Thursday, October 28, 2010

Parks and Recreation RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 17

Subject: Authorize the negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and Austin Independent School District for the use of the South Austin Recreation Center to conduct the Go Project.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Kimberly McNeeley, 974-6714; April Thedford 974-6716

On June 29, 2010 the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) communicated to the City Manager's Office its intention to maximize the use of all PARD facilities. The Department is committed to addressing issues and needs that are important to the community and supports initiatives that benefit the general public. As such, PARD evaluated the facility use at South Austin Recreation Center and determined it is appropriate to offer classroom space to Austin Independent School District (AISD) for the facilitation of the Go Project, a special education program with the goal of assisting students with disabilities age 18 to 22 transition from the school environment to post- school independent living.

The City of Austin, PARD and AISD share a mutual interest in seeing that IDEA- eligible (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act) high school aged and older students are afforded opportunities to obtain skills to assist them in becoming productive citizens. The use of South Austin Recreation Center by AISD allows students to develop and practice age appropriate life skills outside the traditional school setting. Transitional life skill services provided at South Austin Recreation Center will be in accordance with those items specified in each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), and may include, but are not limited to, vocational training, learning to use public transportation, utilization of leisure time, and independent living skills.

The majority of time AISD will be at South Austin Recreation Center will be during hours of the day that South Austin Recreation Center is not open to the public. AISD's use of the facility will in no way interfere with PARD's recreational programming or general public access.