

AGENDA



Thursday, January 14, 2010

**Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 42**

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance granting a site specific amendment to City Code section 25-8-514 (Save our Springs Initiative) and a variance to City Code section 25-8-482 (Critical Water Quality Zone) to allow construction of a temporary access road and temporary crane pad in the Critical Water Quality Zone of Barton Creek. This action concerns land located within the Barton Springs Zone.

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

For More Information: David Johns, 974-2781; Tom Nelson, 974-9337

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Environmental Board, Parks/Environmental Joint Sub- Committee, Parks Board, and the Planning Commission.

Prior Council Action: October 19, 2006 - Council approved a resolution to hire a consultant to develop a master plan for Barton Springs Pool. September 10, 2007 - Council allocated \$6.2 million to fund short-term projects for Barton Springs, including the removal of the gravel from the pool. January 15, 2009 - Council passed a resolution adopting the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan: Concepts for Preservation and Improvement.

In 1998 and mid 2000, Barton Springs experienced major flood events. As a result of these flood events, a large amount of debris washed into the pool and formed a gravel bar.

In 2006, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) hired American Underwater Services to remove the gravel bar that had accumulated in Barton Springs due to flooding. This company utilized a vacuum dredge technique to remove material from the pool. The system worked well for small material and silt, however it did not work well with larger material. It was determined that although this method was not effective for removing the amount and size of material making up the gravel bar, this system would be beneficial for routine maintenance.

To address removing the remaining gravel, Weston Solutions developed a plan that incorporates a crane that is situated on the South lawn. The crane will lift equipment into an area of the pool that is dewatered with a coffer dam and lift flood debris out of the pool. A temporary pad will be placed on the South hill to provide stabilization for the crane and a temporary path will be installed to facilitate removal of material. An engineering drawing is included for site reference.

It is important to note that one of the most difficult aspects of guarding an open water facility like Barton Springs, is water cloudiness. During the routine Thursday cleanings, staff flushes out the deep end of the pool with a fire hose. The fire hose helps to suspend silt in the water column so that it can flow out of the pool. The gravel bar has hindered this effort. In addition, with the peak of the gravel bar being so close to the surface of the pool, silt is stirred up due to recreational activity. Thousands of patrons visit the pool on any given day. Because of the amount of activity in the pool, a large amount of silt is suspended in the water column, making it more difficult to see and therefore more difficult to guard.