RESOLUTION NO. 20090115-028

WHEREAS, City Council directed the City Manager on October 19, 2006, to create a comprehensive master plan for Barton Springs Pool to be established through a public process; and

WHEREAS, after an extensive public process involving over eighty public meetings and four town-hall meetings, and receiving voluminous input from stakeholders, the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan: Concepts for Preservation and Improvement (“Master Plan”) has been created; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan recognizes that Barton Springs Pool, a historical landmark, is considered to be one of the crown jewels of Austin, enjoyed annually by more than 450,000 people; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan acknowledges the fragility of the Barton Springs Pool and the desire of Austin’s citizens to preserve and protect this important resource; and

WHEREAS, the only known surface habitats of the Barton Springs Salamander (Eurycea sosorum) are located in Barton Springs Pool, Eliza Springs, Old Mill Springs (Sunken Garden) and Upper Barton Springs; and

WHEREAS, several scientific studies are underway to aid in determining how best to improve water quality within the pool confines for swimmers and salamanders alike, and

WHEREAS, City Council recently supported the improvement of Barton Springs Pool by allocating $6,200,000 in capital improvement funds
on September 10, 2007, for short-term improvements at Barton Springs Pool;
and

WHEREAS, Barton Springs Pool and areas immediately surrounding it may require substantial improvements envisioned within the Master Plan that are above and beyond those included in the short-term projects; NOW THEREFORE,

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

The City Council accepts the Plan as a resource for short-term projects and concepts for possible future long-term projects, which would require extensive public input from stakeholders, Boards and Commissions and City Council; and

The Joint Sub-Committee of the Environmental Board and Parks and Recreation Board should continue in an oversight capacity, hosting representatives of all stakeholder groups as short term projects are implemented and long-term projects are considered in the future; and

The Barton Springs Pool Master Plan: Concepts for Preservation and Improvement, is hereby adopted.

ADOPTED: January 15, 2009

ATTEST: Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk