

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in 1922 local developer Ollie O. Norwood and his wife, Calie Norwood, built a small bungalow on the bluffs above the south bank of the Colorado River, just west of the area where Interstate 35 now crosses Lady Bird Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Norwood House occupied a 3-acre estate that included a rose garden, a greenhouse, a fountain, a gazebo/teahouse, and the first geothermal-fed swimming pool in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin bought the Norwood Estate, including the house, in the mid-1980s; and

WHEREAS, the Norwood Estate has not been maintained or improved to reach its highest and best use due to a lack of funding and to the absence of a complete vision for the area; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) performed a conditions assessment and feasibility study, with multiple community input meetings, that included a detailed review of the historic house and grounds; and

WHEREAS, concerned citizens have formed the Norwood Park Foundation (NPF) in order to raise funds and work directly on restoring the Norwood House to a usable facility; and

WHEREAS, the NPF and PARD have begun work on a Park Improvement Agreement regarding restoration of the Norwood House; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of the Norwood House could help meet the growing community demand for usable public space, and provide an additional facility for hosting private events; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Council supports the efforts of the Norwood Park Foundation to fund and restore the Norwood House and further supports the use of the restored Norwood House as a community meeting space and potential revenue-generating event rental facility for use by the entire Austin community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to negotiate and execute the Norwood House Park Improvement Agreement with the Norwood Park Foundation, paying close attention to aspects of the Agreement where future departmental budgets may be used for future phase needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to present the Preferred Alternative portion of the Norwood Park Conditions Assessment and Feasibility Report (attached as Exhibit A), to the Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee (CPTC) for its review. The CPTC will make recommendations to the full City Council regarding adoption of the Preferred Alternative as the conceptual framework for future improvements to the Norwood Estate.

ADOPTED: _____, 2012 **ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

Norwood Park Conditions Assessment and Feasibility Report Preferred Alternative