



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3201, **Agenda Item #:** 21.

10/15/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of all documents and instruments necessary to acquire in fee simple 0.214 acres being a portion of Lots 12, 13, and 14, Block F of the Raymond Subdivision, a part of Outlot 2, Division Z, an addition in the City of Austin recorded in Volume 2, Page(s) 129 of the Plat Records of Travis County, Texas, located at 702 Wood Street, Austin, Texas and owned by Beau Soleil Austin, LLC, a Texas limited liability company, for a total purchase price not to exceed \$1,174,250, including closing costs.

Lead Department

Office of Real Estate Services.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,174,250 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The proposed acquisition is for park and recreation purposes. The property is located at 702 Wood Street and situated on the banks of Shoal Creek just north of West 6th Street in the downtown area.

The acquisition consists of an approximately 0.21 acre tract that served as part of the historic Wood Street settlement which, according to the Texas Historical Commission, was "a distinct enclave of African American and later Mexican American residents" from the Civil War era until the 1970s. The Wood Street district was originally a freedman community during Reconstruction. Following the 1928 city master plan, more Hispanic Austinites came to occupy the housing districts along Shoal Creek into the 1970s. Two houses from the freedmen period remained at the Wood Street site until they were ultimately demolished in 2014. In 2016, the Texas Historical Commission installed a historical marker commemorating this site's significance.

The acquisition of the 702 Wood Street property will preserve this historic location as dedicated parkland. It will allow for interpretive programming to celebrate the generations of Austinites of color who made Wood Street their home. Historical and cultural interpretation of the Wood Street settlement is a recommendation of the Shoal Creek Conservancy's *Vision to Action Plan*.

The Parks and Recreation Department will purchase this proposed acquisition through parkland dedication funds. The purchase price of \$1,165,250 is the current fair market value as determined by an independent third-party appraisal. The purchase price plus closing costs is not to exceed \$1,174,250.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.