RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the 1984 Town Lake Comprehensive Plan and 1985 Town Lake Corridor Study were initial efforts by the City to begin to consolidate parkland and useful recreation space through selective land acquisitions, thereby initiating the opportunity to create an active new “living room” for the heart of the City; and

WHEREAS, those efforts began the work to locate future civic functions and performance venues and outlined zoning overlays to guide development on both sides of the lake; and

WHEREAS, the guidance provided by these plans have informed subsequent discussions over the years concerning parkland, facilities planning, area development and other associated topics; and

WHEREAS, many great cities have found a compatibility between cultural institutions such as museums, galleries, theaters, and concert halls, and the graciousness of a natural park setting; and

WHEREAS, “Cultural Park” is the appropriate classification for Butler Shores Park, as it is the location of the main office for the Parks and Recreation Department, the Zachary Scott Theater, and the soon-to-be relocated Daugherty Arts Center (DAC), numerous other cultural assets are nearby, including the Umlauf Sculpture Garden, the Zilker Botanical Gardens, and the Zilker Hillside Theater, and large events occur in or near Butler Shores, such as the Austin City Limits Music Festival, the Trail of Lights, and the Zilker Park Kite Festival; and

WHEREAS, with each of these individual cultural pieces there has not been a means to fully coordinate a comprehensive approach to address the area’s competing needs or leverage the public investments to full effect to create a Cultural District that would serve to enhance and better guide private development and planning, as well as transportation infrastructure and management, in a
comprehensive way in the Butler Shores area and around and through the shoreline
park areas; and

WHEREAS, planning and analysis is needed to address the competing
needs in an area that is in rapid transition due to private development, public
investments with the DAC, corridor and transit investments, and increasing
population and density demands; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 990715-115 established the boundaries of
Butler Shores as “the property bounded by the Town Lake shoreline on the north,
the various and respective southern boundaries of all legal lots existing as of July
17, 1986, that abut the south public right-of-way of Barton Springs Road on the
south, Lee Barton Drive on the east, and the centerline of Barton Creek on the
west”; and

WHEREAS, the Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan is currently
underway and is tasked to study parking and transportation circulation around and
through Zilker Park, including Toomey Road, which bisects the Butler Shores area;
and

WHEREAS, the DAC Redevelopment Project is currently underway and
states that “The goals for this project will build on the DAC’s mission: to support
emerging and established artists who create, showcase and experience the arts first-
hand. PARD envisions the DAC as Austin’s cultural living room, where people of
all ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, genders, sexual orientations, socio-economic
statuses, nationalities, and religions gather to create community through the arts.”;
and

WHEREAS, additional project goals identified in the planning phase of the
DAC Redevelopment Project include, but are not limited to:

• Develop the surrounding parkland consistent with the vision for the
  Butler Shores area and a Cultural District;
• Strengthen trail connections and activate parkland through outdoor education, play, and performance amenities;
• Consider alternatives for pedestrian and vehicular circulation, site access, and parking; and
• Demonstrate high achievement in sustainable design for architecture and landscape; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:
The City Manager is directed to:
• Designate and recognize the Butler Shores area as a City Cultural Park as envisioned in Ordinance No. 890126-P;
• Explore creation of a City Cultural District for Butler Shores and surrounding South Austin cultural assets, to include actions needed to initiate creation, a process for community engagement, and an outline of next steps and timelines;
• Develop a diagnostic analysis of the area which includes (1) an inventory of parcels to include existing cultural assets; (2) information on the status of parcels, including planned and future development, for use in any future small area planning for the area; and (3) information on where opportunities may exist to leverage and optimize existing and future cultural assets to strengthen the identity of the area as a Cultural District;
• Fully coordinate a traffic impact analysis with the Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan, DAC redevelopment, recent approved private developments in the area as well as any current applications for development within the Butler Shores area. Analysis and proactive planning for the area should include impacts from area festivals and events as well as CapMetro transit services and other multi-modal modes; and
• Explore incorporating the recommendations identified in Recommendation No. 5 of the Zilker Park Working Group Final Report, especially to “utilize COA approved tactical urbanism strategies to build temporary protected bike lanes on Barton Springs Road to the park from Lamar Blvd; for example, temporary paint, planter boxes, and parking stops.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall report back with an update and plan for next steps to Council concerning the creation of a Cultural District for Butler Shores by September 30, 2021. The work should include surrounding South Austin cultural assets, an inventory of contributing influences, next steps, and outline of a community engagement process to support its creation.

ADOPTED: _____________, 2021  ATTEST: __________________________

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk