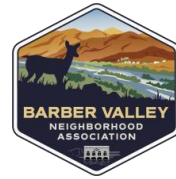


6 September 2023

Via Email: Mayor and City Council



Re: Alta Harris Park Development

Mayor and Council Members,

As representatives of those living and working in the Barber Valley, the Directors of the Barber Valley Neighborhood Association (BVNA) Board fully support the mayor’s 10-minute “walk to a park” goal. The Barber Valley is a fantastic place to live and work but—among other amenities—it lacks parks. Our neighborhood has one of the largest unmet needs for park services of any neighborhood in Boise and given the rapidly growing nature of the area, this situation will only get worse. The city has an opportunity to make the mayor’s goal a reality within Barber Valley, however this can’t be achieved without the construction of Alta Harris Park. Continued delays in the funding and construction of Alta Harris Park have led to increased frustration on the part of Barber Valley residents.

We recognize that attempts to develop the Alta Harris Park have a long history and endured many complicating factors. The point is not to revisit any of the past challenges in depth, but rather to focus on the current impacts. The ongoing CID litigation is now being used as a “convenient” excuse for non-action. 65% of the Barber Valley is not located within the Harris Ranch CID and the residents outside the CID expect park impact fees to be spent for their benefit in their neighborhood.

We request the City develop an explicit and transparent plan of action that discloses to the public the specific process and timeline within which the City will resolve the Alta Harris Park funding and construction issues, including the highly time-sensitive land conveyance agreement with the Harris family. As part of this process, the city should pursue innovative funding mechanisms to cover park construction shortfalls without relying on CID taxes.

BVNA has a strong desire to reach closure on Alta Harris Park development in an expeditious and substantive manner that meets the needs of our neighborhood and avoids additional time-sensitive issues. The City should be proactive versus reactive in resolving the issues to ensure a successful outcome. As a neighborhood board, we feel we have a responsibility to stay engaged on this issue on behalf of our members. As a result, we encourage the city to be proactive in its communications with the BVNA and its neighbors regarding the status of steps the city is taking towards development of Alta Harris Park.

Barber Valley Neighborhood Association Board

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Copies Via Email: Parks and Recreation Director & Parks Resources Superintendent