

Keri O'Brien

From: Keith Banning <kbanning@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 1:13 PM
To: District I; District II; District III; District IV; District V; District VI; Mayor E-Mail
Cc: Keri O'Brien; Jennifer Banning
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please vote YES on Agenda Item #47

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Dear Mayor Henriquez and City Commissioners,

We're writing to express our strong support for Agenda Item #47 on this Wednesday's Commission agenda, and to reiterate our opposition to Item #48.

It's become clear that there is currently no comprehensive plan for Bayview Park. Until the community has had a chance to weigh in and a professional master plan is developed, no city funds should be committed to projects there.

Fortunately, as Item #47 highlights, the city still has over \$300,000 allocated to create a master plan for the entire park. It's essential we stay the course and prioritize a thoughtful, inclusive planning process over fast-tracking changes—especially those pushed by a small group seeking to turf the ball field without broader input.

Initially, our concerns about artificial turf centered on its incompatibility with a historic park in Old Town. But further research has only deepened my opposition: increased injury risk, extreme heat retention, and higher long-term costs make artificial turf a poor fit for our small, historic field on a hot island. The fiscally responsible approach is to hold off and prioritize long-term planning.

Thank you again for your decision last month to return this issue to the Parks & Rec Board, and to that board for recommending a more comprehensive planning process with a delay until July. These actions have made clear your commitment to community input and sound decision-making.

We appreciate your consideration.

Best regards,
Keith & Jennifer Banning
1430 Virginia St
Key West