

AGENDA



Wednesday, June 18, 2008

**Parks and Recreation
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 34**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing execution of an Advance Funding Agreement and acceptance of \$1,505,000 in funds from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT); and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Parks and Recreation Department Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20070910-003 to appropriate \$1,505,000 for construction of the Northern Walnut Creek Hike & Bike Trail Phase 2 project; and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget of Ordinance No. 20070910-004 to appropriate \$1,505,000 from the Parks and Recreation Department Special Revenue Fund for the Northern Walnut Creek Hike & Bike Trail Phase 2 project.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$457,150 for grant participation is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Amended Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department; funding in the amount of \$1,505,000 is available in grant funds from the Texas Department of Transportation.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached

For More Information: Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, 974-6765

Prior Council Action: July 11, 2002 Council amended the Parks and Recreation Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Capital Budget of Ordinance No. 010910-02 to accept a TEA – 21 grant and appropriate \$1,996,261 on reimbursable funds for the Texas Department of Transportation for the Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 1 project. July 17, 2003 Council authorized entering into and advanced funding agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation Enhancement Project known as Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 1 and approved matching funds of \$1,330,841.

The Walnut Creek Trail project is an initiative to develop an extensive trail system along this major Austin creek. Phase I, a 3.25 mile trail, extends from Balcones District Park to Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park. Ultimately the plan is to develop the trail to the Colorado River.

The project is made possible by funding from Federal Transportation grants administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). TxDOT approved Transportation Enhancement (TEA-21) funding for the Northern Walnut Creek Trail Project Phase 1 in April 2002. July 11, 2002, the City Council authorized acceptance of the grant (\$1,996,261) and amended the Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC). In July 17, 2003, Council authorized entering into an Advanced Funding agreement with TxDOT for Phase I and committed matching funds from the City in the amount of \$1,330,841. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2009 after TxDOT completes their review of construction plans.

In order to extend the Northern Walnut Creek Trail from Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park to IH 35, PARC applied for and received an additional grant from TxDOT in the amount of \$1,905,000. On June 12, 2006, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Transportation Policy Board approved the allocation of STP MM (Metropolitan Mobility) funds for Fiscal Years 2006-2008. The allocation of funding was subsequently amended by TxDOT to become available for the Fiscal Years 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Plan.

TxDOT participation will be 79% in the amount of \$1,505,000 and City of Austin PARD participation will be 21% in the amount of \$400,000. In addition to the City's \$400,000 grant match, PARD is responsible for a payment to TxDOT of 3% of the total grant in the amount of \$57,150 for direct State costs including review, secondary inspection and oversight.

By this action, Council authorizes execution of an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT. Council is also authorizing a budget amendment, in the amount of \$1,505,000. The budget amendment, along with the required grant match in the amount of \$457,150 provides funding for the proposed work on the Northern Walnut Creek Hike & Bike Trail Phase 2 project, a 10 foot wide concrete trail with 2 foot wide grass shoulders on both sides of the trail. The trail will follow Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park west of Lamar Blvd to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality headquarters west of IH 35.