

RESOLUTION NO. 20210729-115

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2009, Council adopted Resolution No. 20090924-068 to develop a master plan for Festival Beach, Fiesta Gardens, and the Holly Power Plant Site Park; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2014, Council approved the Holly Shores/Edward Rendon Sr. Park at Festival Beach, Fiesta Gardens Master Plan (Holly Shores Master Plan), including a friendly amendment by Council Member Martinez to move forward with a “food forest” pilot program on two-thirds of an acre on Festival Beach, with future phased expansion subject to Council approval; and

WHEREAS, Fruitful Commons is the 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor of the Festival Beach Food Forest (Food Forest), which is also supported and maintained by volunteers, donations, grants, and community partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the Food Forest and the area of its planned expansion are located on underutilized parkland; and

WHEREAS, the Food Forest’s phased expansion plan will coincide with monies being raised to fund the expansion and the timeline for expansion is flexible to allow for adequate funding; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2021, Council adopted Resolution No. 20210610-039 directing the City Manager to create a prioritization matrix to identify and utilize City-owned land to strengthen our local and regional food systems; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Urban Forestry program and the Parks and Recreation Department have provided support, including grant funding, for an equitable and regenerative community engagement and design process for the planned, phased expansion of the Food Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Food Forest is part of our local food system and provides access to fresh and healthy foods to the East Cesar Chavez and Holly Neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Rebekah Baines Johnson Center (RBJ) at 21 Waller Street provides independent living to seniors and people with disabilities and those residents utilize the Food Forest as an amenity and food resource within walking distance; and

WHEREAS, Serafina Pantry, which serves RBJ residents, regularly benefits from surplus Food Forest harvests and educational and social events; and

WHEREAS, the Thriving Cities Challenge is a competition led by the Salazar Center for North American Conservation focused on finding innovative, nature-based solutions that improve the equity, health, and resilience of urban communities in North America and awarding \$100,000 grants to selected contestants; and

WHEREAS, the Festival Beach Food Forest is a finalist in this competition, attaining a score of twenty-two out of twenty-five from national judges; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

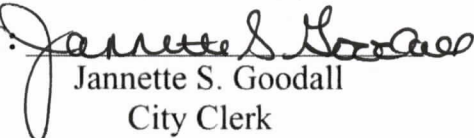
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager shall work with the appropriate City department to partner with the Festival Beach Food Forest to plan, design, implement, and maintain a three-acre phased expansion of the Festival Beach Food Forest, as

called for in the Holly Shores Master Plan, shall amend the Holly Shore Master Plan if required to reflect the expansion, and shall report back to Council with an update on or before November 1, 2021.

ADOPTED: July 29, 2021

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk