

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Donna Barron, City Manager

**FROM:** Stacie Anaya, Parks & Recreation Director  
Michele Berry, Planning Manager  
Prit Patel, Neighborhood Services Manager

**DATE:** July 31, 2018

**SUBJECT: City Council Update on 10-Minute Walk to a Park Planning Grant**

On September 18, 2017, the City Council endorsed participation in the 10-Minute Walk to a Park Campaign - an initiative built by The Trust For Public Land with the support of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to celebrate communities that have made a commitment to creating an equitable, safe and healthy environment for their residents and visitors. The standard was integrated into the update of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan as one of the major goals for development of the Lewisville Park System for the next five to 10 years.

In March 2018, the Parks & Recreation Department submitted a grant application to NRPA for a \$40,000 to assist with planning efforts to meet our goal of providing a 10-Minute Walk to a Park for all residents. The Parks & Recreation Department teamed with the Neighborhood Services and Planning Departments to craft the grant application. In addition, Keep Lewisville Beautiful (KLB), the Chin Community Ministry and the local chapter of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) wrote letters of support for our application.

On April 26, 2018, the City was officially notified that Lewisville was one of 12 recipients. Lewisville will utilize the funding and technical assistance to achieve three things: Enhance our mapping and data analysis capacity by adding a networked GIS layer of sidewalks and trails; conduct walk ability audits in the areas of the city with the most significant barriers to accessing open space; establish development guidelines and plans utilizing a social equity model. A project team consisting of Stacie Anaya, Michele Berry and Prit Patel was formed to lead the initiative.

In May, the project team attended mandatory grant training held in Chicago May 29-31. NRPA and its partners provided planning tools to develop action plans for the grant funding. Attendees participated in a 10-minute walkability audit/review, visited local parks and neighborhoods and visited with fellow grant awardees about the strategies they are employing to meet their goals. Throughout the training, NRPA stressed the importance of including an equity component to the over goal established for each community and provided PolicyLink Equity Model information to assist with the task.

In June, the City submitted a planning worksheet to NRPA for review and comment. A copy of the worksheet is attached and provides a road map for the project team over the next 5 years. It features S.M.A.R.T. (Smart, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely) goals and objectives that mirror those found in Lewisville 2025, the Parks & Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and recently adopted Small Area Plans. The worksheet will serve as the basis for the City's mid-program report (due on August 31) as NRPA staff did not provide any suggestions for modification after their initial review. The City has already achieved its first goal of modifying the Parkland Dedication Ordinance and was featured in the first online webinar held for the grant cohorts.

The project team has met with representatives from the regional ULI office to discuss the possibility of receiving further assistance from the organization to identify opportunities to increase access to parks and open spaces via relationships and partnerships with the development community. The team was notified in mid-July that the City would be the recipient of another grant for ULI's National Study Panel to be coordinated in the next 6-12 months to focus on the area between IH-35, Business 121 and Corporate Drive - a park desert identified on the TPL ParkServe map. A coveted opportunity for many communities, ULI will assemble "a panel of its "best and brightest" from the Institute's diverse membership, including developers, planners, financiers, market analysts, economists, architects, and public officials, and bring that panel to the study area for one week where members—who serve on a volunteer basis—attend briefings, tour the site and the surrounding area, interview as many as 100 stakeholders, and engage in intensive deliberations. After drilling deeply into the issue, the panel members prepare a draft report and present a summary of their findings and recommendations—which typically consist of candid, practical, specific advice—on their final day on site. The project team is currently creating a list of stakeholders to include in the process.

In July, the project team was contacted by NRPA to inquire if the City of Lewisville would be interested in submitting a bid to serve as a host for the second cohort of grant awardees in 2019. Only two grantee cities were asked to submit a bid. The City Manager reviewed the request and directed the project team to work on the bid with CVB and pursue the opportunity.

The project team continues to work towards the goals established in the grant application and the planning worksheet. The IT and GIS teams are working on creating a networked map of sidewalks and trails; this should be complete by March 2019. The City Manager and Parks & Recreation Department are currently working with LISD officials to draft a new interlocal that will include the use of the school yards identified in the Parks Master Plan as public parks. In addition, meetings with representatives from the Chin Community Ministries and with the Youth Action Council are scheduled for later this fall.

10-Minute Walk to a Park Planning Grant  
August 20, 2018  
Page 3

On October 10, the City along with many cities across the nation will take 10-minute walks, taking advantage of the 10-10 date to celebrate its effort in the campaign. We will coordinate walkability audits with employees during lunch and with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board during their regular meeting to be held at the Hedrick House.