

Murphey Candler Neighborhood Association
Position Statement on Proposed Community Center
Dated: August 26, 2020

The Murphey Candler Neighborhood Association (MCNA) represents 366 homes surrounding Murphey Candler Park. The mission of the MCNA is to offer a mechanism to organize and provide a strong voice to the many diverse residents in our neighborhood to preserve and enhance the many richly unique characteristics of this neighborhood.

During the summer months of 2020, the MCNA responded to the City of Brookhaven's request for public input on a community center, which is proposed for the southwest corner of the park where the scout hut is presently located. The MCNA engaged the City's toolkit process and conducted four virtual meetings to elicit the participation and opinions of members and neighbors.

Our results revealed that the three highest ranking building programs were, in order of importance, restrooms, an outdoor overlook, and a multi-purpose meeting room. The highest ranking architectural components were, also in order of importance, a large deck, large picture windows, and a sustainable building certification. These preferences were also evident during the group exercise to allocate funds for building programs.

Additionally, MCNA members and participants uniformly expressed concern that the community center footprint remain the same as that of the current scout hut, that parking be a primary consideration in designing any new building programs, how the City intends to allocate financial and staff resources to maintain this facility beyond the life of the park bond program, and that there be no net loss of trees.

Based on the above, the MCNA requests that the City Council direct the City staff and contractors to incorporate these preferences of the park neighbors and residents. Specifically, that a new community center be limited to the existing footprint, that the design of the building programs be limited to an outdoor overlook and multi-purpose room and to the available parking, that there be no net loss of trees, and that the City share with taxpayers how it intends to provide sufficient funds for the long term maintenance of the community center and its building programs.