

Responses to Council's questions on HPF budget amendment:

**1. Does PARD have a response that covers why additional operating expenses were not identified as eligible for HOT funding for these sites?**

There are historic sites within the park system that are marketed to tourists and anecdotally receive a significant number of visitors, but without a unified visitor tracking system in place PARD is unable to extrapolate the portion of the maintenance and operations functions attributable to visitors.

**2. Did PARD look into capital expenses related to the following projects:**

- **Austin's Tejano Walking Trail**--Additional work and coordination will be required to identify specific projects and requires input from Public Works since they have recently taken responsibility related to the trail interpretation.
- **Barton Springs Bathhouse**--Identified as eligible; set aside for future funding.
- **Barton Springs Pool**--PARD is currently working on the Bathhouse Rehabilitation in partnership with the Barton Springs Conservancy.
- **Congress Avenue Old Bakery and Emporium**--PARD has identified a horizon project related to building rehabilitation, but it was not brought forward as a priority for FY18.
- **Downs Field**--Identified as eligible; set aside for future funding.
- **Huston-Tillotson Chapel**--This is not a City property.
- **Lions Municipal Golf Course**--PARD does not currently have an identified project and discussions with UT over the current lease are still underway.
- **Mayfield**-- Mayfield Park was the recipient of HOT funding in FY2017 to make repairs to collapsed walls and to deteriorated garden sheds. PARD recommends completing the current projects, which are in process, prior to initiating new projects.
- **Mexic-Arte**--This is not a City facility. It is a non-profit art museum, with a contract with the city. Public Works has been working to establish a construction/development program.
- **Mt. Bonnell**-- In 2014, the West Point Society of Central Texas (Adopt-a-Park partner) proposed a community-funded pergola reconstruction project at Mt. Bonnell, which is a City of Austin Historic Landmark. The project has not been brought forward again until early March 2018 when it was suggested as a potential HOT project. Christine Chute Canul, the Development Administrator who leads park partnerships has provided the WPSCT with information about our process. After taking the project through our internal vetting process, PARD will be able to better assess funding opportunities.
- **Norwood Historic Estate**-- Identified as eligible; set aside for future funding.

- **Pease Park**-- PARD is in the process of forging a Parkland Improvement Agreement with the Pease Park Conservancy that will facilitate the implementation of a major first phase of construction at Pease Park. This phase will be primarily funded through a \$9.7M grant from the Moody Foundation along with the proceeds from a capital campaign that the PPC is launching. While there are elements of the first phase of construction that may be eligible for HOT-funding the PPC will be leading the construction of this phase.
- **Palm School**—Unable to negotiate sale with County.
- **Umlauf Sculpture Garden**--was addressed in the body of the memo.
- **Wooldridge Square**--PARD is aware that aspects of the next phase of development for Wooldridge Square may be eligible for HOT, but perhaps not the entire project. The historic components of the project are on PARD's horizon projects.
- **Zilker Botanical Gardens**-- Currently, the Zilker Botanical Gardens is in the first phase of a master plan process. The second phase of the process is not yet fully funded and an inquiry was made about whether master planning for a historic tourist site is an eligible expenditure. In reviewing the eligibility requirements, PARD was concerned that they did not clearly meet the two-part test for HOT expenditures. Master plans, by their nature, are comprehensive and long range plans for a site or facility that typically also encompass a prioritized list of projects. PARD is concerned that the master plan product does not have a direct impact on the tourism, convention and hotel industry. However, upon completion of the plan, there will likely be many elements of the plan that would be eligible. Given the wide range of clearly eligible projects at PARD historic sites that are visitor-attractions, PARD is not inclined to recommend that large-scale master planning be funded through HOT.