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**WHEREAS,** commercial and residential development and some of the unintended consequences of a growing population interacting with our natural open spaces have placed stress on the natural environment our people and culture requires to thrive; and

23           **WHEREAS**, climate change is predicted to have significant impacts in  
24 Austin as outlined in the report “Climate Change Projections for the City of  
25 Austin” by Katharine Hayhoe of ATMOS; and,

26           **WHEREAS**, Zilker Park may be one of the largest publicly owned parcels  
27 of land for climate mitigation purposes in the City; and,

28           **WHEREAS**, protecting and enhancing our natural spaces are key strategies  
29 in mitigating the impact of climate change and vigorously pursuing such strategies  
30 is our community’s responsibility to itself and the larger world and represents our  
31 best cultural aspirations; and,

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

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

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

51       **WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 990715-115 established the boundaries of  
52 Butler Shores as “the property bounded by the Town Lake shoreline on the north,  
53 the various and respective southern boundaries of all legal lots existing as of July  
54 17, 1986, that abut the south public right-of-way of Barton Springs Road on the  
55 south, Lee Barton Drive on the east, and the centerline of Barton Creek on the  
56 west”; and

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

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

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

- 70       • Develop the surrounding parkland consistent with the vision for the  
71 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:

- Explore creation of a City Cultural Climate District for the South Shore/Barton Springs area including 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
- Coordinate an analysis of the area to be designated a Cultural Climate District that will inventory the built cultural assets and the natural open spaces as climate protection and recreation related assets and develop strategies to protect and enhance both. That analysis and strategic work will include review of both emerging and existing successful examples of technologies and methods to enhance transportation and visitation which will decrease the pressure on the climate assets while continuing to be available to all residents of our growing community
- 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

96 future small area planning for the area; (3) information on where  
97 opportunities may exist to leverage and optimize existing and future  
98 cultural assets to strengthen the identity of the area as a Cultural District;  
99 and (4) opportunities to enhance greenspace in the area

- 100 • Recognize the Butler Shores area as a City Cultural Park as established in  
101 Ordinance No. 890126-P, and City Code Sections 25-2-671(2) and 25-2-  
102 672(d), with a commitment to preserve, maximize and enhance open  
103 greenspace for public enjoyment, including activities related to the  
104 cultural assets; and to the greatest extent possible restrict development to  
105 walking, exercise, and bicycle paths
- 106 • Fully coordinate a traffic impact analysis with the Zilker Metropolitan  
107 Park Vision Plan, DAC redevelopment, recent approved private  
108 developments in the area as well as any current applications for  
109 development within the Butler Shores area. Analysis and proactive  
110 planning for the area should include impacts from area festivals and  
111 events as well as CapMetro transit services and other multi-modal modes;  
112 and
- 113 • Explore incorporating the recommendations identified in  
114 Recommendation No. 5 of the Zilker Park Working Group Final Report,  
115 especially to “utilize COA approved tactical urbanism strategies to build  
116 temporary protected bike lanes on Barton Springs Road to the park from  
117 Lamar Blvd; for example, temporary paint, planter boxes, and parking  
118 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