



Park at Beaty Conservation Easement

To: Davidson Board of Commissioners
From: Kathryn Spatz, Parks & Recreation Director
Date: July 9, 2019
Re: Park at Beaty Conservation Easement

1. OVERVIEW

At its March 26, 2019 meeting, the board of commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the recommendations of the Park at Beaty Task Force, including permanently protecting all 6 parcels (20+acres) that make up the Beaty Property with a conservation easement. Permanent conservation is the only way to ensure the land is kept open, undeveloped, and in the public realm, forever. The Park at Beaty Leadership Committee, primarily Dave Cable, and staff have been working to develop easement language that addresses town, neighbor, and Davidson Land Conservancy (DLC) interests. The Task Force Leadership Committee and staff met with neighbors May 30 to present information on the proposed conservation easement and respond to any questions or concerns. The information was positively received.

2. RELATED TOWN GOALS

Greenways, Open Space, and Parks Goal: The Town of Davidson will increase physical and mental health of Davidson citizens. Preserve open space. Provide ample opportunities for play and discovery (active and passive).

Community Engagement Goal: Davidson will have inclusive engagement with the community to encourage substantive, respectful, and open dialogue, increase participation, and foster a sense of belonging.

Operations Goal: Davidson will maintain organizational excellence through sound financial management, training, and retention of quality employees, in superior service to the community. Action item: Develop Beaty Street property plan.

3. OPTIONS/PROS & CONS

Pros: conservation easements (CE) vs. deed restrictions vs. fee simple; easements are permanent, irrevocable, very difficult to amend; can only be undone by judicial action; 55 million U.S. acres preserved by CE; terms of the CE will be specific to Beaty Park, its conservation values, and park use; stewardship endowment fund & monitoring; legal defense fund & enforcement

Con: \$30,000 for stewardship could be used for something else

4. FYI or RECOMMENDED ACTION

FYI. We recommend the board of commissioners approve the conservation easement as presented and approve budget amendment at the July 23 meeting.

5. NEXT STEPS

If the board of commissioners agrees with the terms of the easement language, the next step is to approve the conservation easement as presented and approve the budget amendment at the July 23 meeting.