are not manufactured with PFAS, certain processes and environmental conditions can cause trace amounts of PFAS to appear on specific products. However, these residual quantities are negligible when compared to other common household items and do not pose any known safety concerns.

It is commonly known that many products we engage with every day contain some PFAS. For example, a toothbrush might have up to 800 parts per million of PFAS. Makeup, medicines, and other personal care products may contain several thousand parts per million. In contrast, independent testing of our product components have verified that our products contain less than 100 parts per million - far less than these everyday products.

As such, we oppose statements claiming that "all artificial turf is made with toxic PFAS compounds,"¹ and instead stand by the proven safety of our products which help preserve the well-being of our customers and their environments.

Synthetic turf has time and time again been shown to safeguard and enhance community life. Synthetic turf protects water sources by eliminating chemical runoff from pesticides and fertilizers.² Athletes using synthetic turf field facilities have comparable or even lower carcinogenic exposure levels when compared to groups of their peers.³ Furthermore, synthetic turf increases usability of spaces by up to 300% when compared to even the most intensely maintained natural grass spaces.⁴

ForeverLawn also proudly offers a variety of proprietary and proven safety features within our products and systems, including antistatic and antimicrobial product qualities, superior G-MAX ratings, up to 15-foot critical fall height ratings, and surfaces exceeding ADA accessibility specifications.

ForeverLawn is fully committed to improving our communities' safety, from the production to the applications of our products. We are continuously seeking ways to enhance and improve these offerings, even as we lead the industry in safety, accessibility, and longevity. We look forward to continually serving our customers with the best products and practices available.

Brian Karmie
Co-Founder of ForeverLawn

Tom Fulk
Supply Chain & Production Specialist

1 Perkins, Tom. "Boston Bans Artificial Turf in Parks Due to Toxic 'Forever Chemicals'." The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 30 Sept. 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/30/boston-bans-artificial-turf-toxic-forever-chemicals-pfas>.

2 "Issue Briefs & Position Statements for STC Members." Synthetic Turf Council, https://www.syntheticturf.org/general/custom.asp?page=Position_Statements.

3 Peterson, Michael K., et al. "Comprehensive Multipathway Risk Assessment of Chemicals Associated with Recycled ('Crumb') Rubber in Synthetic Turf Fields." Environmental Research, vol. 160, 1 Mar. 2018, pp. 256-268., <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2017.09.019>.

4 "Issue Briefs & Position Statements for STC Members." Synthetic Turf Council, https://www.syntheticturf.org/general/custom.asp?page=Position_Statements.

Susan Forman
Susan Forman

somnamb1st@gmail.com

2447 Fairview Ave
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219 United States of America

Quote Date: 03/18/2024
Quote Revision Date:

Payments Terms: 100% Pre-Payment

Notes:

TOF analysis on 2 samples of K9 artificial turf

Eurofins Contact:

Anna Lee
USCPTSupport@cpt.eurofinsus.com

Send Samples To:

Shipping address to be provided with IOF (Interlab Order Form)

Quote Expires: 04/17/2024

Product or service description		QTY	Price	Sum
Option 1: Analysis on "grass blades" only				1,000.00
TOF-CIC		2	500.00	1,000.00
Test Details/Comments:	TOF (Total Organic Fluorine) by CIC (Combustion Ion Chromatography) LOQ: 10ppm Sample size requirements: Minimum of 10g PER SAMPLE or 6" x 6" square			
Option 2: Analysis on "grass blades" + plastic backing				2,000.00
TOF-CIC		4	500.00	2,000.00
Test Details/Comments:	TOF (Total Organic Fluorine) by CIC (Combustion Ion Chromatography) LOQ: 10ppm Sample size requirements: Minimum of 10g PER SAMPLE or 6" x 6" square			
			Subtotal:	3,000.00
			Total (USD):	3,000.00

*Please note that testing may be subcontracted to a Eurofins approved lab.

*This is the final quote. Turnaround time starts the day after all info/samples are received by the lab

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Phone: +14256863575

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to AR_PA@eurofinsus.com or fax to (717) 556-3830.

Eurofins MTS Consumer Product Testing US, Inc
11822 North Creek Parkway N Suite 110

Bothell, WA 98011
Phone: +14256863575

[External Email] Public Comment for June 20 2024

Marijo Fraley <marijo.fraley@gmail.com>

Wed 6/19/2024 2:22 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 1 attachments (15 KB)

Accessibility of BW.docx;

You don't often get email from marijo.fraley@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Please see attached. I would appreciate some notice that this has been received. Thank you very much!

Marijo

To: Park Board Commissioners

From: Marijo F. O'Connell

Date: May 15, 2024

Re: Burnet Woods Accessibility Issues

It astounds me that the body of the Park Board Commissioners continue to pursue an expensive and unnecessary dog park in Burnet Woods. Obviously, the entire park is open to dogs on a leash and the facts have been provided many, many times that dog parks are bad for dogs.

Burnet Woods is neglected in so many ways that I wonder if common sense might prevail before you make a final decision. Deferred maintenance continues to be largely deferred, although replacing the decorative logs on the façade of the Trailside Nature Museum is a step in the right direction. I couldn't help but notice that the landscaping (?) in front of the museum is completely neglected. Nary a tulip in sight, only weeds, but that has been the case for decades as this park only appears on someone's radar when it can be exploited. Make no mistake a dog park is exploiting, in fact, destroying natural habitat for bugs, small animals and birds. And it will continue to cost money to maintain, leeching away from the minute funds that are designated for this park.

Claiming that the dog park is accessible is ridiculous. No one without a dog and that needs a wheelchair or a walker or a cane will venture into a dog park for fear of being jumped upon thus losing their balance.

