

From: The Downtown Leadership Council (DLC)
To: Mayor and City Council
Date: April 4, 2019
Re: Flat Branch Park Expansion options

Dear Mayor Treece and Members of the Council:

The DLC has reviewed and discussed the Flat Branch Park Expansion Master Plan concept proposed by the COMO200 Park Expansion working group, as well as the two alternative plans. It is the recommendation of the DLC that the City proceed with the "Option 1" plan, as currently recommended.

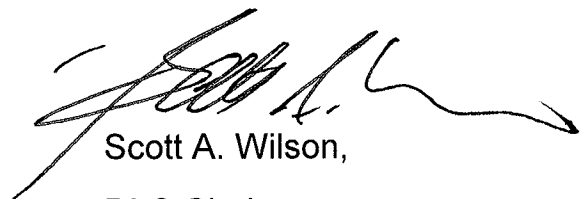
The DLC discussed the alternate plan proposed by the property owner to the east, as well as Option 3, but nearly unanimous majority of the DLC believes the Gateway Plaza previously approved by the Council is not suitable for a parking lot, given the limited space in the area and its geographical and historical importance.

The biggest issue for the DLC was safety: given the short distance to the corner of the intersection—particularly with the lengthened turn lane from Providence and the increased pedestrian traffic to the plaza and park—a parking lot entrance and exit there would be too dangerous for pedestrian and automobile traffic.

The DLC is fully supportive of the Flat Branch Park Expansion to create a much more open, attractive, and walkable urban park and a historical gateway to downtown which will truly be a gemstone for Columbia for the next 200 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,



Scott A. Wilson,
DLC Chair