

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Austin Water Utility RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 12

Subject: Authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with Hill Country Conservancy for the formation of a private-public partnership to govern the planning for and implementation of a regional trail known as "Walk for a Day."

Amount and Source of Funding: No funding is required for this action.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Daryl Slusher, 972-0218; Sara Hensley, 974-6716; Denise Avery, 972-0104

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission and Parks and Recreation Board. To be reviewed by the Environmental Board on November 4, 2009.

Prior Council Action: January 15, 2009 - Council approved a resolution to negotiate a memorandum of agreement with the City and Hill Country Conservancy to develop a regional trail currently known as "Walk for a Day."

On January 15, 2009, City Council passed a resolution endorsing Walk for a Day and directing the City Manager to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement with Hill Country Conservancy in order to facilitate planning and implementation for this regional trail. The attached Memorandum of Agreement fully outlines how the City and Hill Country Conservancy will move forward to plan, construct, operate, and maintain the trail. It represents the commitments from City departments including Austin Water Utility, Parks and Recreation Department, Watershed Protection Department, Planning and Development Review Department, and Law Department; and commitments for Hill Country Conservancy.

This proposed Memorandum of Agreement assures that adequate resources for construction, operation, maintenance, and security are available to the City prior to initiation of any action on the trail or a segment of the trail, as committed to by Hill Country Conservancy. The proposed Memorandum of Agreement also commits the City to assure public involvement in all aspects of Walk for a Day as described in the draft Public Involvement Plan. The parties also mutually agree to assure public involvement in all aspects of planning the proposed trail.

City Council originally directed that this agreement be placed on its February 26, 2009 agenda. That posting was delayed at the request of the joint City of Austin/Hill Country Conservancy Walk For A Day Steering Committee with consent of the City Manager.