Burnet Woods needs bannisters on the concrete stairs next to the concrete slide. Although there is a wall, one cannot grasp a railing to help maintain balance. Bannisters are also needed on the long flight of stairs that starts at the bandstand area, through the woods and down to the playground. Optimally, there needs to be a switch back so that someone with a child in a wheelchair or stroller can access the playground. These small items are long overdue and it sickens me that dogs take priority over people.

I'd love to see the Trailside Nature Museum open on a more regular basis and the concession stand reactivated. Why are these basis items pushed to the side in favor of a dog park? It make zero sense to me and thousands of other people who use the park on a regular basis.

Before you decide to spend a ridiculous sum of money for a feature that uses the park for a toilet for dogs, I urge you to use your common sense and earmark that money for accessibility items that are long, long past due. Thank you very much.

[External Email] Public Comment 6/20/2024

Cynthia McCarthy <charlielimabravomike@icloud.com>

Wed 6/19/2024 4:44 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>

You don't often get email from charlielimabravomike@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Dear Members of the Cincinnati Park Board,

I have been spending some time at the UC library archives, looking at old Park Commissioner reports. Burnet Woods was acquired in 1872, so the 1873 Park Commissioner's Report is the first time Burnet Woods shows up in a report.

A few things stood out for me:

"Burnet Woods, situated on the northern boundary of our densely populated city, contains about one hundred and seventy acres of undulating surface-It is the only remaining piece of wood land within the city limits, and its preservation was probably one of the principal objects to secure it to the inhabitants of Cincinnati as a place of recreation." (Note that Burnet Woods now sits at just under 90 acres).

"A few avenues through these shady groves of nature's own planting is all that is necessary to make these grounds one of the most delightful places of public resort."

"I would merely suggest the preservation of most of the native forest trees, and the dispensing of all artificial and fanciful improvements that would obliterate the leading characteristic of this already beautiful woodland park."

Why, oh why, are we even considering the plastic grass dog park in Burnet Woods? The words of the very first Park Commissioner warn against it.

Now you have shrunk the original plan; the one and only bid received (publicly) is \$116,076 over the current budget, even after adding another \$150,000 to the original budget; and, you STILL won't stop moving on it.

For well over a year, we have protested, written, and taken our two minutes of public comment time, using all of our First Amendment Rights to ask you, very reasonably, to pause, do a community engagement survey, just as you did for Dunore, and perform an environmental impact study before bulldozing Pleasant Valley. We believe in our hearts and minds that another location would better serve, in so many different ways.

Please look over what the current UC students have presented for options at Cincinnati State, that could take the place of the plastic grass and concrete dog park in Burnet Woods, likely less expensively and definitely not destroying any natural green space. You are eager to use a 2014 UC student homework assignment as a reference for putting in the dog park (even though their numbers proved highly inaccurate); now is the time to take the 2024 labors of UC students into account. It would be interesting to know if any of the students from 2014, knowing what we do now about climate change and habitat destruction, would be remotely in favor of this plastic grass dog park in Burnet Woods.

The list of reasons for NOT putting the dog park in Burnet Woods are many, with a wide array and number of opponents. Are you compiling a list anywhere of who you have heard from in opposition to the Burnet Woods Dog Park? It contains neighbors and friends of Burnet Woods by the thousands (who have signed petitions), 85% of the over 900 respondents to your one question push-poll, the CUF and Correyville Community Councils (who both share borders, and arguably acreage of Burnet Woods), UC professors and students, scientists, The Audubon Society, Hillside Trust, Sierra Club, and more.

The few who have spoken in favor of the Burnet Woods Dog Park have very shallow and selfish reasons, none of which take into account the vast multitude of arguments against it:

- Habitat destruction in an Audubon Society designated Important Bird Area (The smallest in the US)
- Creates a heat sink in an already heat stressed urban concrete jungle. I measured for myself with a surface reading thermometer at the Westwood Town Hall Dog Park. The surface of the artificial turf reached 160 degrees on a day when it was not even 90 degrees. Natural grass was less than the air temperature.
- Loss of yard space for the multi-family residents living closest, who have no yards of their own, and had no say in this placement.
- The perimeter is only 185 feet from the nearest residence. I measured it with a surveyors wheel.
- PFAS contamination (an avenue for liability that the City should best avoid when possible). Additionally there is the release of micro-plastics from plastic turf.
- Environmental Injustice - placing it in a lower-income area with no input from the community, after giving the wealthy neighbors the opportunity to voice their opinions on the Dunore location.
- There are already four (4) dog parks within five (5) miles of the Burnet Woods location.
- No provision for maintenance. I frequent the existing dog parks at Westwood Town Hall and Washington Park. Both of them are contaminated with feces piles and smears. Washington Park turf already has at least two holes in it. I have photos, but you could take a field trip and see for yourself.
- The dog park caters to a very small group of citizens at the expense of a much larger group.
- The funds would be more responsibly spent on making the bandstand ADA accessible for disabled musicians, the nature center accessible for all, accessible trails in the woods (or all-terrain wheelchairs to use), the addition of more than ONE accessible piece of playground equipment. I imagine more disabled people would be more excited to use these possible amenities over a poop-infested plastic-grass dog park.
- It is not sustainable. The expected lifespan of plastic grass is not long. Washington Park is already showing excessive wear. Plastic grass is not recyclable and will end up in the landfill.

Again (and again and again) I implore you to stop. Take a pause and really examine the viability of this project. There is wide and continuous opposition. The cost has proved to be ridiculously high for such a small project. It will negatively impact the environment. It caters to a small number of your constituents at the expense of the

others. Please take the time to assess other sites and ideas for the funding. Please use transparency and engage in community feedback.

Sincerely,

Cynthia McCarthy,
Resident of Cincinnati since 1986 and retired City employee.