

Parking Solution: Memphis Zoo + Overton Park
Summary Sheet - Public Questions and Comments
Feb. 21-25

Questions

1. With the art school closing, could the parking lot be expanded on property obtained from them and leave the greenspace alone. Could donors be found to help fund acquisition of some of the art school property?
 - a. The City of Memphis is working with the Memphis College of Art to ensure the best possible outcome after the school closes. There are a number of groups working on possibilities that could follow MCA in those buildings.

2. Where will the employees enter and park? They need an entrance as to not be stuck in traffic which will make late for work.
 - a. Zoo staff members have assigned parking spaces behind the Zoo fence line. The main lot is for Zoo/Park patrons.

3. I have searched your new website and can't find the questions from the meeting Wednesday night, nor any that have arisen since. Was that just a campaign promise to appease the crowd, or is there a legit reason for you not to keep your promises?
 - a. Please go to:
https://www.memphistn.gov/parks/parks/parking_solution_memphis_zoo_and_overton_park/
Additionally, if you scroll to the bottom of the page, you can sign up to receive a notification anytime an update has been posted.

4. As a longtime member of the zoo I am appalled that a small group of citizens can bully the city into thinking a few acres of Greensward is more important than showing off one of Memphis greatest resources to visitors. There are plenty of public parks and beautiful Shelby farms to "enjoy nature". Since the parking only spills over into the green space a minimal number of times a year it is frustrating to see how short sighted some of the park promoters are. We need every tourist dollar visitors bring to our city as our tax rolls decline. We don't want visitors frustrated before they even get a chance to park their cars. Our family (and now our children's families as well) love to visit the zoo as well. We rarely see more than a few people using the park. Until this whole parking debacle came up, many days the Greensward looked practically deserted except for a few local dog walkers. It seems a shame that a few vocal rabble rousers can make the parking situation such an issue. Let the zoo continue to be one of Memphis "Crown Jewels" of tourism and family oriented fun. Let the vocal minority walk, bike or drive to another of our many parks like the rest of us do! Let the zoo continue to do its amazing job of attracting visitors from all over the area.
 - a. Thank you for your comment. The aim of this work is to ensure that the Park and all of the key institutions, including the Zoo, are able to thrive.

5. Thank you again for the opportunity to ask questions and propose ideas. I write for Park Friends, Inc., HBC Trailworks and all of their members and volunteers. While we have heard of parts of the new proposed parking plan, we have not been able to see it, so if these questions do not make sense, it may be we have misunderstood what the elements of the new proposed plan are currently:
 1. Did the zoo's representatives receive the new proposed parking plan before today except for the oral/visual parking committee presentation at the Wednesday meeting a couple weeks ago, as we ask for fair and equal opportunity here? A response of "no" would alleviate a lot of conspiracy concerns.

- a. No, the Zoo did not receive the plan before the public meeting, except for the oral/visual presentation (as you noted above).
2. Would the zoo agree zoo attendees should exit along a circulating road winding along, inside and adjacent to the zoo western and northern fences? Of course not, but that is what is proposed for zoo attendees to enter, namely a circulating road winding along and adjacent to the greenspaces and Greensward.
 - a. Thank you for your comment.
3. Why not eliminate the circulating road from the proposed plan as it is an enormous waste of land with no contribution to the main issue: parking?
 - a. This is simply the drive aisle in the parking lot, similar to what exists with any other comparable-sized parking lot and nearly identical to the drive aisle that exists in the current parking lot. The Council resolution required the preservation of mature trees, creating a situation where the drive aisle does have a small amount of green space between the drive aisle and the lot. The location of the drive aisle along the southern edge of the parking lot eliminates the need for Zoo patrons to walk across the drive aisle, thus reducing the risk of collisions.

The drive is simply the result of the ends of the drive aisles. The options are to either end drive aisles in turn around cul-de-sacs, or provide a cross-flow aisle, connecting the rows at the end. As such, the perimeter drive aisle is created at either end of the parking aisles, and in the current layout, exists on the north and south ends of the aisles. If you look at the layouts of any significant parking lot, these perimeter drives exist.

Additionally, by using this general perimeter drive aisle for entry and exit, traffic in the parking lot is much less chaotic, as vehicles entering, disperse by moving either north to a parking aisle or east to check out the next one, creating a much more consistent flow of traffic. Moving the perimeter drive to the north results in having to relocate parking spaces elsewhere. Doing so either requires the removal of more trees or violating the Greensward ridgeline and/or the OPC management boundary at the north end of the Greensward.

4. In addition to elimination of the circulating road, why not eliminate all kiosks, gates, etc. and let zoo patrons just park as they do in any other parking lot including the current zoo lot after passing the current kiosk? In this way no circulating road is needed and that space could remain greenspace. The plan could include numbering all parking spaces and installing high tech parking meters to collect the money so there would be no back up of cars. People that did not pre-pay for parking, they will have to line up to pay at one of the meters but those lines would not impede parking. Zoo attendees could also pre-pay for parking in multiple ways as members or on various parking apps and show their paid parking receipt or membership card or app on their iPhone when they enter the zoo. Would not this proposal eliminate or reduce substantially entry delays into the parking lot and over time most people would pre-pay for parking and the zoo might actually make more money for parking?
 - a. The pay on entry was selected for the following reasons (as compared to pay at exit or pay on foot at machines/kiosks).
 - It provides the best user experience.
 - It is most familiar to patrons.
 - It is most suitable at venue for families with children, coolers, strollers, etc.
 - It is safer to have children in car, contained in car seats, while paying.

- It is less expensive.
- Enforcement not required.
- It is as efficient on use of space as other payment options.

Also, see response to Question 3 above regarding need for perimeter drive.

- Why should construction not be staged in the upcoming winters when the zoo attendance is really small. Could not the first stage this coming 2018 winter be the expansion of the Prentiss lot **only** in addition to point/question no. 6 below?
 - Construction phasing will be determined once a final design is approved. Thank you for your comment.
- On the exit: why not make a dedicated extra right lane on McLean for all zoo attendees leaving Prentiss to exit north on McLean; with proper curbing people exiting could just turn right/north on McLean without having to merge into traffic in that dedicated extra right lane. Again this would help eliminate or reduce the exit delays just like no. 4 above would eliminate or reduce the entrance delays. Certainly could not the zoo spare a few feet here along its western chain link fence and contribute to the solution for this new right lane?
 - Substantial changes to McLean Ave were not part of this project, but the City of Memphis will consider your suggestion.
- Why should the zoo not be required to open and publish in advance that its north entrance on North Parkway would be open for all busy days at the zoo to utilize the several hundred parking spaces along north parkway? The City has created all of these parking spaces along North Parkway, currently not really used efficiently and completed a first class sidewalk that also at present receives little use. Again high tech parking meters could be erected along North Parkway near the zoo entrance for the zoo to collect receipts for parking fees at the entrance, in addition to admission fees; in this way the zoo could require proof of payment for parking generally just like the south entrance, and could receive revenue for parking along North Parkway.
 - We will work with the Zoo to ensure that the North Parkway entrance is marked and available for use, especially on peak days. In 2017, they opened the gate on a trial basis and more than 3,000 visitors accessed the Zoo through that entrance.
- With these additional parking spaces from the updated Prentiss lot and the additional spaces along North Parkway coupled with the staging of the buses at Snowden or some of the neighborhood churches, reduction of waiting times for entrance and exit and the new and multiple ways to pay for parking, why should the City not assess the progress in reducing or eliminating the parking issues resulting from these improvements above in the 2019 year and not try to accomplish everything in one winter?
 - Phasing of construction will be determined after a final design is reached.
- Also would not it make sense to save mature trees in the zoo lot and all along the greenspaces and Greensward from being cut down such as the majestic Oaks like the over 100 year old majestic Overcup Oaks and Magnolias for one more year to learn if these improvements accomplished above were successful?
 - Phasing of construction will be determined after a final design is reached.
- Explain where in the Resolution any requirement exists to accomplish everything in the winter of 2018? Certainly the Council does not desire to micro-manage this parking problem and the City's administration has been charged with effectuating a solution, correct?

- a. Phasing of construction will be determined after a final design is reached. And yes, the project will be delayed beyond the originally proposed end date because of the lengthy time taken to get agreement between the stakeholders and to accept Advisory Team and public input.

- 11. Explain where in the Resolution any requirement exists to build a circulating entrance road winding around and along the boundary of the greenspace and the Greensward? The Overton Park patrons clearly do not want and oppose the circulating entry road, just like the zoo would oppose a circulating exit road winding around, along and inside its west and north fences, so why is it still even in the plans?
 - a. The resolution does not mandate this. It is a design feature that is very similar to the drive aisle that is present in the existing zoo parking lot, and can be found in comparable parking lots in the City.

- 12. Do any of the zoo attendees desire to be staged along a circulating road, desire to wait behind another set of cars at a kiosk trying to park or wait at any other gate in their cars, when for example the majority of attendees have already paid for parking or will learn to pay for parking in advance?
 - a. Today, Zoo patrons wait in a queue to pay \$5 by cash, credit, or by showing their membership. By doubling the number of entry lanes and adding new pay in advance ability at every entrance, including a lane dedicated to only prepaid parking, patrons wait for entry should be shorter than it is today.

- 13. The current natural screen between the current zoo parking lot and the greenspace and Greensward is virtually perfect at present, why not wait to see if these improvements above do not satisfy the zoo parking demand? There have been issues for years, so why should the City not continue to take a measured approach to this long standing problem and perform improvements in stages? Are not the costs of the improvements above much less expensive than the full reconstruction of the zoo lot and new, permanent screening below?
 - a. The resolution dictates construction of 415 parking spaces in the main zoo lots, in addition to adding 200 spaces for parking along North Parkway which has been completed.

- 14. If the points above about staging are refused and the virtually perfect natural screen and actual and visual barrier between the zoo parking lot and the greenspace and Greensward will be disturbed by cutting down trees: a permanent barrier to all cars, Green and Man-made, to end Greensward parking, as stated in the Resolution, has to be erected, so this land grab/expansion by the zoo into the Park stops and a new visual screen is also constructed. Do you remember the zoo secretly in the dark of a Sunday night in January 2016 cut down 27 trees, refilled the holes with the same grass to camouflage its tree removal and removed the natural wooden car barriers: thus any new permanent barrier must be more permanent, not only green but stronger like a combination of a wall, high curbs, huge stones, trees, swales etc. - to great expense which may not be needed?

Thank you for hearing and responding to our questions, we do know a lot of people have a plethora ideas and emotions are extremely high, thank you for listening to our ideas. We do understand you have chosen voluntarily to listen and we appreciate and do not undervalue such opportunity for our input. Also we appreciate the zoo and are not and have not desired to harm the zoo; instead many of these ideas above are to increase zoo revenues; at the same time the zoo needs to be a Park partner not an adversary to Overton Park, the City's Crown Jewel. Thank you again.

 - a. Thank you for your comments. A visual barrier will be installed to screen the parking lot from the Greensward, as the resolution dictates. Additionally, as constructed, the

new parking area will include features to prevent vehicles from driving onto the Greensward.

