



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

THRU: Christopher Shorter, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

DATE: June 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 20200220-046 – Zilker Zephyr

Since the February 20, 2020 passage of Resolution No. 20200220-046, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) has been meeting regularly with representatives of the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) to develop an agreement and discuss operational options for the Zilker Zephyr, family amusement train, within Zilker Metropolitan Park. Austin Parks Foundation has busily been working towards settling operational issues and has provided the following status update:

- Established a committee of the APF Board of Directors currently reviewing proposals for train operators;
- Hired a professional engineering firm to conduct preliminary work related to tree and topographical surveys; creating a planning map and route evaluation and assessing the bridge under Barton Springs Road;
- Working with PARD Planning staff to coordinate with the Zilker Café improvements on ADA compliance in the area and
- Active fundraising by APF development staff.

Representatives of PARD and APF are continuing to discuss how best to recognize the philanthropic donors which will be incorporated into the train operation. PARD contracting staff is in the process of drafting a Management & Operation Agreement with APF. It is anticipated that the agreement negotiation process will occur during the summer months.

While PARD and APF representatives have been meeting on this issue since early March, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have necessitated the request for an extension in finalizing an agreement for operation of the Zilker Zephyr. An extension to September 30, 2020 will allow for the execution of an agreement between PARD and APF.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (512) 974-6722.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager