



MAYOR & COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 23, 2021

SUBJECT: Reid Park Zoo Expansion Status

Background

In early 2021, Mayor and Council directed staff to pause the “Pathway to Asia” expansion of the Reid Park Zoo and to conduct a 45-day Community Conversation seeking a “win-win” for Reid Park, the Reid Park Zoo, and the community neighbors. This outreach effort generated significant public input including a survey that reached over 14,000 Tucsonans; 30 hours of dialogue among a Core Stakeholder Group; and multi-media, multi-lingual communications efforts. Following the community input process, Mayor and Council met in Study Session on May 4, 2021 and directed staff to proceed with the Reid Park Zoo expansion redesign project as follows:

1. Continue the suspension of the zoo expansion to allow for a new design that will have the effect of saving Barnum Hill and the South Duck Pond
2. Proceed with the redesign of the zoo expansion into the area north and west of the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center (ARC) while:
 - a. Minimizing impacts to open green space;
 - b. Maximizing the reuse of hardscape;
 - c. Addressing noise/lighting concerns to animal welfare from Hi Corbett Field; and
 - d. Managing the additional costs to the project to be less than \$5.5M
3. Initiate a comprehensive update to the Reid Park and Reid Park Zoo Master Plan.

Current Status

Staff have followed this direction from Mayor and Council in developing a new expansion layout that meets the spirit and intent of the Mayor and Council direction, while addressing the ongoing feedback from park neighbors. The following work was completed to develop the expansion layout:

- a. Detailed reviews of three layouts for the zoo expansion that potentially complied with Mayor and Council direction were conducted (Concepts D, Hybrid D-G, and “G-minor”). The City Manager also asked staff to revisit ways to utilize the existing parking areas, while meeting the spirit and intent of Council’s direction.
- b. The following investigations were completed with these resulting conclusions:
 - i. A preliminary investigation of the **Parks Maintenance Compound** indicates that much of the area can be reclaimed for project use. The most constructable areas are those occupied by three large storage sheds, an equipment shed, and open equipment storage areas. More challenging areas to reclaim include the southern portion (due to utility conflicts) and the welding shop. Areas to avoid are the SAMM warehouse and fuel island at the eastern edge. Overall, there is significant usable space within the Parks Maintenance Compound.
 - ii. An **Animal Welfare** review was conducted to evaluate the safety and ethics of locating breeding habitat for sensitive species in the zoo expansion area. ***Based on the Animal Welfare review, Concept G-minor is not an acceptable location for the habitat elements of the zoo expansion.*** However, that location can be used for other construction activities. (See Attachment 1 for the Animal Welfare report).

- iii. Additional considerations for the final layout included zoo functionality, maximizing the reuse of hardscape, minimizing the use of green / open space, replacing any green / open space used, addressing park user access / circulation, and minimizing redesign costs.

Once initial staff work was completed, two viable layouts were discussed with each Mayor and Council office, including how closely each viable layout aligned with the direction provided on May 4. These briefings concluded on July 9, 2021. At that time, an expansion layout generally conforming with Concept D was determined to most closely match the spirit and intent of Mayor and Council's direction.

At the request of Council, a meeting was held with interested members of the public on July 10, 2021. The public meeting was held in a hybrid format, with members of the Core Stakeholder Group (or their designee) and local architect Bob Vint (who assisted with the development of Concept G-minor) invited to attend in person and an open invitation was provided to others to view the meeting remotely. Staff presented information on three layout concepts and engaged in discussion with those in attendance for about 2.5 hours. A follow-up letter was received via email from some of the attendees, which is included as Attachment 2. Staff responses to this letter are provided as Attachment 3.

No consensus was reached at the July 10 meeting. There remains interest in concept G-minor from some members of the public, even though it does not meet the animal welfare requirements of the expansion project. Staff cannot advance a project layout that does not meet animal welfare needs. At the conclusion of the meeting, staff committed to conducting an additional "charette" meeting to see if there are refinements to the viable expansion layout(s) that can address the concerns expressed by participants. This meeting was intended to be held in August 2021; however, the ongoing review of existing parking lot areas resulted in a proposed expansion layout that meets the stakeholders' objectives embodied in G-minor, while also being viable from the animal welfare and cost requirements of the Mayor and Council direction. This layout is presented and described below.

Reid Park Zoo Expansion Layout

As shown on Exhibit 1, the updated Reid Park Zoo expansion layout meets the spirit and intent of the Mayor and Council criteria as follows:

- a. Preserves Barnum Hill and the South Duck Pond.
- b. Has no impact to existing open green space. The zoo expansion occurs almost entirely within existing paved / hardscape areas.
- c. Reclaims existing hardscape in the current zoo and ARC parking lots into green space within the zoo expansion area, which is projected to be between 50 – 65% green space with over 150 new trees installed. Replacement parking will be installed in current hardscape areas of the Parks Maintenance Compound.
- d. Protects animal welfare by placing the new habitat areas furthest from Hi Corbett Field and closest to the Reid Park Zoo Animal Health Center.
- e. Manages the budget impact to be very close to the \$5.5M limit from the Mayor and Council action. Staff will work to minimize redesign costs and conduct value engineering assessments throughout the project.
- f. This layout does differ from the specified location (north and west of the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center); however, this alternative had not yet been developed and was not presented to Council prior to the meeting of May 4. Therefore, it was not available for consideration at that time. Since it optimizes the other Mayor and Council criteria, staff recommends this layout be used.

A final charette-style meeting will be held in September with interested stakeholders to discuss this layout.

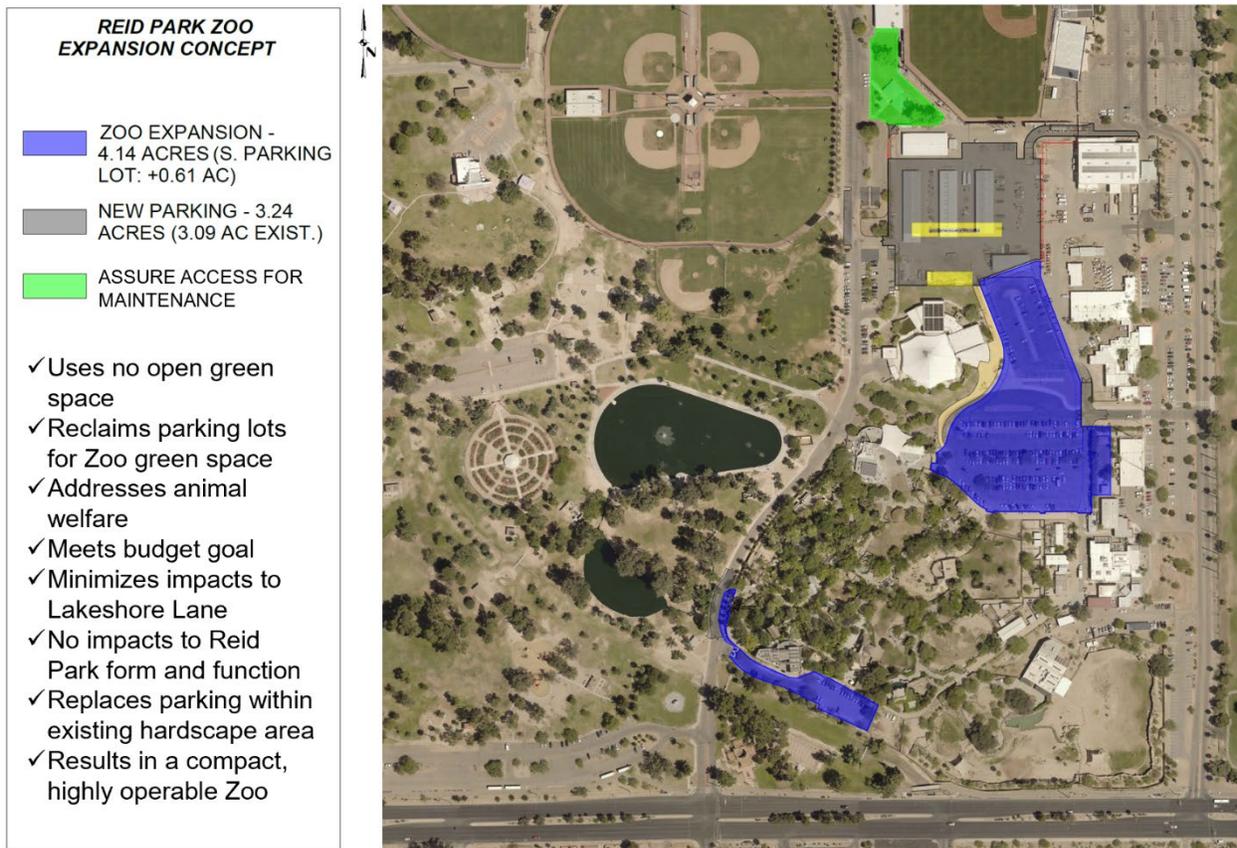


Figure 1 - Reid Park Zoo Expansion Layout

Next Steps

1. Conduct stakeholder meeting in September
2. Redesign the “Pathway to Asia” expansion pursuant to the layout indicated in blue on Exhibit 1, under the existing contract with Torre Design.
3. Adjust the southwestern edge of the main zoo perimeter fence to accommodate the currently designed Ambassador Building and interior maintenance needs. This includes a minor adjustment to Lakeshore Lane, in lieu of a full closure or retrofit to a multi-use path, based on stakeholder input. The Lakeshore Lane adjustment is shown adjacent to the southwest portion of the zoo expansion area.
4. Construct the Reid Park Zoo’s “World of Play” project under the current contract with Lloyd Construction. This project is located entirely within the existing zoo footprint.
5. Consolidate operations within the Parks Maintenance Compound for site reclamation.
6. Conduct the Reid Park Master Plan project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy M. Thomure, PE, ENV SP
Interim Assistant City Manager



Animal Welfare Concerns Related to Hi Corbett Field - Noise/Light Pollution

Ensuring optimal welfare for the animals in our care is at the core of everything we do at Reid Park Zoo and an unwavering requirement for the Zoo's continued accreditation in the AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums). When visiting the Zoo, guests have an enjoyable, positive and educational experience where they can learn about and connect with healthy and biologically diverse animals who are comfortable in immersive surroundings resembling their native habitats. The core tenet of animal welfare guides all of our careful considerations for the Pathway to Asia expansion adhering to the high standards for animal care exercised throughout the Zoo.