6. Where can we see the proposal?
 - a. Please go to:
https://www.memphistn.gov/parks/parks/parking_solution_memphis_zoo_and_overton_park/
Additionally, if you scroll to the bottom of the page, you can sign up to receive a notification anytime an update has been posted.
7. Visiting zoo since 1940's. When the zoo became more than zoo, additional parking wasn't taken into consideration. The zoo is now an entertainment center, not a zoo only. The zoo made the mistake, not planning for parking when entertainment was added to draw more visitors. Is the zoo for visiting the animals, or for partying? If more parking is needed, how can that many people at one time inside the zoo be best for the animal population?
 - a. Last year, the Zoo hosted 1.2 million visitors, the most in history. The Memphis Zoo manages the human visitorship and interaction with the animals according to accepted practice and accreditation standards.
8. Could you please provide high-resolution copies of the plan as well as the image with the overlay on the current lot?
 - a. The plan has been posted to the City website. Please go to:
https://www.memphistn.gov/parks/parks/parking_solution_memphis_zoo_and_overton_park/
9. WHY have the citizens been continuously ignored when they are the ones providing logical solutions that benefit both parties?
 - a. Thank you for your comments. The dialogue and ideas brought forth by citizens informed the City Council resolution. Citizen and interest group input has informed the Advisory team and the design team. The design under consideration was informed by citizen input.
10. How does the plan encourage safe, desirable, and attractive access to the zoo for bike visitors?
 - a. Bicycles can enter in with pedestrians, or if the riders are comfortable, through the entries with vehicles. The fortunate aspect about bicycle access is it's much easier to implement than vehicle access and movements, and there are numerous ways that it can be implemented with the plan. For bicycle parking or sharing, we're initially looking at areas near or around the plaza. Bike facilities are much more flexible in design and will be included. We will also consider connectivity in the area regarding bike facilities.
11. Specifically, numerically, how much are you weighing the public's recommendations and revision points and how much weight are you giving to the resolution, and the advisory board?

I don't want a nebulous answer such as "every question has been read." I am asking for a specific weighting.

 - a. No weighting will be applied to any groups' input. Objective data has and will be used to inform the design for things like number of parking stalls, peak parking demand, tree grading etc. But there is no formulaic approach to the final design: the City of Memphis will have to balance inputs from the Design Team, the Advisory team, the Memphis Zoo, and the public.
12. Will a proper pedestrian crosswalk be installed across McLean ay Galloway and /or Overton Park streets? It is dangerous to cross now. There are flags in buckets at Galloway to use to alert traffic that you are crossing. An actual crosswalk with a button that signals traffic to stop only when it is pushed would be ideal.
 - a. The City will review this request. However, this is not in the scope of the current project.
13. Can native trees and plants be a priority for the green infrastructure and re-plantings?
 - a. Native trees/plants will be strongly considered.

14. Is there any way to save the 100-year old oak? Please, try.
 - a. Not in the proposed plan. The loss of the tree was necessary to move north of the OPC Management boundary and provide more buffer at Veterans Plaza.
15. Can the zoo share profits from the pay parking with Overton park?
 - a. Fees from parking are a contractual matter that the administration will take up with the Zoo and OPC.
16. Can the parking lot be accessible for after hours events in the park? Maybe for a reduced fee as maintenance and upkeep will increase. Perhaps a year-round all hours park pass? It is important that the zoo do more to publicize the parking options. Please, hold them to a reasonable standard.
 - a. The lot is already made available to other organizations who use the park. Expanding access is a contractual matter that the City of Memphis can discuss with the Zoo and other park entities.
17. Can the design use the space where the animal statues are and infringe less on the Greensward?
 - a. That was considered during the design process. However, that area serves as a safe place for groups to gather before entry and after exiting the Zoo, and it will remain as-is.
18. Will the Zoo put in writing that if this plan is approved they will never try and take the Greensward again? (No one trusts City Council or the resolution after the gamesmanship all of last year; so we want the Zoo's agreement to be in writing and have the power of a binding legal agreement).
 - a. The Council resolution is explicit about this: "Upon completion of construction, no further encroachment for any parking, temporary or permanent, will be allowed in the remaining Greensward."
19. Can the North Parkway entrance be used for bus drop off and thereby reduce the 2.4 acre infringement of the GW and not make parkgoers suffer bus fumes?
 - a. The resolution calls for 200 parking spaces on North Parkway, which have been installed. It calls for the addition of another 415 spaces to be created through this project.
20. Can more trees be saved?
 - a. The current plan saves as many trees as possible while meeting the requirements of the Resolution. The design team took great care to preserve trees when possible. The team worked with a certified arborist, Wes Hopper, to determine the conditions of all the trees. For trees that are being considered for removal and relocation, species, health and size are key factors in determining whether a tree stays in its current location. Additionally, some trees must be removed for parking space placement. There will be approximately 150 trees going back in, either relocated or newly planted.
21. Why don't you all just build an underground parking garage? It's a few layers of concrete. Not expensive. You can then grow the grass back on top. More parking, more Green space. Everybody's happy. Can fund through mix of private donations from Greensward activists plus parking fees. Let's channel that energy to something productive. It's a win-win. I've seen many of these. If you want examples I'm happy to provide them.
 - a. Prefabricated and open, stand-alone above ground parking structures cost between \$18,000 and \$20,000 per space to construct. To build a 415-space garage would cost between \$8-10 million. The budget for this project is \$3 million. Underground structured parking is even more expensive.

22. This parking plan is unacceptable, because it converts part of the Greensward into a parking lot. There are several acceptable options that have been suggested that would accomplish the parking needs of the zoo. But, none of those have been seriously considered. Why not?
 - a. We have considered every option presented to the design team, and will do our best to balance the best design possible with mandates that come from the Resolution.
23. Where will the handicap parking be located in relation to the zoo entrance? Will there be additional handicap places?
 - a. All HC spaces are located to the west of the entry plaza. Thoughtful consideration was given to ensure that users of those spaces not be required to cross vehicular traffic to access the entrance once parked.

No additional HC beyond what is described above is provided.

Comments

24. I have been a member for many years now. We love going to the zoo, but if it requires waiting in a long line just to park, or waiting for a ride from another destination. That will take up a portion of our outing time. I think I will rethink the membership. My Grandchildren are not the kind of kids who like to stay, or wait to get where we're going. They love the zoo, and wants to see everything. Also my husband, and I go at any time just for something to do. I don't think we'll enjoy it either. Plus I want us to feel safe, and that's sometimes hard now a days. Hope they can come up with a great plan for everyone.
25. My name is Barbara Lapidés. At least four, and maybe five generations of my family have loved the zoo. It is the first place the five grandchildren of my late husband George and I wanted to go whenever they came to Memphis, and it is a wonderful amenity for both residents of the Memphis area and visitors. I strongly support adoption of a parking plan that will meet the needs of visitors to the zoo.
26. As a member of the Zoo and a person who enjoys the park, I'm still very disturbed that a good compromise still can't be found. The email received today encourages Zoo Members to speak out about parking. That's fine, but all Zoo Members are also NOT tax payers in the city.

I am actually both a Zoo member and a city tax payer/Memphian. I think the green space still should be preserved as much as possible. When I see copy from the Zoo stating - "As one of the top zoos in the country, Memphis Zoo is committed to providing an enjoyable and safe destination for all guests to enjoy." Or " As a member of Memphis Zoo – and for any Zoo guest – waiting in your car should not be how you begin your visit..."

It's saying that paving more parking spots will make my experience, faster, safer and I'll enjoy it more. And that may be true for those in the suburbs who think midtown or the city limits is unsafe. But faster, safer and more enjoyable is a HUGE stretch, especially when non Zoo members are charged \$5 dollars per parked car!!! This feels purely like an extra revenue source for the Zoo at the cost to Memphians and the greenspace that's left in Overton Park.

- This discussion and planning has been going well on what seems like 2 years with little to no progress to what seems like an accurate compromise from the citizens and the Zoo which is finding another avenue to maximize their revenue stream.
27. I haven't heard of any future plans but it appears to me parking space is an issue. My family and I have had long walks to get in. I think a parking garage like hospitals have would solve a lot of that problem.
 28. I do not want to spend time waiting in my car with my family and friends. We want to park fast and get into the zoo so we can enjoy the zoo like we do now.
 29. I have been a zoo member for the past five years. I have two children under three years of age. It is important that parking be easy for us and exiting the zoo as well. Some days, the lines to park are so long that we have waited 30 minutes to park when we only live a 10 minute drive from the zoo. Please revise your plans to make entering and leaving the zoo a more pleasant experience for all Memphians and visitors. Thank you for taking the time to listen to the zoo members.
 30. Please keep in mind when designing the new parking lot for the Memphis Zoo that it is one of the country's top zoos. Many visitors from out of town visit our zoo. Waiting in line to even park at the zoo would lead guests to believe their entire zoo experience may be this way. As a mother of five children I know that sitting still in a car is not fun. In fact, it would deter me from even entering the zoo if I had to wait in a long line to park. Kids are impatient which causes their parents to be as well. Please consider the best plan possible to help keep zoo guests continuing to visit and revisit. I hope to have a zoo membership for many more years to come. Thanks for taking the time to read this.
 31. My view of this is quite simple. Right now the Zoo and its health are far more important to the City and its outlook than the field of grass being fought over.
 32. I think the Memphis Zoo is one of our city's greatest treasures. Please make parking quick and accessible to the Zoo's patrons. Grass is just grass to me - we have lots of beautiful park spaces.
 33. Quick and easy is important to me!
 34. Build a beautiful parking lot. Parking is needed for special events and will make it easier for our guest especially those who travel from out of town. It's grass people and we need parking... not grass!
 35. I cast my vote for fast easy access to the zoo. My family and I are long time members and visit frequently.
 36. As a member of the zoo, a midtown resident, and frequent visitor to the zoo, the shell, Brooks, and Rainbow Lake Playground with my kids, I'm surprised by how callous the zoo seems to be towards its neighbors. My family loves the zoo, its camps, and amazing staff, so we'll continue to support through our membership but we're disheartened by their tone and eagerness to encroach upon green space, especially for an organization that is supposed to espouse protection and stewardship of the natural environment.

There is ample parking at the zoo as it is but I'm certain a reconfiguration would provide even more without taking over any additional green space. The zoo is wrong when it asserts visitors wouldn't want to carpool or park on the street or within the park grounds. Every other

comparable city like St. Louis or Birmingham or Louisville knows that a thriving institution often has overflow parking on busy days. This never deters people and won't in Memphis.

This vitriolic and antagonistic dialog between the zoo and Memphians is just plain sad and I hope they offer an olive branch in the future. Thanks for listening,

37. Please allow for ample parking at the zoo. Memphis has a GREAT ZOO. It's one of the best attractions in the city. Please allow the zoo to be successful and provide a great attraction to the city and State.
38. I have carefully reviewed the updated parking design plans and find them frustratingly, shockingly and saddeningly lacking. In this modern age of technology and increased awareness of our human impact on the environment I wonder why the city would choose to prioritize paving one of the few public green spaces in order to provide entirely unnecessary parking.

I urge the design team and the mayor to incorporate common sense solutions that will create a compromise.

Most importantly there is no need for a ring road. This solution alone should guarantee that no greensward land be paved. The zoo's demand that buses should be able to access the front gate is a poor excuse to pave the greensward. There are many other locations where children could be dropped off reasonably close to either entrance and groups could be staged to enter the zoo. The fact that Snowden children (including myself once) have easily walked to the zoo for decades proves this point.

The new design insists that a ring road is standard for parking lots of a similar size. What the report omits is that parking lots of similar sizes are not normally located next to and expanded at the expense of public park land!

The zoo's demand to keep pay-as-you-enter parking is also infuriating in the face of the myriad of alternative payment methods. The zoo is asserting their intention to continue to create congestion through the entirety of the park and spewing onto Poplar Avenue as if it were their natural right. By doing so the zoo is polluting our air and diminishing the experience of other park users. Zoo users could pay with their phone, when they buy their ticket, or when they exit the parking lot, like almost every parking garage in the world.

I am sure that many other citizens have suggested reasonable solutions that could solve this situation in an agreeable manner for all parties. Park supporters have already funded de facto extortion to fund the zoo's new parking lot, and been forced to tolerate the destruction, pollution and denials of access to the greensward for years. In order for this to be a compromise, the zoo must give something up. I think asking the zoo to have bus drop off in a location that doesn't require a road to be built into a park while switching their parking payment method is a very simple request. This issue will not go away if public parkland gets paved.

Please take a long-term view of this issue, and revise the plan accordingly. If you don't, you are paving paradise. I'm sure you heard that song and never imagined yourself as the villain in it. You don't have to be!

39. To Powers-Hill et al., I would like to see a draft of your most current map with the parking aisles configured in a due north/ south fashion. I believe this would solve unnecessary encroachment into public green space, as well as be more cost effective. It has been proven that with smart, efficient design, the current parking lot footprint is large enough to satisfy the 415 spaces that are claimed to be needed.

The 14 foot wide pedestrian walkway is a waste of precious parking space. Please consider reducing the width of this walkway in the lot to 4 feet wide, the typical sidewalk width. The part of the 14 foot wide walk that extends to the tree line past the OPC Management line and up to the ridgeline needs to be removed. A solid tree line should be there rather than what appears as a break in the tree border that leads into the public green space. This is unacceptable and suggests further future encroachment plans on part of the zoo, or at least it would allow for that.

This map allows for too many trees to decorate the zoo's new lot at the expense of minimizing the acreage required for this project. I am fully aware of city officials such as Doug McGowan claiming that the resolution called for preserving as many trees as possible but in all fairness, this map hardly follows much of the resolution in the first place. For example, item 2 of the resolution calls for a berm yet PH has not provided one. Item 4 calls for Morrie Moss to be one lane, one way north of the entrance yet you guys made it a three lane road. Item 5 calls for closing Prentiss Place at McLean to allow for additional parking and keep it as a public thoroughfare for EXITING the zoo but your map keeps it as a two lane road for entrance and exit as well as widening for bus turn around. My point is this, if YOU guys can disregard the resolution and make design adjustments as you see fit, then the public can demand less trees in the new lot in order to spare loss of green space acreage. The resolution isn't a document of convenience for the zoo and the city. The magnolias should not become zoo parking lot decoration. That was not the intent of park goers who wanted them saved and you guys know that as well as the zoo and the city. Taking them from the park and giving them to the zoo to ruin in their new lot is egregious.

The North Parkway entrance should be reopened for buses, RVs, and other large vehicles. I saw a huge tour bus parked in the Greensward last summer. There is just no excuse for this. Memphis can do better. The zoo has already created parking inside the North Parkway gate, they should be made to use it. The zoo has also created parking behind the fence of Rainbow Lake as I hear cars whizzing by as I am walking for exercise. They should be made to use these spaces and have them count toward the 415 required. They already have a gate for them as well as a guard. No money needs to be spent for this other than reopening the North Parkway gate.

Also, there is absolutely NO guarantee that this is the last time the zoo will come for more park land for parking, exhibits, their "master plan" vision, or for pure spite. Memphians need a written and binding document that the zoo can not acquire any more park land acreage from the city, citizens, owners of the park land, state, federal agencies, etc in perpetuity. The zoo owes the citizens of Memphis this as part of their compromise which has been lacking in this project.

When you guys think about your design with regard to this round of citizen feedback please remember two things: 1) the zoo lot is empty for the majority of the year as the zoo is a weather dependent seasonal attraction (the park is not- it's raining today yet there are still folks on the GW and running a 5K through the park), 2) if it hadn't been for those ladies in their tennis shoes who fought for the park in the 60's and 70's, the zoo would be an interstate.

40. I support the zoo parking proposal to allow a better zoo experience. Time in the zoo and not in a parking line .
41. To Powers-Hill et al.,

I would like to see a draft of your most current map with the parking aisles configured in a due north/ south fashion as I believe this would solve unnecessary encroachment into public green space. It has been proven that with smart, efficient design, the current parking lot footprint is large enough to satisfy the 415 spaces that are claimed to be needed.

The 14 foot wide pedestrian walkway is a waste of precious parking space. Please reduce the width of this walkway in the lot to 4 feet wide as is a typical sidewalk. The part of the 14 foot wide walk that extends to the tree line past the OPC Management line and up to the ridgeline needs to be removed. A solid tree line should be there rather than what appears as a break in the tree border that leads into the public green space. This is unacceptable and suggests further future encroachment plans on part of the zoo, or at least it would allow for that.

This map allows for too many trees to decorate the zoo's new lot at the expense of minimizing the acreage required for this project. I am fully aware of city officials such as Doug McGowan claiming that the resolution called for preserving as many trees as possible but in all fairness, this map hardly follows much of the resolution in the first place. For example, item 2 of the resolution calls for a berm yet PH hasnt provided one. Item 4 call for Morrie Moss to be one lane, one way north of the entrance yet you guys made it a three lane road. Item 5 calls for closing Prentiss Place at McLean to allow for additional parking and keep it as a public thoroughfare for EXITING the zoo but your map keeps it as a two lane road for entrance and exit as well as widening for bus turn around. My point is this, if YOU guys can disregard the resolution and make design adjustments as you see fit, then the public can demand less trees in the new lot in order to spare loss of green space acreage. The resolution isn't a document of convenience for the zoo and the city. The magnolias should not become zoo parking lot decoration. That was not the intent of park goers who wanted them saved and you guys know that as well as the zoo and the city. Taking them from the park and giving them to the zoo to ruin in their new lot is egregious.

The North Parkway entrance should be reopened for buses, RVs, and other large vehicles. I saw a huge tour bus parked in the Greensward last summer. There is just no excuse for this. Memphis can do better. The zoo has already created parking inside the North Parkway gate, they should be made to use it. The zoo has also created parking behind the fence of Rainbow Lake as I hear cars whizzing by as I am walking for exercise. They should be made to use these spaces and have them count toward the 415 required. They already have a gate for them as well as a guard. No money needs to be spent for this other than reopening the North Parkway gate.

Also, there is absolutely NO guarantee that this is the last time the zoo will come for more park land for parking, exhibits, their "master plan" vision, or for pure spite. Memphians need a written and binding document that the zoo can not acquire any more park land acreage from the city, citizens, owners of the park land, state, federal agencies, etc in perpetuity. The zoo owes the citizens of Memphis this as part of their compromise which has been lacking in this project.

When you guys think about your design with regard to this round of citizen feedback please remember two things: 1) the zoo lot is empty for the majority of the year as the zoo is a weather dependent seasonal attraction (the park is not- it's raining today yet there are still folks on the GW and running a 5K through the park), 2) if it hadn't been for those ladies in their tennis shoes who fought for the park in the 60's and 70's, the zoo would be an interstate.

42. As a member of the zoo, I just want to say what a treasure it is for the city of Memphis. We are not from this area, but we immediately became members when we moved here 6 years ago. We have had so many people come from out of town come stay with us and go to the zoo. I would hate for a negative parking experience to be their first impression of our zoo. We love it too much to just put a bandaid on the problem and still deal with long waiting times getting into the zoo. Please consider the impression our city is giving to all of the out of town guests.
43. I am a member of the zoo, and I have been for many years. I have never had any trouble with walking ... or parking slightly farther away then walking to the zoo in my nearly 35 years as a

Memphian. The only trouble I have ever experienced with zoo parking is when the zoo (again - of which I am a member, for now anyway), allows people to park on the Greensward or rips up trees in the middle-of-the-night or destroys the old growth forest of Overton Park, which several of my family members fought so hard to protect, including the Memphis Zoo, from being trampled by a highway. Run a shuttle. Build a parking garage. Run a shuttle until the parking garage is finished from the Colosseum parking to the zoo. Stop trampling on the park, which is just as important to me as is the zoo itself. How can we be led by people at the zoo who feel like conserving animals and convenient parking warrants NOT conserving the park, the lake, the Greensward, etc.? If the college really is going to shut-down, perhaps there is something to having some type of parking near there, or when the Brooks Museum moves.

Don't hurt Memphis just because you can. Overton Park is equally important to the city as is the zoo. Stop the foolishness. Stop doing things that make the zoo the enemy. There are so many solutions to the parking problems that won't bring resentment on our treasured zoo. Keep destroying the dustbowl/mudpit you yourselves have created in the Greensward and furtively cutting down trees that were paid for by friends of mine and fellow citizens, and I will actively and loudly protest the zoo entirely. Not just my membership, but I will ask my family, friends, and other citizens to cancel their memberships as well. There is no reason to be a bully. The solutions are there without changing the zoo from a beloved treasure to a despised institution that claims respect for conservancy while acting the opposite.

44. Save the Greensward! Build a parking garage!

45. I visit the Memphis Zoo several times a year with my children and grandchildren. One of the important features of your zoo has been the ease of parking and the accessibility to handicapped parking areas. When you are traveling with small children, waiting in a long line to access the zoo would put a damper on the whole trip from the very beginning. The last thing a parent or grandparent wants is to start, what should be a memory making trip, with a cranky, upset child because that attitude will carry on once you get in the zoo. Any parking design should facilitate ease of parking with short or no wait times to enter.

46. Easy and quick zoo parking is important to all of us.

Not only does it make a visit to the zoo more pleasant but happy visitors will spend more. Visitors will have longer to spend in the zoo if they are not spending their time trying to get into the lot and find a place and, again, will spend more.

Further, a happy visit to the will encourage both local people and out of towners to come more often, resulting in more spending in Memphis in general--restaurants, gas stations, other events and sites.

Restricted and poor parking will hurt the City of Memphis, the zoo, and everyone.

47. The zoo is one of the view memphis attraction the zoo needs all the moneys it can get to care for the beautiful animals and therefore parking is a necessity . I live by overton park, the park is never overly crowded,there is plenty of greensward left for pooping dogs (no offense i am a dog owner myself), frisby throwing and the child watching weirdos hanging out there ,it is not like paking is needed for a shopping center.people want memphis to be attractive yet always need to protest, if the would have to close its door due to lack of funding people will protest again. Obviously we need more jobs in memphis so these protesters can start leading productive lives. Memphis has some bigger problems than replacing some grass with concrete.

48. My family travels to Memphis from Jackson. We would especially appreciate access to the parking lot to the Zoo to be easy and efficient, after already having our children sit in their car seats for over an hour. Thank you so much for your concern.
49. I love the park. However, the Zoo is what draws so many to the park. I think we need easy access from the parking lot to the zoo for all the families that visit it. We definitely need more parking near by.
50. Thanks for chance to provide input; we agree with the plans the Memphis Zoo Board recommends for the parking lot.
51. I agree with the plan.
52. As a member of the Memphis zoo family please consider making parking as family friendly and having easy in and out with minimal wait times as possible.
53. As one of the main attractions in Memphis, access to the zoo should be a pleasant experience, not a headache. I have been to the zoo when I have had to wait in long lines just to park. The new parking design must alleviate this headache. Surely, a compromise between the Save the Greensward and zoo patrons can be reached. The zoo is not asking for I40 to run through the park— just a little space some times.
54. I am concerned that the current plan does not provide easy and convenient access to parking for the zoo. The zoo provides great enjoyment to our family and many other families. It seems there are better alternatives to satisfy both parties.
55. I'm writing in regards to the controversy surrounding the parking situation at the zoo. I think I'm among a large group of visitors to Memphis who do relatively the same thing on a regular basis. My family literally packs up to travel to Memphis about 15 times a year only because we want to visit the zoo. We plan a whole day in Memphis each time, however since we will already be there and Memphis offers eating and shopping experiences not found at home. When we arrive on a busy day to the zoo, we are greeted, most harrassingly, by people basically telling us we are terrible people for parking in the grass and using the park's greensward for such a terrible thing. We're visiting the zoo! A pinnacle of conservation. Whatever "green space" will be taken up by a favorable parking solution to the zoo can easily be made up for by the continuing conservation efforts by the zoo.

We regularly decide to not go to the zoo these days simply because we don't want to deal with the harassment and terrible parking and long wait times to park found at the zoo. Thus we, like many other families keep our money for the zoo, restaurants and shopping at home. This is common sense. You know how many people the zoo brings to Memphis. It is the reason Overton Park is the success it is. Please side with the zoo to resolve this issue. I'm simply tired of being harassed and visiting the zoo less than I would prefer.

56. Parking at the memphis zoo can be a challenge. I enjoy going with my family and friends and have been a member for several years. The best parking solution will be the one that gets visitors in and out quickly and safely.
57. Dear Mayor Strickland,
In regards to the Zoo parking lot design I beseech you to do the right thing when making the final decision. There are for sure several design flaws that can and should be worked out. As much as I am not happy or satisfied with the actions of some of the Zoo administrators in dealing with this situation, I still want the best parking lot for their use. But before any land is

taken from the Greensward I think it is only fair that every possible option to prevent this from happening should be considered. At this point in time, I do not think this is the case. And before saying no to such options just because the Zoo says so, very careful consideration of each option should be taken. Some suggestions are no brainers. Others may take a little more thought and deliberation.

58. Here are some very good suggestions that have been submitted that would eliminate or lessen the need for encroaching onto the Greensward.
- 1) Pay for parking ticket when purchasing Zoo admittance.
 - 2) There should be no buses allowed in the park. All bus drop off can be made from North Parkway directly or from the road that enters the Zoo's back entrance. Enacting #1 and 2 should eliminate the need for any ring road and result in other benefits.
 - 3) The newest plan does not really address the huge traffic issues in and around the Park but especially at the intersections of McLean and Prentiss and McLean and North Parkway. There have been suggestions to make Morrie Moss and Prentiss one way roads and prohibiting left turns onto McLean from Prentiss, and other suggestions to increase safety and improve traffic flow in and around the Park that should be considered. There are more suggestions and options and I would be glad to have a group of Overton Park supporters meet with anyone or group from the City who also want the best for the Park and still allow the Zoo to have a parking lot they can be proud of and provide the necessary spaces they need. I certainly would like to at least hear valid arguments why so many of the comments and suggestions that have been submitted seem to have been lightly cast aside. And I positively would rather see more time spent to work out the details towards perfection rather than moving too quickly and end up having to settle for second best for the future of Overton Park. Again I beseech you, please do the right thing.
59. Quick and easy access to the zoo is very important.
60. The wait time makes me reconsider renewing my membership; we live close to 3 hours away. After driving that distance and then possibly waiting in line sometimes well over an hour makes me reconsider coming to the zoo. Please try to consider the distance some people have to drive them sit and wait in line.
61. As a zoo member and most especially, a mother of 2 young children, I wish to express my concern for a design plan for the parking lot that offers quick access to the zoo. We want to be able to spend as much time as we can in the zoo before nap time or before dinner, depending on what time of day we come. Therefore, we urge you to keep this in mind when finalizing plans for the parking lot design. Thank you and Godspeed!
62. I write this to ask you to please vote for a parking lot that has optimum experience for making parking fast and easy. This would make the zoo experience better all the way around.
63. Please put the best interest of those visiting our zoo first. This could be locals or tourists from out of State. I appreciate our trees and greenery as well, but Overton Park is a large area that still has plenty of trees and green space for everyone to enjoy. The zoo has grown, the zoo is one of the best in the country, and the first concern should be to make it accessible and convenient for those attending. There were probably trees one time where the FedEx forum is, but no one complained. They had to eliminate some trees and green space at Shelby Farms for the incredible improvements that some of these same protestors actually love out there. They probably took down trees to build there houses..... You have to have enough parking for our best and most proud attractions. There shouldn't be this much fuss over one or two fields with

the rest of the park still providing plenty of green space. We have to be practical and use common sense.

64. My family currently holds a Memphis Zoo membership. We frequent the zoo as often as possible. The parking plans submitted on February 21, if approved, will only make it more difficult to visit. Small children do not want to be stuck in a car for extended wait times, especially in the Memphis heat. I hope that you will reconsider this parking plan. The Memphis Zoo has been something the city could be proud of for years. Don't blow it over parking. Thank you.
65. I want to take this opportunity to express my family's concerns regarding the parking revamp plans. Our membership covers my husband and I as well as our two children and a guest. As such, we typically have bags and strollers etc as we enter the Zoo. Nearby, quick and easy parking is of utmost importance to us. Any and all efforts put forth to continue to provide the ease of parking that us members have become accustomed to would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me should you require anything further from me in this regard.
66. My family currently holds a Memphis Zoo membership. We frequent the zoo as often as possible. The parking plans submitted on February 21, if approved, will only make it more difficult to visit. Small children do not want to be stuck in a car for extended wait times, especially in the Memphis heat. I hope that you will reconsider this parking plan. The Memphis Zoo has been something the city could be proud of for years. Don't blow it over parking. Thank you.
67. I have been a member of the Memphis Zoo for 12 years. I have 4 young children and it's one of our very favorite places to go. Over the last year, there have been several times we weren't able to go bc the wait was so long to get in. Waiting with little ones in the car is not ideal when preventable. Other times we waited so long that it ate up some of our fun zoo time and we weren't able to stay long. Please consider a new parking idea that will help lower the waits. This will have a huge impact on whether myself and many others continue as members. With limited family time we'd rather take our business somewhere else than to spend a big portion of our time waiting in line. Thank you!
68. I want to take this opportunity to express my family's concerns regarding the parking revamp plans. Our membership covers my husband and I as well as our two children and a guest. As such, we typically have bags and strollers etc as we enter the Zoo. Nearby, quick and easy parking is of utmost importance to us. Any and all efforts put forth to continue to provide the ease of parking that us members have become accustomed to would be greatly appreciated.
69. As a long time resident of the Memphis area I wanted to voice my concern about the zoo parking situation. The zoo is a valuable asset to the city and a place many local and visiting guests enjoy visiting. With that said, this can cause long lines of cars waiting to get into the zoo parking lot. Easy and quick access to the zoo is an important factor that should be considered as the plan and execution of the Memphis Zoo parking lot takes place.
70. Hi, we love the zoo but would like better parking and shorter time waiting to park.
71. I am a zoo member who considers the zoo the optimal outing for my family and guests. I probably will find something else to do if something is not done to facilitate the time to get into the parking lot. I arrive at opening, dragging everyone out of bed because of parking. I wish the zoo could move to Germantown where no idiots would compromise the parking. It is as if you want the zoo to fail. Do you?

72. Hello, I know everyone is working toward a good plan. I'm not sure what is wrong with the one we now use. Anyway, please make sure the purpose of going to the zoo doesn't decline over parking. Most people have strollers and kids as in multiple people. I for one, as a grandparent usually make at least one trip back to my car during our day. The Memphis Zoo has finally ranked up there with the best. Don't mess that up.
73. Easy access to the zoo is very important to our family. We love going to the zoo and would like access to it to remain simple and easy.
- The zoo is a great attraction for the city of Memphis and tourism boost and needs to remain that way with low costs and easy access.
74. I am a Zoo Member and have concerns with regard to the plan which would cause long waiting lines for parking before entering the Zoo. We are one of the top Zoos in the USA -- and it is one of the highest draws to our GREAT city of Memphis. This plan obviously would put a "bad taste" in the mouths of visitors -- those of our city and those outside of our city. Let's find a better and easier way to solve the concern -- and keep the tourist trade growing in Memphis -- both by visits and "word of mouth." Parking is of PRIME importance to any venue for its success -- let's not "drop the ball" here and pay the price of bad planning. Thank you for letting me voice my opinion -- I LOVE the Zoo and I LOVE Memphis -- and want both to succeed.
75. As zoo members with young children, it is crucial that the city SUPPORT as much parking as possible. The zoo is one of our greatest assets in Memphis and we need to do everything we can, as Memphians and zoo members, to ensure that everyone is able to park and visit easily. Please consider the families, like us, with small children who are trying to provide them with as much education and exposure to help them grow into well-rounded adults. They will be running the city one day, shouldn't we allow them every opportunity to have a positive experience here?
76. My opinion is the proposed parking solution is not fair to the zoo and its patrons. Nobody ever uses the field the zoo has been using should be paved and used for parking.
77. As a current Zoo Member, I am concerned with the design of the potential Zoo parking lot. It does not give visitors quick or easy access to the parking lot of the zoo. This is concerning as a parent with young children who do not like spending extra time in the car. I am also concerned about how this may negatively impact the zoo which is frustrating considering the amount of money they are spending to redesign the parking and flow, only to be met with the same issues they are currently facing.
78. We love having memberships for us and our families . We live in Arkansas about 45 minutes away. I don't think we or other people with children would want to wait in long lines for entrance to zoo. Everyone time is precious, not just the Mayor's!!
79. We are long time Memphis Zoo members. Joining the Zoo was one of the first things we did when we moved to Memphis in 2000. We have always appreciated the Zoo's goals of providing the most natural and beneficial enclosures for the animals, as well as their dedication to nature conservation in general.
80. We believe that keeping as much greenery around the Zoo outweighs the need for ease of parking. We have visited many zoos around the world. The most impressive are the ones that

present a natural, outdoor experience from the very start of the visit. Excess parking and walkways diminish the environmental goals of the Zoo, and detract from the natural experience.

If necessary to ease congestion near the Zoo, using shuttle buses would be in keeping with their goal of conservation.

Thank you for being good stewards of our Zoo. Please keep up the good work by limiting the impact that the upcoming parking changes will have on the green space surrounding the zoo.

81. Be advised that my family and I want quick and easy access to the zoo. We have been long time members but the crazy parking these last few years is unsatisfactory. You will lose our support and that of many others if you don't come out with a new parking plan that favors the zoo instead of all the protestors crying about some grass and trees.. We also care about the environment, but don't screw one of Memphis's best attractions and money makers.
82. As a member, I will not wait in line to park. I pay money to be a member and that should include a simply and easy access to park and exit. No long lines or long waits. I want to spend my time "in the Zoo" and not "trying to get in the Zoo". Enough said
83. As a retiree from the Zoo I am familiar with their visitors. The majority are families with children and elderly. Long waits in line to park and long distances to walk to and from the gate can be a huge inconvenience and should be a rare problem, not a weekend problem.

Please find a way to make this visit as pleasant as possible for families.

84. It is very important to me to keep as much green space as possible. I use Overton Park everyday to enjoy a nice walk and I also have been a member of the Zoo for many years. Most days I visit I see empty parking spaces. It is only on weekends or when school is out for a holiday that I see the spaces for parking used. The. I notice throughout the neighborhood spaces that could have been utilized but instead. Arms were parked along the Greensward. That should never have been allowed.

Please save the trees. Overton Park green space and the old forest is a treasure that belongs to all the people to enjoy any day of the year and it should be treated as such. Please don't take one unnecessary inch for car parking.

I don't see the need for the extra large parking spaces the zoo insisted on. Future generations will be able to enjoy the old forest and Greensward at a time when our Earth is even more crowded. Memphis must try to see the importance of such spaces for now and the future.

85. The Memphis Zoo is one of the best things about our town and a BIG tourist attraction. Please add parking and make it easier for the folks to enjoy the zoo. There are more folks coming to the zoo than those using the green space and the zoo brings in a lot of money and visitors to Memphis. We need the parking!!!
86. Increasing the amount of parking spaces at the zoo would help with longer wait times. Being a member and frequent visitor, it is a constant hassle to find a spot. We are in support of additional parking.
87. Please consider expanding parking lot as it is frustrating to find a spot.

88. One thing I need to see (not on a screen) but on the actual Greensward are the actual boundaries of the newest plan with painted lines, ropes, etc.
89. After moving to Memphis from Baltimore, we began taking our grandchildren to the zoo. Memphis is blessed to have an exceptional zoo, far better than Baltimore Zoo. They have learned about animals, their habitats and conservation. The zoo is also great place for us to take children we mentor. Learning opportunities are endless. Overton green space is important, but let's face it, mainly upper middle class and upper class folks are spending leisure time in Overton Park. Oh, it is also front yard for all those grand homes there.

My opinion is that Overton Park should be willing to compromise and consider the thousands of kids being educated and thrilled at the zoo. Kids are coming from Mississippi, Arkansas and Western Tennessee. Trees and green space should always be preserved, but we need more parking for sake of area children. Those reclining on blankets with their picnic baskets and Yeti cups, need to move over.

90. The Memphis Zoo is a major attraction in the city and adequate parking is essential. Plentiful and easily accessible parking is a must and should have an extremely high priority.
91. As a Zoo member and head of household of a family of four, I would like to fully support the best plan for easy and quick access to the Zoo. This is extremely important not only for local families, but for out of town guests as well. Zoos are a highly visited tourist attraction and a better experience at the zoo can lead to positive impressions of the city. Please ensure that the best plan moving forward is one that includes quick parking options and easy access to the zoo.
92. The Memphis Zoo is a major attraction in the city and adequate parking is essential. Plentiful and easily accessible parking is a must and should have an extremely high priority.
93. As a Zoo member and head of household of a family of four, I would like to fully support the best plan for easy and quick access to the Zoo. This is extremely important not only for local families, but for out of town guests as well. Zoos are a highly visited tourist attraction and a better experience at the zoo can lead to positive impressions of the city. Please ensure that the best plan moving forward is one that includes quick parking options and easy access to the zoo.
94. Also, I'm not a smart man, but I can read. The resolution lays out parameters that were absolutely non-negotiable, but I'm still looking for the berm in the "new" plan and I guess that the wisdom and infinite power of PHD trumps our City Council, because their plan doesn't make Morrie Morris one way, nor does it close off Prentiss Place to incoming traffic. Who gets to decide which part of the Resolution is enforceable and which can be disregarded? I guess that the non-negotiable parameters, only applies to those factors that benefit the north side of the Greensward. I am also still looking for the clause that stipulates that we take park green space to enable the zoo to increase its green space within their parking lot.
95. I am a member of the Memphis Zoo. I do not want to have to wait in a long line for access to parking that I am entitled to as a zoo member. The plans should improve parking, not make it more difficult.
96. While it isn't identified by the city all of the time, the Zoo of Memphis is truly the most "respected" and valued venue in all of Shelby County. It affords "ALL" citizens the opportunity to explore, relax and enjoy the variety of specimens represented. Green space is important, but

- the Zoo ranks far above for what they provide the citizens and visitors of the area. I believe the most recent parking proposal affords all parties a chance to continue the great Zoo experience and wonder through the green space without any problems. Please draw this to a close. Support the needed changes regardless the cost or dissatisfaction of a small group of individuals. Please feel free to contact me should you desire additional thoughts on this matter.
97. Figure this out...The current plan continues to lend itself to long wait times getting into the Zoo parking lot. As a member of Memphis Zoo – and for any Zoo guest – waiting in your car should not be how you begin your visit.
 98. We need it to be easier and quicker to get into the zoo.
 99. I am concerned with the potential wait times for accessing parking based on the current proposal. I am also concerned about line of site issues for pedestrians. I fully support the Memphis Zoo and want safe, sufficient, and efficient onsite parking.
 100. The most important consideration in proposed zoo parking is to ensure that there is always sufficient, close and convenient parking for all zoo visitors. The zoo is in my opinion one of the top draws to our city and therefore a great financial boon to area businesses whereas the Greensward provides nothing financially and nothing recreationally that is not already available there and in many other locations city-wide. I appreciate trees and green space but common sense should prevail when both are still available in excess.
 101. I am concerned about the proposed long delays to get into the park during the construction of this parking area. High priority should be placed on the Memphis Zoo's accessibility to its patrons. Thanks.
 102. I fully support a complete and user friendly parking plan for the zoo. The zoo is a local treasure which needs adequate parking with minimal hassle to patrons. No long waits to get to parking and no long commutes from the parking to zoo gate. The zoo needs and deserves top priority in this matter.
 103. If we have to wait in a long line to get into the Zoo we won't renew our membership because the only reason we go is for our granddaughter and sitting in a long line with a two year old will never work.
 104. As a member of the Memphis Zoo I wish to let you know that I would appreciate NOT having to wait in long lines to access the new Zoo parking lot as currently proposed. Please reconsider the current plan to make the wait times shorter and it will be a better Zoo experience for all. Thank you.
 105. My family lives in Jackson, MS and have visited the Memphis Zoo twice in the past few months. We love your zoo and plan to return (bought a membership), but the parking really was a nightmare--especially during the Christmas light time. Please come up with a good solution!
 106. My family has been a member of the Memphis Zoo for the past 5 years. As a general rule of thumb, my family tries to get to the zoo as early as possible. I have 4 small children and trekking them across a huge parking lot or down a busy street is not ideal; hence the reason we arrive early. I would love to see the parking lot issue resolved without moving the parking lot far away from the zoo. Also, I don't see it as ideal to have a trolley to take me from the parking lot to the zoo. I have a huge stroller, snack items, and all of my children to keep up with.

I understand the need to keep the park and park on the grass. But I also see the importance of the zoo and its patrons.

107. Quick Memphis zoo access is very important! Please look into the changes that will cause a more efficient & speedy zoo visit!

108. As a long time do member, it's important to me to be able to get into the zoo quickly, and not have to wait a long time to get parking. Please make sure that your plan take this into consideration.

109. I think the current plan for the parking at the Zoo is fine. The protesters on the Greensward need to find a more worthy cause to channel their efforts to. The Memphis Zoo is a treasure and a true asset to the city. Zoo visitors shouldn't be confronted with the simple minded folks trying to protect grass. We love the Zoo and want everyone that comes to have a great experience.

110. We have a World class zoo. We have a World class green space in Shelby Farms. We have lots of golf courses. Let the zoo have all of the space it needs for it's expansion. No intelligent person can argue that Overton Park grass is more important than the display, research and breeding of exotic animals and the education of children and adults.

Build a bigger parking lot for everyone and build a small bus station with direct service to and from the zoo and Shelby farms for those who want to bike, run or walk their pets. Buses can be equipped for bikes, pets and children.

Save the Green space for future zoo expansion.

111. I had rather walk a distance or wait for closer parking if it will help preserve more of the greensward. Walking is good exercise for most people.

112. As a member of the zoo, i do not like the idea of having to wait in my car for a long time before even entering the zoo parking lot. Please think of this concern when making your decision regarding zoo parking.

113. The biggest concern from my family is that we live out of state about 2 hours away which we drive normally 2 hours straight with my almost three year old son. Which by the time we get there he is tired and ready to get out of the vehicle so he can go see the animals or go play on the playground. This is where the concern comes in as I don't want to end up driving 2 hours and having to drive around the parking lot or have to do this or that waiting even longer and forcing him to stay in a vehicle even longer. We literally attend the zoo twice a month from the months of March to October. That is why we have a Zoo membership because of how often we frequent and how we love the zoo regardless of what happens. On one hand I do wish one portion of the parking lot could go to Zoo members just for point of having to almost stalk down a parking place like a lion with a zebra but on the other hand I can see that would cause even more issue for both members and non-members.

114. I think the city of Memphis is missing a huge opportunity here. Try to think outside the box a bit and not put a bandaid on the problem, but bring ideas that everyone can get behind. For instance, plant driveable grass in the area that is currently the greensward. Or build a parking structure that has a community garden on the roof or solar panels that give electricity back to MLGW.

If you think that the people going to the zoo would come in an Uber or via city transportation- you have NEVER been to the zoo. All the people there are families with small kids a ton of stuff. Strollers, wagons, picnics, etc. They are also out of towners/tourists in their own car in groups of 4 people or more. They are not going to be using city transportation.

Back to my original point, come up with a plan that is representative of how the Zoo feels once you enter their doors- not just a standard parking lot.

115. My family loves and supports the zoo and all of its wonderful programs. However, I also love Overton Park and green space.

My input is you do not need more parking. If the current paved parking areas, including the overflow lot just off McLean are full then that is enough people at the zoo. Alternatively, perhaps give money to Snowden School and use their parking area and shuttle people to the zoo.

More parking does not benefit Memphis. I can't support it, no matter how pretty you want to make it.

116. Good afternoon, I live one block away from Overton Park. We are members of the zoo and daily users of all that Overton Park has to offer. There is not much more relaxing than walking down Overton Park Ave,, crossing Kenilworth, to see lovely expansive green space and big beautiful midtown trees. This is a view, that the new parking plan, will ruin.

If this plan comes to fruition, neighbors and all users of users of the Park will see cars and over 300 less trees to enjoy. The new plan also disrespects veterans Plaza by placing cars close to what should be a respected area.

I received a propaganda email from the zoo asking me to write in for the opposite reason. The reason listed was "The current plan continues to lend itself to long wait times getting into the Zoo parking lot. As a member of Memphis Zoo – and for any Zoo guest – waiting in your car should not be how you begin your visit. ". To me this is nonsensical. I meet family and friends from all over Memphis at the zoo often. They simply park in the neighborhood and walk. I have never heard any of them complain about parking or getting on their feet and enjoying the weather as they enter the zoo. I believe, as many others do that it is simply a landgrab for the zoo. Please, Mayor, Continue your work of molding Memphis into a progressive city that respects green space and keep our neighborhood and the original plans for over Overton Park intact.

117. Saving trees in a parking lot by paving over actual park space is a bad trade. Parking lot trees can be replanted and they will grow to maturity over time. Once parkland is paved it is gone forever.

I can live with most of the plan, but the gateway onto the Greensward (supposedly for pedestrians) has absolutely got to go. The ONLY compromise made by the City/Zoo is that this will forever end parking on the Greensward, but if there's a de facto driveway, you can bet that parking will occur. I don't trust anyone at the zoo not to remove any barricade and direct traffic onto the lawn. It will happen if there isn't a permanent barrier and no driveway. This issue alone is important enough that I'd be willing to scrap the entire compromise if it isn't addressed. If protests started up again over this issue, I would be onboard. The zoo's management has already proven themselves to be bad neighbors and very untrustworthy as stewards of the city land that they occupy, and if they aren't physically and legally prohibited from directing traffic

onto the Greensward then OPC and the rest of us need to save our money for the inevitable legal fight and stop funding this project.

118. My family and I come from Jackson, TN, several times throughout the year to the zoo. When in town, we generally do shopping and go out to dinner in Memphis as well. The idea of long wait times, with 3 kids chomping at the bit, in the car to get into the zoo is not ideal. In fact, it would probably led to fewer trips by me and my family. I do hope the city will strongly consider the length of time to wait in its planning.
119. The zoo should be easily accessible for entering as well as exiting... parking should not be a dirty inconvenience when it is peak season.
120. My family drives to the zoo from Collierville frequently. It is one of the many things about Memphis that we love and hold dear. It has become a ritual of ours and we spend many weekend mornings there. Close parking for families should be given a priority over other initiatives this city has. We feel very strongly about this and I know the majority of the community does as well. Please do not let the desires of a small group outweigh the needs of the majority. The Memphis Zoo is a shining star in our city and should be treated as one.
121. In regards to the parking lot plan revealed on February 21, 2018, it is my opinion that the entrance to the zoo needs to be modified for better, quicker, more efficient entrance to the zoo property. No visitor wants to spend excess time in a car waiting to get on property. If you have the opportunity to modify the current parking situation, then take this opportunity to do so for the betterment and enjoyment of the patrons.
122. Hello. I am a relatively recent professional that has relocated to Memphis over the last several years having previously lived mainly on the East Coast. One of the first things that we noticed when we moved here was the high quality of the Zoo. It is incredible and we, as a city, are very fortunate to have one of the best zoos in the country in our own backyard. In my opinion, we should be doing everything possible to make it more accessible to people and increase its prominence. The zoo can draw people to the city and region. I am concerned that the proposed parking plan does not accomplish this goal and will make the parking situation difficult on busy days. If guests find it difficult to park, they will stop coming. I would ask that the plan be revised to take this into consideration. As a resident living downtown, I do not think that our best interests have been incorporated here and while I understand that it is a difficult process, we really need to get this one right.
123. Good afternoon, I am a zoo member and I want to make clear that I support expansions of the parking lot only if they have zero impact on the greensward. I go to the zoo on the weekends and rarely come across long parking lot wait times. Part of that is how I budget my time as we usually go to the zoo early in the morning or during the week. The other part is that I avoid peak times during the afternoon on the weekend. The zoo is dedicated to the preservation and nurture of wildlife that have been hunted by man and made extinct by poor choices. I would implore the zoo to take that same moral stance in regards to the greensward and encourage its members that sacrificing more green area for a slightly larger parking lot is not in the best interest of the earth.
124. I have been a member of the Memphis Zoo for several years now. My family always looks forward to our trips to the zoo. We live a little over two hours from Memphis. After being in a car for two hours to get to the zoo, the last thing we want is to be stuck in the car for a long time waiting to get into the parking lot. If this is going to be an issue for us, we will choose not to

renew our membership and spend our time somewhere else. Please consider all sides of this issue before making a decision.

125. We need to get this done now. We should take as much space as necessary to have save and accessible parking for zoo. This is one of the few places that folks of limited economic means can bring their children. The folks he need more green space should trudge on out to shelby farms.
126. My family and I have been member so the zoo for years. The zoo is a wonderful asset to our city. Waiting in lines to park is not something that encourages tourists or Memphians to visit the zoo. Please reconsider your plans and allow zoo visitors to continue to park in the green space. Memphis needs as many positives as it can get.
127. The lines and parking at the zoo have been a deterrent for us. Twice we have chosen not to visit due to the parking situation and extremely long line. I have 3 kids and this is such an inconvenience for us. Please rectify the situation expediently.
128. Our zoo is one widely known as one of the finest in the country. When I have out-of-state visitors I always recommend a visit to our zoo. Parking issues are an embarrassment to our city and must be fixed. My personal feeling is that good zoo parking is a priority
129. I believe that Memphis Zoo is committed to providing an enjoyable and safe destination for all guests to enjoy. it is invaluable time that is spent with family while attending zoo events. The quick and easy assess to the parking lot with the entrance at front make the event of visiting the zoo a less hassle especially with children. Please continue to maintain the safety of the zoo with the ease of simple parking and accessibility.
130. Please ensure that whatever parking plan you adopt for the Memphis Zoo lends itself to reasonably quick and easy parking. If there is traffic congestion/long wait times to park, people will be less likely to go to the zoo. That means they will be less likely to purchase memberships, which means less money for the zoo, which means less improvements. The Memphis Zoo is a jewel in this city, consistently ranking among the best zoos in the nation. Please help keep it that way by showing your support. Do not make it difficult for people to spend their time and money at such an important fixture in our community.
131. In any design that is brought forth, please consider Overton Park and maintaining as much of it as possible.
132. Thanks for working so diligently to improve the parking situation at the Memphis Zoo. I understand we're really only talking about a handful of days when this urgent overflow parking situation must be dealt with. I like to pop in to the zoo somewhat unplanned on the spur of the moment more or less. If I wake up on a particular Saturday and my schedule is fairly free, we get in the car and head to the zoo on a whim. Even on days when I have a busy Saturday, if the weather is nice it's a great day to be at the zoo.

What I don't want to do is wait in line to park, or walk a long distance to the entrance. I want to spend my time in the zoo and spend my walking inside the zoo.
133. The Memphis zoo is one of the Crown Jewels in this city. I think that anything that can be done to enhance the experience of going to the zoo should be done. I live in Arkansas and have been coming to the zoo for about forty years. It and the Pink Palace are two of the only things that keep me coming to Memphis. Please don't let parking, long walks and waits keep people from

enjoying this treasure. I understand the greens ward is important, but I would have never seen Overton Park without the zoo. I've been a member for years and bought my children and grandchildren memberships. Memphis needs a healthy zoo and parking is a fact of life.

134. Please make the new zoo parking lot easy to get in and out of. We do not need Long waiting lines
135. Please stop wasting your needed attention & skills on a bunch of crybabies. Your kindness is probably right but surely undeserved. These malcontents forget that we have one of the top 5 zoo's in the nation!! If we need more parking? Get more Parking!!! Put it on a ballot and those of us tired of hearing the few wailing crones will vote millions to cover the grass!!! It will bring more \$\$\$ to our city that makes us stronger and more agile to tend to our real problems! Our least concern is whether or not they have some inner city spot to stare off into space or what ever it is that they purport as a necessity. There are hundreds of small intimate parks all over Memphis that cost us a fortune already to maintain. These people have the cake and are eating it too (I personally do not have a problem with that); what is the point of cake and not eating it? We are making a case over nothing; increase the parking with plans to go upward! We are going to need more zoo area; ergo more parking. Sooner or later this facility will become part of an ever accelerating cause to insure the safety and natural habitat of our home, short-sighted people who squabble over a patch of grass are truly cutting of our nose to spite their own face.
136. As a 3rd generation Memphian and member of the zoo I think the plan is a good compromise or both sides. The zoo is such an important positive attraction for this city we need to keep parking for visitors as easy as possible. This location brings tourist and much needed revenue to our city. We should support the zoo in every way possible.
137. My family and I have been coming to the Memphis Zoo regularly for almost 20 years. I have 4 kids ranging from 4 to 18. Many Saturday mornings and summer days they wake up and want to drive over for to see the animals. For us it is about an hour and half drive. I have been on days when we drive up and have no problems parking and we have drove up and spent a lot of time looking for parking.
138. It is not fun to have to drive and then wait. It is also not a lot of fun when it has rained to have to park in the overflow area in the grass by the park and wade through wet grass and mud to get to the zoo. I understand the issues that the friends of the park have with adding parking, but something needs to be done. I am not sure how much rain you have had in Memphis lately, but my yard is a wet mess. I couldn't imaging coming this weekend and having to worry about where I would park.
Thank you for the consideration you are giving to this matter.
139. I don't want to wait in line to park, but I also wouldn't mind eating a penguin so probably best not to listen to me. Knibb High Football Rules!
140. Our family thoroughly enjoys visiting the zoo. It is definitely one of the shining spots of Memphis. I feel that having quick and easy access into the zoo parking lot is a must, especially with children often times that are waiting in the cars, as well.
141. I, Jeanette Pruet, and my family are members of the Memphis Zoo and would like to see adequate parking with ease of access. We left residing in Memphis over 15 years ago because of the soaring crime rate, but do continue to support and visit the zoo. If continued bickering over use of the greens for overflow or otherwise non-access to easy parking occurs we will be forced

- to stop supporting Memphis altogether. Please attend to these issues so that we may continue to visit this lovely asset in Shelby County.
142. Please be considerate of the parking situation. As a Mom of kids who LOVE the Zoo...long wait times can deter us from making the hour and a half drive to the Zoo. One of the reasons we love being members is because of the quick access we have to getting into the Zoo and seeing the animals. Parking is already an issue and the streets can be crowded, please consider an option that makes goes time as less stressful as possible. Thank you.
143. This plan looks good. C'mon - get on with it. This arguing has gone on for long enough. Compromises have been made and it is time to enhance one of the city's great assets - the Zoo!
144. I have been to the Zoo at least 3 times last year when all the parking spots were taken. I request the current plan to expand hard surface parking into the current greenway be adopted. Frankly, I believe the voice of a few is being given more credibility than the needs of the majority. It's time the city administration moves on in addressing the needs of the majority of its citizens and get this over with.
145. I support the building of the parking garage, as long as there is no rectifiable damage to the surrounding park. The lot should have a minimal footprint on the area.
I do not want the zoo, members and tourists to be put out any longer. We must solve this parking problem and keep traffic flowing! I do not want to spend my valuable zoo time sitting in a long line waiting to park.
146. I am writing to comment on the development of a parking lot plan for the Memphis Zoo. I am a member of the zoo and I also work in and frequently visit Overton Park. I feel strongly that the city, the park, and the zoo should work to minimize the presence of cars and traffic in the park, and to prevent any expansion of parking lot space. If we encourage people to walk, ride their bikes, car pool, and take other transport options (whether public or provided by the zoo), we will be working towards a healthier and happier population and a safer and greener park.
147. I am an annual member of the Memphis Zoo. I enjoy bringing my family especially my grandchildren but sometimes parking is very hectic. I am a resident of Mississippi and my drive is about 45 minutes so when I arrive to the zoo I am already tired, then I have to spend another 30 minutes trying to find a parking space. I know I hold a zoo membership so parking is free but it has to be an easier access for members and nonmembers. Parking is essential when you have small children. My opinion is to just create enough parking space for families to enjoy your great establishment. Good luck with upcoming parking issues!
148. I am a zoo member and I was informed that the new parking design would cause a longer than normal wait time for me and my family to enter the zoo. The idea of an easy and quick access to the Zoo is important to me and my family. Please do what you can to remedy this issue before upsetting many patrons to this amazing zoo.
149. As frequent Zoo visitors, we don't want to wait a while in the car to get into the Zoo.
150. I'd like to express my opinion on the updated Zoo parking plan that was presented at the Pink Palace this past week.

First off, I think this plan is better, but still pretty insulting to saving the Greensward space.

- If you remove the trees in the Zoo parking lot, you open up space for more parking, and let's be honest - the Zoo clearly doesn't care about "saving trees," given their childish behavior of removing trees over the past couple of years.
- The parking spaces need to be aligned in a north-south direction - it allowed for the most number of spaces, which is supposedly what the Zoo wants. If this alone isn't accomplished, then it's pretty obvious that their end game is just a land grab, which is 100% unacceptable.

If you did both of those things listed above, you would make up for the 42 spaces that are currently encroaching on the Greensward in the current plan.

There is absolutely NO need for buses to go into the main lot. They should drop off at the North Parkway entrance, and either park there, or go offsite to return for pickup.

There is really no need for the additional sidewalks, either. No one has requested them - the public or the city council, and it just takes more land away from the Greensward. The majority of people will never use it, because it's not in the direct path to the Zoo's entrance. Another massive waste of money & space.

I also submit that there needs to be a "pay upon exit" plan in place, NOT a "pay upon entering" plan. On the busiest days, car traffic starts arriving around the same times each day, but they leave at different points throughout. Allowing them to pay upon exit will alleviate a great deal of the congestion and traffic that the park has to deal with.

There also needs to be a permanent, concrete barrier in addition to the trees separating the parking lot from the Greensward. There is no doubt in my mind that the zoo has every intention of still trying to grab this space eventually, and it needs to be as difficult as possible to do so.

To that end, a written agreement that the Zoo will not encroach on that area in the future would be ideal and a good trade-off for some things like "pay upon entry" and sidewalks.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. As a peripheral follower of this ongoing story, I want you to know that there are many, many more of the "silent opposition" to the zoo's land grab than they are probably aware of. This isn't a case of just a few loud neighbors.

151. There are a few concerns I have about the proposed parking plan that was shared Wednesday night at the Pink Palace.

The 14' walkway from zoo parking into the Greensward seems to be designed for future use by vehicles and not truly designed with pedestrians in mind. Whether this is true or not; it gives the impression of sneaky, underhandedness and as a sign of good faith should be narrowed.

The idea that buses need to have access to the main parking lot, at all, and drop people off directly in front seems unnecessary. Save zoo patrons the added congestion and park-goers the exhaust and make buses drop off on N. Parkway and guests who arrive via bus use the old north entrance.

Lastly, it has been suggested that by configuring the spaces north to south instead of on an angle all 415 required spaces can fit with only the loss of a few trees and without the approximately 42 spaces that cross the OPC boundary. If this true and is being ignored, for whatever reason, those leading this effort should be embarrassed for not honestly maximizing existing space and putting forth the very best, most efficient, plan.

152. SIMPLEST PAY PLAN

Kiosks can be eliminated entirely if parking is paid when entering the zoo, not the parking lot. Folks queue up on foot anyway to buy admission. When they pay their parking fee, they receive a ticket just like the ones used @ Cook Convention Center garage that raises the arm on the exit. Paid members could use their cards. Walkers, bikers, etc., wouldn't need to ask for it. Boom. No traffic backup

153. I came to the meeting last night about the parking "solution" at the Pink Palace and have several comments:

Paving 2.5 acres of the Greensward and the destruction of 100+ trees is an unacceptable "solution". Start over! This is a park, not a parking lot.

Why does the Overton Park Conservancy raise a million dollars for a solution and yet, the compromise only harms the Greensward, not the Zoo.

The q&a and comments at the public meeting last night didn't allow for the public to verbally express their comments. I'm not sure why....Why can't the public verbally express their questions and concerns about this plan? Why must we write them on cards and have them chosen. Doesn't seem like an open process to me. Very disappointing.

154. Thank you for the presentation last night. I have some additional questions for you. In the meeting, you said that making Morrie Moss and Prentiss Place one-way from Poplar to N. McLean would make traffic worse, but you did not elaborate. Can you please provide your reasoning? Your plan includes entry gates into the lot. I understand your arguments against pay kiosks and parking apps. I would like to hear your response to the following pay arrangement, which we believe would have several advantages over pay-on-entering.

- Drivers would enter the lot and proceed directly to their parking spaces.
- Upon entering the zoo's admission gates, non-members would pay the parking fee and both members and non-members would receive a ticket.
- When the vehicle is leaving the lot, this ticket would be inserted into a machine to cause the exit gate to open, as happens at the airport.

The drive aisles in your design run roughly NNW-SSE. This creates vegetated triangles on the western edge of the lot. Is there some reason to run the aisles in this orientation? It would seem that a N-S orientation -- obtained by rotating the aisles clockwise about 30 degrees -- would be more efficient and would save some park land. Doing so would still allow pedestrians to move towards the zoo entrance without crossing traffic.

Could you please provide high-resolution copies of the plan as well as the image with the overlay on the current lot? Thank you for any answers you are able to provide.

155. You have patrons that arrive in mass quantity on beautiful spring days, every one of them park, proceed to the ticket office, and line up to pay their admission to the zoo. They have their credit card, debit card, or cash in hand ready to pay the admission. This would be the most convenient time for the patron to pay a parking fee and their admission in one single transaction. Along with admission, they would be given a ticket that can be inserted into an automatic gate keeper to enable them to exit the parking area upon exit. As already planned, zoo membership cards would open the exit for members to exit.

This would eliminate the need for any delay of patrons entering the parking area, which would alleviate the potential of traffic congestion caused by the choke points of pay upon entrance. This would be more cost effective, as it would eliminate the need for any zoo personnel from

manning a parking booth to collect parking fees. The fees would be collected by the same folks that collect the admission fees.

Since patrons leave sporadically, the delay to exit would rarely be significant, and could be further minimized by eliminating the proposed inbound fast check lane and making three exit lanes with automated ticket collection machines.

This would eliminate the need for a parking booth, and the need for a third lane and kiosk for parking fees, reducing construction costs and reducing the footprint intrusion into the Greensward.

A fourteen foot wide walkway dissecting the parking lot is an excessive and costly waste of space, and realistically unnecessary, considering that it would be extremely inconvenient for anyone parking a row or two away on either side of it. It is human nature to take the shortest route when walking to the entrance of a facility, especially in a huge parking lot. A more standard sized walkway would be more appropriate for the logically expected foot traffic, and considerably less costly to construct.

Adding green space to the zoo's lot between rows of parking would be more palatable, if it didn't require destroying greenspace from the park. Since the zoo parking lot currently doesn't have such features, it doesn't fit into the resolution to take parkland, so that the zoo can add greenspace in their parking lot.

156. The approved parking plan is UNACCEPTABLE. It is entirely possible to fit the new parking spaces inside the current zoo parking footprint without damaging the park AT ALL. It has been proven over and over. There is NO NEED for a ring road and there is certainly NO NEED for FOURTEEN FOOT WIDE SIDEWALKS.

The citizens of the city of Memphis have been VERY clear with their concerns regarding this issue. We do NOT want a ring road. We do NOT want the park harmed in ANY way. The lack of attention given to these concerns is beyond appalling.

The alternate plans are proven to meet the requirements. Do not tell me I am wrong, because I know I am not. Anyone who understands basic mathematics can figure it out.

I would like an HONEST answer to one question: WHY have the citizens been continuously ignored when they are the ones providing logical solutions that benefit both parties? I suspect the honest answer is that the work has been done, the money is in the bank, and that no one wants to do the work involved to solve this issue correctly.

I truly hope someone with a good sense of reason will read this and step up for what is right.

157. Last email from me. I promise.

I've been to most, if not all, of the public meetings and City Council hearings over the last two years regarding Zoo parking and the Greensward. I cringe every time I hear it suggested that the zoo is compromising in any way to reach a solution. To make that assertion is an insult to the intelligence of the thousands of park-loving citizens that have attended these dozens of gatherings.

The zoo is giving up nothing. They are getting 2.4 acres, the fanciest parking lot Memphis has ever seen, and they only partially had to raise the funds for it!

Here is an example of what a real compromise might look like, The fancy new parking lot is made available to anyone visiting Overton Park and it is free for everyone. The zoo can make up for the lost revenue by increasing admission by a dollar or two. Visitors should not care since they are ultimately paying the same amount. The zoo should not care because their revenue stays the same.

For thirty years, the zoo has been opening new exhibits, with the specific goal of increasing attendance, without ever expanding their parking capacity. Code enforcement would never allow a private business to get away with this. Why does the zoo get a pass? The currently proposed solution simply rewards MZS for decades of irresponsible decision making.

It is painfully obvious that the only opinions really being considered are those of wealthy, powerful, zoo associates.

Please stop jerking the tax payers around,

158. I was unsatisfied with the explanation last night for why "pay on exit" would not work. I think it is far superior to the other options. It was explained that "pay on exit" would create traffic congestion inside the parking lot. I do not think that is true.

Most zoo visitors arrive in the morning within about a two hour window. However, zoo visitors leave in the afternoon spread out over a much greater length of time. For this reason, it is most important to get visitors into the parking lot as quickly as possible to eliminate traffic congestion in the surround neighborhoods. There would be no congestion inside the parking lot later in the day because you don't have everyone trying to leave close to the same time.

Even if there were traffic congestion inside the parking lot, is it not fair to concentrate congestion in the area that is the cause of it? Why make people traveling around Midtown suffer delays because of the zoo? But, as I said, I seriously doubt this would be an issue.

Furthermore, "theoretical" traffic congestion inside the zoo parking lot is not a danger to anyone. It's perfectly safe for pedestrians to navigate around slow moving or stopped cars waiting to get out, especially given all the sidewalks that are being incorporated into the parking lot.

I think of the newly renovated parking lots at Memphis International Airport as a good example of the superiority of "pay on exit."

I get the feeling, what is objectively the best option here is not being considered because it is not what a few powerful people associated with the zoo would prefer.

Do the right thing, please,

159. It seems obvious that the main reason for expanding the Zoo parking lot beyond its current boundary is to allow for a ring road. And the ring road only seems necessary to accommodate buses with their wide turn radius. An easy solution would be to not permit buses in the park altogether.

Since buses are going to park on North Parkway anyway, it is more logical, and far more efficient, for visitors in buses to simply use the new North Parkway entrance. It would be

perfectly safe for school kids. They wouldn't have to cross a single road or parking lot to get into the Zoo.

Additionally, I hate the idea of noisy, air-polluting buses traveling in close proximity to the Greensward where park lovers are trying to enjoy nature.

Life long Memphian.

160. I would like to see a proposal that works within the existing footprint of the zoo lot. Just because the Mayor & City Council are willing to give away public parkland, doesn't mean you guys have to use it all? Or are you mandated to do so? Please come up with a plan that doesn't need a single inch of the greensward. Other designers have come close. Take what works and build on it. The citizens of Memphis will not be happy until you find a solution that doesn't involve our precious public parkland.

161. Something that doesn't seem to be addressed in the brief plan I've seen online is the safety of pedestrians crossing Morrie Moss Lane. With the main entrance moving closer to the crosswalk directly across from Overton Park Ave, there will be more distraction from drivers than there currently is. I recommend the installation of flashing lights on pedestrian crosswalk signs activated by a button.

162. I am in favor of the plan presented on 2/21/2018, it looks good.

163. Dear Ms. Walkup, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the parking plan presented last night at the Pink Palace Museum. I wrote a question on a note card which the representative from Hill/Power's attempted to address but she missed my entire point. When I interrupted before she went on to the next card to clarify my question, she still was not able to answer in a way I could grasp, although my question was quite simple:

"As a daily bicycle and pedestrian visitor to the park and often to the zoo, I very much appreciate the effort in the plan to encourage safe, attractive, and desirable *pedestrian* access to the zoo. How does the plan encourage safe, desirable, and attractive access to the zoo for bike visitors?"

The representative's first response was that there would be bike parking near the entrance, but that was not my question. When I clarified, she thoughtfully returned to the plan and pointed to the 14" wide sidewalk from the greensward area and the walking sidewalk at the car entrance gate.

Ms. Walkup, as a life-long bicycle commuter, I am pretty sure I am not supposed to ride on the side walk. The Hill/Power's answer was not an informed design solution.

I URGE the zoo parking planners, in conjunction with the city's bike/ped tsar, to consider how simple it would be with signage and asphalt already designated in the plan to encourage families and individuals to bike to the zoo. This would alleviate traffic throughout the park and access roads thereto.

Mr. McGowan later noted that he is CEO of the Memphis Bike Share program (YAY!). PLEASE share this recommendation with him. The intentional creation of safe and desirable bike access needs to be there for the benefit of the zoo parking, Overton Park traffic, and the neighbors.

164. PLEASE, PLEASE reconsider the plan unveiled last evening regarding the zoo parking plan. A ring road and extra wide (14 ft?!) sidewalks are unnecessary! If the projected parking positions

are reconfigured, the zoo could stay within, for the most part, its current footprint. Giving up so many trees seems absurd, since THERE TRULY IS a "saving grace" way to make it happen. We only have this one chance to save as much of our park as possible. We need your help! Please.

165. I know that everyone involved has put a lot of time and effort into these plans, for which I am grateful.

I understand that the main charge of the designers was to add parking spots for the zoo while not encroaching into the Greensward. But my main issue with this design is that it is only concerned about zoo parking and doesn't consider how the zoo's parking fits into a bigger picture of a) people who arrive at the zoo in ways other than cars b) people who attend Overton Park, but not the zoo. This is a concern I've aired at every stage of the design planning.

This design basically turns one of the main park entrances, on Prentiss Place, into part of the zoo's parking lot. For anyone coming into the park -- not just the zoo, but any other attraction in OP -- from the north or west, Prentiss Place is the entrance. Right now, getting in that entrance is already harrowing, especially for people getting off the bus, on foot, or on bikes. The sidewalks are narrow and in terrible shape, they cut across the street several times, and there is zero effort made to keep pedestrians or bikes safe at this entrance. This design, with all those zoo-specific parking spots on Prentiss Place, will only make that worse. With all due respect, it seems like very little thought was given to anyone who is not specifically going to the zoo by car -- which leaves out a lot of other stakeholders who will be effected by this design. And it's worth remembering that even those people who arrive to the zoo by car are pedestrians as soon as they park -- and they'll face the same challenges as the people who walked, parked on a neighborhood street to avoid paying, took the bus, or rode their bikes.

My family are all zoo members, and we attend regularly all year long. During the summer, my children attend multiple zoo camps. And we're at other Overton Park amenities multiple times per week. We never drive. We always ride bikes or take public transit. I know that puts us in the minority, but if you look at the sidewalks and bike lanes around OP on the busiest days of the year, there are a lot of people just like us.

This design, with all due respect, lacks vision. It does not anticipate nor fit into how the rest of the city and planning department are laying the foundations for a multi-modal future. Here's two examples: Bike/Ped Memphis is planning two routes to connect the Shelby Farms Greenline to downtown -- it would be wonderful if this design of Prentiss and Morris provided an obvious option for connecting OP to that transit line. The arrival of BikeShare in Memphis is immanent. It would be wonderful if the Prentiss Place entrance made an obvious, inviting entry point for people traveling from Crosstown Concourse into the park.

I love the zoo, and I love the park. I want them to be accessible and inviting to everyone, and I want them to be part of the exciting plans going on elsewhere in Memphis.

166. I want to say I think the team has done a great job in the planning of the new lot. I recognize that the zoo, along with the park, both deserve consideration as a valuable asset to the city. That being said, I also believe the zoo is giving up very little in this "compromise" whereas the OPC is giving up both land and money for something that really only benefits the zoo. In the interest of being done with this disaster, of the zoo's own making, I mostly support the current design, but I do have a few comments on the plan that I wanted to share.

1) Buses: I do not believe allowing buses in the main lot is a good idea. The lot is designed for cars. Buses will only cause congestion in the lot and will make the lot more unsafe for pedestrians and motorists, something the planning team said was of the utmost importance.

Easy and arguably better alternatives for buses in the lot might include:

a) moving the lot near the entrance of the zoo (with the disabled parking spots) further east/northeast and therefore the 8 spots nearest Prentiss Place in that lot could become a buss drop off zone, without blocking traffic. The zoo, of course, would have to give up a bit of the concrete but it in no way would encroach on the entrance and would make for a safe drop zone for kids.

b) Alternatively and even easier would be to create a No Parking bus drop off zone at the zoo's north entrance. This is a 100% safe way since everyone would disembark onto a public sidewalk and enter the zoo literally steps away. The buses would then park on the far side of North Parkway and wait for their passenger to return.

2) The park stands to gain nothing out of the deal...which means any slide labeled "Compromise" is hardly a compromise:

a) The zoo has managed to convince the city to force the OPC to pay for half of a parking lot that they didn't want and get no benefit from. As such I would advocate that, if not permanent, that part of the parking lot fees be allocated back to the OPC until they have been reimbursed for their contribution.

b) The OPC is giving up as much as 2.4 acres of parkland to the zoo. The zoo should give up some portion of its land as part of the compromise. If the road behind Zambezi was narrowed it would still be plenty wide enough for service vehicles. Then the concrete animals at the entrance could either be pushed closer to the entrance or remove half of them to make room to move the driveway further north. Finally, the handicap lot could similarly be moved north by eliminating or narrowing the pedestrian walkway. At that point, the entire lot could be moved north by probably 5 or 10 feet, thereby reducing some of the 2.4 acres needed. I fail to see why none of this was ever considered in any of the concepts...given this is supposed to be a compromise.

Other than these two observations I generally am in favor of the rest of the project. I think it will enhance the overall look and use of the park and the zoo. Because, by the way, the zoo's current parking lot is ugly and them parking cars on the Greensward was even uglier. So clearly the zoo cares nothing about anything outside of the walls of the zoo...so any input from the zoo should be highly scrutinized...as their track record for esthetics outside of the zoo is far from stellar.

167. PLEASE consider making the drive aisles in the main lot run North-South. When mamma bear gets her kids in the wagon and spies the zoo entrance, she's not going to think much about a sidewalk that doesn't head directly toward it.

168. Mayor Strickland should prepare to dedicate traffic control manpower to N Pkwy & McLean, as well as the Poplar entrance to Overton Park. By not closing Prentiss Place, or at least making it a one-way exit the ongoing traffic fustercluck will continue.

I LIVE on N Pkwy. Perhaps I'll spend some time this spring just counting accidents.

Oh, Mary Wilder already pointed out the # of traffic reports filed just at that intersection? Thank you, Mary.

Thank you for preserving the sacred ambience of Veterans Plaza. I guess I'll just have to sit quietly and pray for the time paid parking is a thing of the past.

One more thing: Please remember this quote from my friend Hunter Demster. "This isn't about grass. This is about influence of the rich and powerful over our publicly owned land. Richard Smith(Fed Ex) recently made a complaint about 5ks blocking his driveway. One phone call, to a city councilman, got the entire permit process rewritten, making it harder for nonprofits to raise money and restricting your rights to assemble/protest. Diane Smith(fedex) and Richard Smith(fedex) are on the board of the Memphis zoological society. The zoo is the Smiths' pet project. The administration only represents the rich and powerful. This is about reclaiming the voice of the people and the importance of FREE public greenspace. All of this lands squarely on the shoulders of Mayor Strickland moving forward. It's his choice on how to proceed. One phone call gets things done vs the entire community surrounding Overton Park standing up? Oligarchy much? #savethegreensward"

169. A pretty good plan but for bringing the buses into and around the entire ring road. Seems like there should be a separate bus drop zone. Bringing them into the main parking lot adds to exhaust, traffic congestion and ugliness. If they do not have to enter the main parking area, the third lane at entry could be removed and more space left between Vet Plaza and road.
170. Take out the Parkway Drive so we don't have to smell gas fumes. Reduce the footprint. Have buses drop off on North Parkway. Remove the concrete animal statues to encroach less than 2.4 insane acres and save more trees.
171. I have reviewed the latest zoo parking plan online. The fact that this plan takes in any of the Greensward, even just a couple of acres, as presented, is unacceptable. A plan has been presented that is efficient and gives the zoo more than what it needs by a different designer with 20 years experience. We don't need to pave over paradise and put up a parking lot. We need to use our resources more wisely. This new plan still does not fit the bill. Please find a plan that does not take up ANY of the greensward.
172. I have been laying out parking lots for over 20 years. The question I asked tonight was if they had considered laying out the lot with aisles running north-south instead of on an angle. I have proven with my plan that they can get all of the required 415 spaces (plus more) if they lay out the lot in a more efficient manner and remove a handful of the trees in the existing lot. Doing this would eliminate the approximately 42 spaces that they have designed that encroach on the existing OPC boundary. Their only response is that my plan did not meet the council's requirements. No will explain to me how my plan doesn't work. Their only excuse is that they wanted to save the trees in the zoo lot. THIS IS NOT A REQUIREMENT IN THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION! No one that I've talked to is interested in saving those trees within the existing lot and giving up greensward space. #NOTONEINCH
173. I was at the presentation tonight. I do not believe you are efficiently laying out the available space. Common sense says the longer a continuous row is, the better, because a lot of acreage is eaten by corners. Chooch says he has fit all the carspaces into the land by going at a certain angle and you refuse to answer or respect him. Are you SURE you want to go there?? He says saving trees is not in the city's mandate. I say, save notable trees and put permeable pavement around them, not greenery.
174. As you know the people of midtown and Memphis do not want our park annexed by the zoo for its parking. We also know it is unnecessary. Please consider a plan with north-south aisles and no saving of zoo trees.

175. It's a shame busses will be allowed into the park at all.
I'm late to the discussion, but it seems like North Parkway would be best for dealing with them.
Keep those diesel fumes out of our park.

176. I just want to say that not one inch more of the park is going to the zoo.
Bottom line. Not One Inch. It can be done.