

be supplemented. The Plan does recommend dramatic increases in density and residential activity in downtown. The Department concurred with the suggestion that the goal statements “maintain and enhance open space” include the word “supplement.”

Issue 17 suggests that the Heritage Land Bank be named as a specific implementer to add to open spaces. The Department feels this is premature as the policies and strategies are intended as such and generally do not name the implementers, which occurs in Chapter 8. LU-12 recommends a parks and open space plan for downtown. Through that process Parks and others would identify those entities that could help secure more open space for downtown.

Issue 18 asks why there is a recommendation for a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for downtown only rather than just for a Parks and Open Space Plan with the Parks & Recreation Commission functioning as an advisory board. The Parks Department explains that the idea behind the Advisory Committee stems from the 2006 Bowl Parks Plan. COMMISSIONER PEASE supported the Staff finding. She noted that in the past some groups have assembled and developed lists of park projects and those lists have become lost. She thinks that this advisory committee would be a good use of citizen time that will help the Parks Department.

Issue 19 relates to the Delaney Park. The Department documents that the public participation process for Delaney has occurred.

Issue 20 relates to changes in Town Square Park. The first comment is whether it is appropriate for the Park to be a venue for large events and whether it is appropriate to make changes for visibility and connectivity. The second issue was jurisdiction, particularly the relationship between the overall Downtown Plan and site planning for parks. The third issue was concerns about adequate public process. The Department notes that the Downtown Plan does not suggest major changes to how the Park is managed today. Town Square is already operated as a large venue and it is seen that way in the Parks Plan. COMMISSIONER JOSEPHSON understood there is a constituency that believes the Park does not need improvement. He understood that the Department is aware of that constituency and is sensitive to it.

COMMISSIONER PHELPS thought it would be necessary or appropriate to define the current functions and roles of the Town Square Park in the Downtown Plan. In his review of this section of the

Plan it appeared that a major change was envisioned, but Staff indicates that is not the case. MR. DAVIS thought it may be a good idea to add information on the function of parks per the Park Plan.

CHAIR JONES stated a recent joint briefing was given to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Urban Design Commission regarding the F Street Corridor project. The proposed plans and the various phases were reviewed. At that session, she asked specifically regarding any proposed changes related to Town Square Park and it was confirmed that anything associated with that Park would undergo a public process. She felt it was important and helpful for decision-makers to have the stated function and purpose of the Park in writing.

MR. DAVIS continued with his review. Issues 21 and 22 were questions and the Department provided answers. Issue 21 speaks to the ownership of F Street at the south entrance to the Performing Arts Center. Issue 22 regards air rights and solar access to Town Square Park. AO 85-173 establishes air rights to the south of the Town Square Park, affecting three blocks. Height limitations range from 85 feet to 200 feet, depending on the location of development. On page 104, the Plan provides adequate, overarching general policy guidance about protecting sunlight access to the Park and other sensitive locations.

COMMISSIONER PHELPS felt this is a significant issue. He felt it was useful to refer to the AO. He recommended an informational statement to this effect. MR. NELSON expressed agreement with this suggestion.

Issue 23 refers to the establishment of an Historic Preservation Commission; this has already occurred.

Issue 24 regards the Historic Overlay Zone. Page 68 of the Plan is a map showing conceptual boundaries for this zone. The Department recommends removing the conceptual boundaries from the map because it is premature to suggest those boundaries. The Department further suggests moving language away from specifically recommending the Zone and instead suggests that the Commission be engaged in the development of an Historic Preservation Plan for downtown.

COMMISSIONER JOSEPHSON thought that this type of designation is important to tourists and he would hate to see it drift. MR. DAVIS explained the intent is to give back-up for the designation of historic