

21 **WHEREAS**, the Zilker Park Master Plan request for qualifications/proposal
22 process is scheduled to be released for formal consideration in Spring 2020; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in May 2019, a rainstorm caused severe erosion to an embankment
24 supporting part of the train’s track, causing it to close temporarily; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in January 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) was
26 not able to come to an agreement with Texas Special Company for a new professional
27 services contract for the continued operation of the family amusement train known as the
28 Zilker Zephyr; and

29 **WHEREAS** the family amusement train ride known as the Zilker Zephyr is a
30 beloved part of Zilker Park, enjoyed by thousands of visitors a year; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the non-profit Austin Parks Foundation has served as a City of Austin
32 Parks and Recreation Department partner for over 27 years, to enhance public parks,
33 trails, and green spaces through volunteerism, innovative programming, advocacy,
34 construction management, and financial support benefiting the Austin community; and

35 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin recognizes the service of the Texas Special
36 Company in the operation of the family amusement train known as the Zilker Zephyr,
37 which has delighted families and visitors of Austin for twenty-two years; **NOW,**

38 **THEREFORE,**

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

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41 The City Manager is encouraged to consider any and all offers of charitable
42 assistance and work to coordinate opportunities for philanthropic giving among all
43 interested parties in the Zilker Zephyr's continued operation; and

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

45 The City Manager is directed, if possible, to negotiate and execute an agreement
46 with the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) to allow APF to procure a new family
47 amusement train vendor and oversee the operations of the train with all net proceeds to
48 be distributed to non-profit organizations operating within and around Zilker Park via a
49 transparent financial reporting process developed by APF and PARD until which time
50 the Zilker Park Master Plan recommendation for future train operations can be
51 implemented; and

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

53 The City Manager is directed to expeditiously identify and coordinate contracting
54 services to make critical engineering repairs to the erosion on the tracks; and

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

56 If the City Manager is unable to negotiate and execute an agreement for services,
57 repairs, and operations, the City Manager is directed to explore any and all alternatives
58 to accept the donation of resources, including but not limited to, funds and in-kind
59 services to expeditiously complete engineering and repairs to the defined train tracks

60 associated with the family amusement train known as the Zilker Zephyr to allow for the
61 safe operation of the train.

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

63 The City Manager is directed to report back to Council on or before June 30, 2020
64 on the City's efforts to bring the Zilker Zephyr back into safe operation.

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66 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2020

ATTEST: _____

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Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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