

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, 06/24/2019
DRAFT Resolution Language: Parks Funding Working Group

WHEREAS, equitable access to quality parks, trails, open space and recreational opportunities is fundamental to the mental and physical health of all Austinites as in accordance with the Imagine Austin plan; and

WHEREAS, ParkScore, the gold standard for assessing urban parks compiled by the Trust for Public Land annually, ranks Austin 43rd out of the 100 largest US cities; and

WHEREAS, only 59% of Austin residents live within a ten-minute walk of a park, while 93.3% of residents in ParkScore's top ten ranked cities live within a 10-minute walk of a park; and

WHEREAS Austin currently spends \$119.18 per resident on enhancing and maintaining its parks, while the top ten ranked ParkScore cities spend an average of \$241.14 per resident;

WHEREAS, future property tax revenue caps imposed by the State of Texas pose a threat to the City's ability to continue adequate maintenance of parkland and park facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department anticipates \$XXmm in unmet needs in its FY 2020 budget and is currently experiencing a maintenance backlog at an estimated cost of \$XXmm;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) encourages the Austin City Council to approve the establishment of a PARB-led "Parks Funding Working Group" that aims to identify actionable mechanisms and potential revenue streams to increase funding and resources that support the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department in delivering its mission, in accordance with the format defined below.

Recommended Working Group Format

- Timeline: 6 months
- Structure:
 - Chaired by PARB Member
 - Inclusion of relevant community leaders
 - Monthly Working Group meetings
 - Subcommittees research possible revenue mechanisms and present findings to full committee and to PARB
- Deliverables: PARB recommendation of revenue mechanisms and/or resources for support by City Council