



Late Backup

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: June 27, 2012

SUBJECT: Park Master Planning and Implementation

On April 5, 2012, Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to make recommendations on a public process for the review and consideration of new proposed uses for parkland that has no adopted park master plan, that has no identified use in an adopted park master plan or for which proposed uses may be inconsistent with an adopted park master plan.

At Tuesday night's Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, Parks and Recreation Staff presented recommendations regarding Park Master Planning and Implementation. The item was recommended and approved by the Board. The Parks and Recreation staff concurs.

Public Involvement and City Council Approval

A Park Concept/Master Plan is a planning process that includes collaboration with neighborhood stakeholders to identify desired park use. Staff also reviews other adopted or recognized plans for consistency with the proposed parkland or park amenity. After collaborating with citizens, the resulting park concept or master plan of a pocket, neighborhood, district, metropolitan park, or trail system will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) for review and comment, and then presented to City Council for approval. Staff will convey the PARB recommendations on the concept or master plan in the Request for Council Action.

For parkland that has no adopted park master plan, no identified use in an adopted park master plan, or for which proposed uses may be inconsistent with an adopted park master plan, the PARB shall review and make a recommendation to Council. The City Council shall approve projects that meet at least ONE of the following criteria:

- a. Requires an increase in the number of parking spaces;
- b. Requires an adjustment to the existing maintenance plan, operation, or program budget;
- c. Costs greater than \$55,000 or not to exceed the Administrative Authority, including staff time and maintenance;

- d. Conflicts with an adopted neighborhood or small area plan;
- e. Changes the traditional use of any portion of parkland or facilities; or
- f. Changes the programming or management of a facility or parkland

If a park amenity is requested, either from staff or other stakeholders, that is inconsistent with a recognized Park Concept Plan or Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Board and the City Council shall review and consider approval of the proposed park amenity prior to significant staff resources being spent on such amenity.

Should you have any question, please contact my office at 974-6717

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Parks and Recreation Board