Assessing animal welfare includes providing all the necessary components for the animal to be physically and mentally well over time. Straightforward welfare components include high quality and appropriate food as well as health care from the veterinary team. Other welfare opportunities that are less obvious but equally important are providing the animal with quality of habitat where it can be active and secure—space and features that inspire appropriate behavior like climbing, swimming or digging— as well as space that can feel mentally secure such as a quiet den or a tall viewing tree to see potential predators from a long distance.

Animal welfare is measured across a wide spectrum of characteristics including diet consumption, weight, hormone levels, breeding interest, successful pregnancies or nesting, rearing young, species appropriate behavior in appropriate frequency and duration, overall physical health, social interactions and interactions with human care takers to name a few. Creating habitats that can offer optimal welfare requires excluding known stressors that induce behaviors that indicate poor welfare. Loud and unpredictable noises, vibrations, and lights after dark are all stressors at varying degrees to different species.

The most recognized stressor of those listed related to ballfields is the loud and unpredictable (by the animal's understanding) noise. The extreme noises can lead to decreased appetite and weight loss, increased stress hormones, decreased breeding interest, unpredictable and aggressive behaviors with partners and offspring, and overall behavioral changes. To create the best conditions for breeding and housing endangered and exotic wildlife, proximity to loud noises is a factor. The farther away from the noise, the more optimal welfare can be. Information about accreditation standards and citations about noise and welfare is listed below.

Association of Zoos and Aquariums Accreditation Standard for Animal Welfare

2020 Accreditation Standards

1.5. Animal Welfare, Care, and Well-Being

1.5.0. The institution must have a process for assessing animal welfare and wellness.

Explanation: This process should be both proactive and reactive, transparent to stakeholders, and include staff or consultants' knowledgeable in assessing quality of life for animals showing signs of physical or mental distress or decline. The process should also include a mechanism to identify and evaluate the welfare/wellness impacts of significant life events or changes in the animal's environment as identified by the individual institution. Examples of life events/changes could include construction events, unusual weather events, noise intrusion, change in housing, or changes in animals exhibited with or nearby, etc. Animal welfare/wellness refers to an animal's collective physical and mental states over a period of time, and is measured on a continuum from good to poor. Further information on the establishment of an animal welfare assessment process is available from AZA, and online at <https://www.aza.org/accred-resource-center> (you will be requested to log in using your individual membership user name and password).

Welfare Considerations:

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums operate based on three core principles: animal welfare, safety, and visitor engagement. Excellence in animal welfare is the underlying foundation on which all standards and practices are premised and developed. All reasonable concerns regarding the welfare of individual animals or groups must be thoroughly assessed and corrected. Institutions are required to incorporate commonly accepted welfare guidelines and follow a documented process for assessing animal welfare and wellness. Failure to comply with all welfare-based standards present in all sections of this document will result in the loss of AZA accreditation.

Association of Zoos and Aquariums Sources

AZA Tiger Species Survival Plan® (2016). Tiger Care Manual. Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Silver Spring, MD.

1.4 Sound and Vibration

Consideration should be given to controlling sounds and vibrations that can be heard by animals in the care of AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums. Tigers have excellent hearing, and staff should pay special attention when there is unusual or excessive noise around the enclosure, as this may cause stress or aggression. This is even more important when there is a pregnant female on site.

AZA Small Carnivore TAG (2012). Red panda Care Manual. Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Silver Spring, MD. pp. 90.

1.4 Sound and Vibration

Consideration should be given to controlling sounds and vibrations that can be heard by animals in the care of AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums.

At this time, it is unknown for red pandas what the tolerances are for sound and vibration, however, as with any wildlife, those disturbances should be kept to a minimum. Noise should be minimized before and after parturition. If air conditioning is used, the unit should be on at least one month prior to parturition to allow for acclimation. Some individuals benefit from background noise from televisions or radios.

AZA Bear Taxon Advisory Group. (2019). Sun & Sloth Bear Care Manual. Silver Spring, MD: Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

1.4 Sound and Vibration

Consideration should be given to controlling sounds and vibrations that can be heard by animals in the care of AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums. Bears have excellent hearing and may exhibit signs of distress such as stereotypic and/or agonistic behavior when environmental noise (e.g. construction, concerts, events) exceed thresholds of tolerance. Under these circumstances, it is recommended that bears be given access to areas where noise may be less intense. Special attention should be paid to unusual and excessive sounds and vibrations during introductions, when females have new cubs or when animals are sick. There is currently no research that defines the sensitivity of sun and sloth bears to specific frequency ranges. Results of any research into the responses of sun and sloth bears to sound or vibration should be reported to the AZA Bear Tag and the AZA sloth bear SSP.

White Handed Gibbon Animal Care Manual - using Australian standards

<http://nswfmpa.org/Husbandry%20Manuals/Published%20Manuals/Mammalia/White%20Handed%20Gibbon.pdf>

Noise from the public or other noises should be kept to a minimum especially noise from above, for example helicopters as this can stress the animals out profusely.

Zoo/Wildlife Sources

Blickley, Jessica L., et al. "Experimental chronic noise is related to elevated fecal corticosteroid metabolites in lekking male greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)." *PLoS one* 7.11 (2012): e50462.

Chronic noise pollution can cause greater sage-grouse to avoid otherwise suitable habitat, and can cause elevated stress levels in the birds who remain in noisy areas.

Cronin, Katherine A., et al. "Evaluating mood changes in response to anthropogenic noise with a response-slowness task in three species of zoo-housed primates." *Animal Behavior & Cognition* 5.2 (2018): 209-221.

In the zoo environment, anthropogenic noise is common as sound levels fluctuate due to visitors, construction, habitat design, and special events. In this study, changes in the mood of three species of zoo-housed primates in response to a loud annual event were evaluated with the response-slowness paradigm. These findings suggest that the macaques, but not the apes, underwent detectable affective changes during the loud event.

Jakob-Hoff, Richard, et al. "Potential impact of construction noise on selected zoo animals." *Animals* 9.8 (2019): 504.

Animals in zoos can adapt to many noises they hear on a regular basis. However, construction noise that is intense or occurs unpredictably may negatively impact the welfare state of some animals and induce a chronic stress response. Key findings were that giraffes, elephants and emus appeared to show an increase in behaviors that could indicate stress or agitation including vigilance and locomotion and may prefer quieter regions of their enclosure during sound exposure. Giraffes also increased close contact with conspecifics when exposed to construction noise.

Fanning, Lara, Hannah Larsen, and Peta S. Taylor. "A Preliminary Study Investigating the Impact of Musical Concerts on the Behavior of Captive Fiordland Penguins (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*) and Collared Peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*)." *Animals* 10.11 (2020): 2035.

Understanding the effects that human environments have on captive zoo animals is key when developing management procedures that foster good captive animal health and welfare. Through analysis of behavioural time budgets of Fiordland penguins and collared peccaries (solitary- and group-housed), we found that species' behaviors and exhibit use altered when musical concerts were held at Melbourne Zoo.

Blickley, Jessica & Patricelli, Gail. (2010). Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Wildlife: Research Priorities for the Development of Standards and Mitigation. *Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy*. 13. 274-292. 10.1080/13880292.2010.524564.

A growing and substantial body of literature suggests, however, that noise impacts may be more important and widespread than previously imagined. They range in effects from mild to severe. They can impact wildlife species at both the individual and population levels. The types of impacts run the gamut from damage to the auditory system, the masking of sounds important to survival and reproduction, the imposition of chronic stress and associated physiological responses, startling, interference with mating, and population declines.

Orban, David & Soltis, Joseph & Perkins, Lori & Mellen, Jill. (2017). Sound at the zoo: Using animal monitoring, sound measurement, and noise reduction in zoo animal management. *Zoo biology*. 36. 10.1002/zoo.21366.

A clear need for evidence-based animal management in zoos and aquariums has been expressed by industry leaders. A case study of a female giant anteater and her environment is presented to illustrate how this process worked. Associated with this case, several sound-reducing barriers were tested for efficacy in mitigating sound. Integrating daily animal welfare assessment with environmental monitoring can lead to a better understanding of animals and their sensory environment and positively impact animal welfare. For anteater, during recorded time of increased noise due to construction, the proportion of negative welfare indicators increased to the proportion of positive welfare indicators and her weight decreased. The decision was made to move her to another location and her indicators went back to normal.

Injaian, Allison S., et al. "Traffic noise exposure alters nestling physiology and telomere attrition through direct, but not maternal, effects in a free-living bird." *General and comparative endocrinology* 276 (2019): 14-21.

Anthropogenic impacts, such as noise pollution from transportation networks, can serve as stressors to some wildlife species. For example, increased exposure to traffic noise has been found to alter baseline and stress-induced corticosterone levels, reduce body condition and reproductive success, and increase telomere attrition in free-living birds. Noise exposure may also alter nestling corticosterone levels directly, given that nestlings cannot escape the nest during development.

Francis, Clinton D., Catherine P. Ortega, and Alexander Cruz. "Noise pollution changes avian communities and species interactions." *Current biology* 19.16 (2009): 1415-1419.

Some bird species can adapt to human-made noisy environments and thrive in these conditions because there is a decrease in the overall number of birds because some bird species do not survive the noisy areas, leading to changes in populations.

Shamoun-Baranes, Judy, et al. "Birds flee en masse from New Year's Eve fireworks." *Behavioral Ecology* 22.6 (2011): 1173-1177.

Anthropogenic disturbances of wildlife, such as noise, human presence, hunting activity, and motor vehicles, are becoming an increasing concern in conservation biology. Fireworks are an important part of celebrations worldwide, and although humans often find fireworks spectacular, fireworks are probably perceived quite differently by wild animals. Behavioral responses to fireworks are difficult to study at night, and little is known about the negative effects fireworks may have on wildlife. Every year, thousands of tons of fireworks are lit by civilians on New Year's Eve in the Netherlands. We estimate that hundreds of thousands of birds in the Netherlands take flight due to fireworks. The spatial and temporal extent of disturbance is substantial, and potential consequences are discussed. Weather radar provides a unique opportunity to study the reaction of birds to fireworks, which has otherwise remained elusive.

Farm/Domestic/Lab Animals

Brouček, J. "Effect of noise on performance, stress, and behaviour of animals." *Slovak journal of animal science* 47.2 (2014): 111-123.

This paper summarises the auditory range and some typical levels of sound that have been recorded for farm animals inside and outside housing, during transport and lairage stay. Effects of continuous and sudden noise on animals are also presented in detail. More physiological and behavioural responses have been described as increased hormonal production, increased heart rate, and reduction in production. Animal species exhibit a wide variety of responses to noise. Some animal species are more sensitive than others, because they may exhibit different forms or strengths of responses.

Castelhano-Carlos, Magda João, and V. Baumans. "The impact of light, noise, cage cleaning and in-house transport on welfare and stress of laboratory rats." *Laboratory animals* 43.4 (2009): 311-327

Human interaction and physical environmental factors are part of the stimuli presented to laboratory animals every day, influencing their behaviour and physiology and contributing to their welfare. Certain environmental conditions and routine procedures in the animal facility might induce stress responses and when the animal is unable to maintain its homeostasis in the presence of a particular stressor, the animal's wellbeing is threatened. Recommendations on the welfare of laboratory rats and refinements in experimental design are discussed and how these can influence and improve the quality of scientific data.

Coppola, Crista L., R. Mark Enns, and Temple Grandin. "Noise in the animal shelter environment: building design and the effects of daily noise exposure." *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science* 9.1 (2006): 1-7.

Sound levels in animal shelters regularly exceed 100 dB. Noise is a physical stressor on animals that can lead to behavioral, physiological, and anatomical responses. There are currently no policies regulating noise levels in dog kennels. To meet their behavioral and physical needs, kennel design should also address optimal sound range.

Heffner, Rickye S., and Henry E. Heffner. "Hearing range of the domestic cat." *Hearing research* 19.1 (1985): 85-88.

The behavioral audiograms of two cats were determined in order to establish the upper and lower hearing limits for the cat. The hearing range of the cat for sounds of 70 dB SPL extends from 48 Hz to 85 kHz, giving it one of the broadest hearing ranges among mammals. Analysis suggests that cats evolved extended high-frequency hearing without sacrifice of low-frequency hearing.

Wright, Andrew J., et al. "Anthropogenic noise as a stressor in animals: a multidisciplinary perspective." *International Journal of Comparative Psychology* 20.2 (2007).

Consequences of extreme noise exposure are obvious and usually taken into some consideration in the management of many human activities that affect either human or animal populations. However, the more subtle effects such as masking, annoyance and changes in behavior are often overlooked, especially in animals, because these subtleties can be very difficult to detect. To better understand the possible consequences of exposure to noise, this review draws from the available information on human and animal physiology and psychology, and addresses the importance of context (including physiological and psychological state resulting from any previous stressor exposure) in assessing the true meaning of behavioral responses. The current consensus is that the physiological responses to stressors of various natures are fairly stereotyped across the range of species studied. It is thus expected that exposure to noise can also lead to a physiological stress response in other species either directly or indirectly through annoyance, a secondary stressor. In fact, many consequences of exposure to noise can result in a cascade of secondary stressors such as increasing the ambiguity in received signals or causing animals to leave a resourceful area, all with potential negative if not disastrous consequences. The context in which stressors are presented was

found to be important not only in affecting behavioral responses, but also in affecting the physiological and psychological responses. Young animals may be particularly sensitive to stressors for a number of reasons including the sensitivity of their still-developing brains. Additionally, short exposure to stressors may result in long-term consequences.

Turner, Jeremy G., Carol A. Bauer, and Leonard P. Rybak. "Noise in animal facilities: why it matters." *Journal of the American association for laboratory animal science* 46.1 (2007): 10-13.

Environmental noise can alter endocrine, reproductive and cardiovascular function, disturb sleep/wake cycles, and can mask normal communication between animals. These outcomes indicate that noise in the animal facility might have wide-ranging effects on animals, making what laboratory animals hear of consequence for all those who use animals in research, not just the hearing researcher. Given the wide-ranging effects of noise on laboratory animals, routine monitoring of noise in animal facilities would provide important information on the nature and stability of the animal environment. This special issue will highlight the need for more thorough monitoring and will serve as an introduction to noise and its various effects on animals.

Carrieri-Rocha, Vinícius Miguel, Marina Henriques Lage Duarte, and Angélica da Silva Vasconcellos. "Acoustic stress in domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) living around football stadiums." *Journal of Veterinary Behavior* 37 (2020): 27-35.

Football matches, as a common urban activity, produce high levels of noise because of vehicular traffic, screams, whistles, and firework displays. Fear of noise is one of the most commonly reported behavior problems in dogs (*Canis familiaris*); however, few studies have focused on the effects of repeated exposition to noise in these animals. Fear/anxiety behaviors were reported as more intense on days with football matches, in comparison with days without matches for 90.6% of the study dogs. The occurrence of matches made specific fear-related behaviors of the dogs—severe trembling, excessive salivation, agitation/restlessness, whining, and appetite loss—more frequent. Our results suggested a detrimental influence of noise from football matches on the behavior of dogs living around football stadiums. These data are relevant for public policy-making to promote preventive and mitigating measures, to improve the quality of life of both the dog and the human populations in the surroundings of football stadiums.

July 16th, 2021 (sent by email)

Dear Mayor and Council,

The central feature of the motion you passed on May 4th for the Reid Park Zoo expansion is minimizing the use of Reid Park green space. That also reflects a core value of all of the citizen groups who participated in the Community Conversation process. With the dire effects of climate change the cooling effect of open green space and trees in Reid Park is more urgently needed than ever before.

The initial invitation from the City Manager's office to discuss design for the Reid Park Zoo expansion on July 10th was issued to a small number of community stakeholders and did not mention streaming the meeting. It also left out all but one of the citizens who had taken the Reid Park storage yard tour on May 28th.

The July 10th meeting made it again very clear that the community should be involved in the process of planning the Reid Park Zoo expansion. Community stakeholders requested, on May 4th and May 13th, to be involved from the beginning in implementing Mayor and Council's May 4th directive. Instead, they were left out of the process for two months. This means that planning moved forward without the benefit of those people who are most affected and most engaged in saving the open-access green space in Reid Park. The problems reported on July 10th might well have already been solved if community stakeholders had been included from the start.

During the July 10th meeting City staff presented new criteria for evaluating potential zoo expansion sites that had not been brought up previously. They presented noise as a critical criterion affecting animal welfare and said that loud, unexpected noises could not only make a breeding program difficult, but could kill tigers. They provided no evidence of what decibel levels big cats can thrive under or just how many "unexpected" noises they can tolerate. They also had no data on noise levels in Reid Park, particularly data covering areas for all of the current zoo expansion options.

We were informed that based on the noise criterion the G-Minor plan was no longer feasible. Instead the City Manager's office promoted an option that pushes the zoo expansion against practice ball fields and closer to the DeMeester Amphitheater, which are also sources of loud, sporadic noise.

Instead of showing a design that makes it possible to minimize the use of park green space, they showed repackaged D and D-G Hybrid options, the options they had announced as their preferred plans before your May 4th motion. These would involve covering over a large area of Reid Park green space with concrete, cutting off public access and increasing the heat island effect.

At least one of the designs presented on July 10th also appears to show a zoo expansion footprint that is larger than the 4.2 acres that were planned for in the 2018 Reid Park Zoo Master Plan. There is nothing in the May 4th directive about increasing the size of the zoo expansion.

The undersigned do not support the repackaged D and D-G Hybrid options. We continue to support the G-Minor plan, which includes an expansion not to exceed 4.2 acres as well as keeping Lakeshore Lane intact as a natural boundary that allows good traffic flow and protects the park from encroachment of the zoo into green space, now and under future City Councils.

If too many unexpected sounds affect the big cats, we wonder if Reid Park is really the best place to start a breeding program for them, considering all of the noises in the park itself and from the Davis Monthan overflights and 22nd Street traffic (including emergency vehicle sirens and roaring motorcycles).

We oppose damage to Reid Park's beautiful views (known as "sight lines") and loss of any contiguous green space. We understand that park goers don't want to feel fenced in in their beautiful park, which the new D and Hybrid D-G ("Claw") options would create. We are sure that with collaboration a design solution that meets all criteria can be found.

At the July 10 meeting, the Interim Assistant City Manager agreed to support establishment of a "charrette" with design/expert representation from the involved community/neighborhoods, the Reid Park Zoological Society (RPZS), and the City. The charrette is to seek solutions to issues raised by the RPZS and the City in regard to the G-Minor plan. We urge Mayor and Council to assure that the charrette begins its work promptly and to establish an ongoing citizen oversight committee that meets regularly and reviews the results that come out of the charrette.

There's been some misunderstanding about continuing public participation in this process and one council member seems to believe it is over. However, Saturday's meeting showed that public involvement in this project is important and will continue. Your clarification of this will be key.

This letter (which is also attached) is signed by 11 former Core Stakeholder Group members (marked by asterisks), ten participants in the Community Dialogue Circles, and residents of the neighborhoods around Reid Park who've been active in community planning regarding the issue of Reid Park Zoo expansion. A more detailed letter on the understandings and questions of the July 10th meeting may follow.

Sincerely,

- Mark Meyer, Co-chair/Facilitator, Julia Keene Neighborhood Association
Government Affairs & Outreach Coordinator, Scenic Arizona
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- *Jocelyn Muzzin, Co-chair, Julia Keene Neighborhood Association
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- Rita Ornelas, Co-chair, Julia Keene Neighborhood Association
- Ingvi Kalen, Resident, Julia Keen Neighborhood
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- Les Toczko, Resident, Julia Keen Neighborhood
- Saba Bennet, Resident, Julia Keen Neighborhood
- Bob Vint, Vint & Associates Architects
Professor of Practice, University of Arizona College of Architecture

- Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- *Silvia Valdillez, President, Barrio Centro Neighborhood Association
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- Ivo Ortiz, Barrio Centro Neighborhood
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- *Gabriel Tadeo, Ward 5 Representative
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- *Lauren McElroy Herrera, Chair, Save the Heart of Reid Park
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- Manon Getsi, Co-Chair, Save the Heart of Reid Park
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- Wendy Sampson, Treasurer, Save the Heart of Reid Park
Resident, Arroyo Chico Neighborhood
- *Jessica Flax, Resident, Arroyo Chico Neighborhood
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- Jose Luis Munoz Jr, Resident, Arroyo Chico Neighborhood
- *Pam Reid, Daughter of Gene C. Reid, Resident, Julia Roberts Neighborhood
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- Molly McKasson, Resident, Sam Hughes Neighborhood
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- Linda McNulty, Resident Sam Hughes Neighborhood
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- Bonnie Wehle, Resident, Sam Hughes Neighborhood
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- Katya Peterson, Resident, Sam Hughes Neighborhood
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- *Bill DuPont, Resident, Colonia Solana Neighborhood
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- Emma Blake, Resident, Colonia Solana Neighborhood
Participant, Community Dialogue Circles
- *Dr. Margaret Drugay, Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- *Michael McCrory, San Clemente Neighborhood
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- *Starr Sanders, Montevideo Neighborhood Association
Former Core Stakeholder Group member
- *Mike Ankomeus, Ward 6 resident

Responses to some of the assertions in the follow-up letter (Attachment 2) include:

1. The letter states that the “central feature of the motion” was to minimize the use of green space. In fact, the motion listed four equal criteria that must be considered in the design, one of which was minimizing impacts to green space.
2. The letter claims that “City staff presented new criteria” during the July 10 meeting. This is not correct as noise concerns related to animal welfare were directly included in the Mayor & Council action of May 4. The resulting information was indeed new to many of those attending.
3. The letter presents noise concerns from the “Quad” baseball practice fields and the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center as being of similar concern as the noises from Hi Corbett Field. Based on the Animal Welfare investigation they are not equivalent. The variety, proximity, magnitude, and unpredictability of sound from Hi Corbett Field is what presents the animal welfare concern for locating future habitat in that location. The other, viable layouts do not present the same level of concern as determined by those with the appropriate expertise.
4. The letter expresses concern over proposed impacts to Lakeshore Lane. Staff proposed to close Lakeshore Lane to vehicle traffic to enhance pedestrian, bike, and ADA access in Reid Park; increase safety for park users; and accommodate the most viable expansion layout(s). With the updated layout presented herein, impacts to Lakeshore Lane are minimal and it can continue to function as present.
5. Finally, the letter calls for continued public participation. As noted in the Mayor and Council motion, a comprehensive Reid Park Master Plan is being launched by the City. The Request for Qualifications (No. 212815) for consultant services has been published and the master plan work will begin this fall. Public participation is a key component of that upcoming effort. However, we have already received significant public input on the location of the Reid Park Zoo expansion and Mayor and Council have already acted on the issue. The expansion project should proceed as soon as practicable and staff have proposed a viable layout that meets the criteria determined by Mayor and Council.