



Thursday, February 15, 2007

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Item(s) from Council
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

ITEM No. 26

Subject: Approve a resolution supporting passage of legislation maximizing the use of revenue from State generated sporting goods sales tax to fund parks and recreation programs

Sponsor: Mayor Will Wynn

Co-Sponsor1: Council Member Lee Leffingwell

Co-Sponsor2: Council Member Mike Martinez

**Additional Backup
Material**

(click to open)

Resolution

For More Information: Matt Watson, 974-2043

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) administers the Texas Recreation & Parks Account Local Park Grant Program (TRPA) and manages 114 State parks and historical sites in Texas; and

WHEREAS, TPWD has a separate account in their general revenue fund referred to as the TRPA for the purpose of providing matching grants to political subdivisions for parks and recreation projects; and

WHEREAS, the matching grants provided by the TPWD are utilized for the planning, acquisition, and development of local park, recreation and open space areas to be owned and maintained by political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, funds granted to political subdivisions under the TRPA guidelines have funded 1,029 projects of the 2,851 submitted over 25 years delivering over \$623 million dollars to the local Texas economy, and

WHEREAS, political subdivisions throughout the State of Texas depend on grants from TPWD through the TRPA to stimulate the acquisition and development of parks and recreational areas for the benefit and enjoyment of their citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the TRPA and State parks are funded from sales tax on sporting goods and that the development of new parks stimulates the purchase of sporting goods; and

WHEREAS, continued cutbacks in appropriations for State park and historic sites have resulted in a backlog of deferred maintenance issues, park closures, reduced hours and days of operation, staff layoffs, the conversion of some parks to day use only and elimination of important visitor services, regardless of the growing need for new parks due to the State's expanding population and extensive tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the development of parks encourages and promotes public health, economic development, job creation, education; corporate relocations, an improved quality of life, and juvenile crime prevention; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this City Council that a copy of this resolution with appropriate names affixed be presented to the Governor of Texas and the leadership of the 80th Texas Legislature; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council requests that members of the 80th Legislature of Texas seek passage of legislation maximizing the use of revenue from the sporting goods sales tax to increase funding for parks and recreation programs fairly for

both local and state parks and that all TRPA funded park projects be subject to the established TPWD competitive scoring system.

ADOPTED: _____, 2007 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk