

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Onion Creek Metro Park (Park) is 550 acres of parkland located in Southeast Austin in an area projected to grow rapidly by 2039; and,

WHEREAS, the Park was purchased by the City of Austin in the late 1990s, making it one of the largest City-owned parks in Austin; and,

WHEREAS, Council adopted Resolution No. 20130328-016 consenting to special legislation that would create the Onion Creek Metro Park District (Park District), consisting of approximately 700 acres of land located east of IH 35 and south of Nuckols Crossing Road, conditioned upon the inclusion of certain provisions in the legislation creating the Park District; and,

WHEREAS, the Park District is intended to provide improvements and services funded through the Park District in order to provide additional sources of revenue for the City of Austin to operate and maintain the Park; and,

WHEREAS, the Park District is a special district created under Article XVI, Section 59 of the Texas Constitution intended to promote, develop, encourage, and maintain employment, commerce, transportation, housing, tourism, recreation, the arts, entertainment, economic development, safety, and the public welfare in the district; and,

WHEREAS, S.B.1872 was passed and approved in 2013 to fund capital improvements and operations and maintenance costs, establishing a special taxing district that ensures maintenance revenue for the use of the Park; and,

WHEREAS, the Goodnight Public Utility District developer created a taxing district within the Goodnight neighborhood that will fund operation and maintenance while the City funds the capital improvements in the Park; and,

25 **WHEREAS**, Council adopted Ordinance No. 20140626-031 authorizing the
26 creation of the Park District and the execution of a Consent Agreement between
27 the City of Austin, Onion Creek Metro Park District and Austin Goodnight Ranch
28 L.P. Pursuant to the Consent Agreement, a Board of Directors was appointed to
29 oversee construction, operations and maintenance within the Park District; and,

30 **WHEREAS**, the Consent Agreement also states the desire for Council to
31 consider putting before the voters of the City a ballot proposition that the City shall
32 issue General Obligation Bonds for park purposes to be used within the Park
33 District when deemed feasible; and,

34 **WHEREAS**, City Council adopted Resolution No. 20170302-031 initiating
35 the rezoning of the following City properties to a public district designation (P): (1)
36 approximately 400 acres of land known as Onion Creek Metro Park, located at
37 8652 Nuckols Crossing Road; (2) approximately 200 acres of land known as Onion
38 Creek Greenbelt, located at 7004 Onion Creek Drive; and (3) approximately 99
39 acres of land known as the Lower Onion Creek Buyout Area; and,

40 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partnered with the City by
41 providing funding to buy out homes located in the 25-year floodplain in the Lower
42 Onion Creek Buyout Area to convert the area into green space and recreational
43 areas; and,

44 **WHEREAS**, through Resolution No. 20200507-061, the City utilized money
45 from the General Fund Reserves, the Parks and Recreation Department's Urban
46 Forestry fund, and existing City department funds to create the Austin Civilian
47 Conservation Corps (ACCC) program, including a project focused on
48 improvements to the Onion Creek Metro Park carried out by the Parks and

49 Recreation Department Urban Forestry program and the Watershed Protection
50 Department; and,

51 **WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Department established a partnership
52 through the Community Activated Park Project for an archeological survey of the
53 Park to better understand the past indigenous, colonial, and agricultural uses of the
54 park; and,

55 **WHEREAS**, Imagine Austin's Comprehensive Plan includes as one of the
56 Conservation and Environment Policies to "expand the city's green infrastructure
57 network to include such elements as preserves and parks, trails, stream corridors,
58 green streets, greenways, and agricultural lands"; and,

59 **WHEREAS**, Strategic Direction 2023 supports leverage of innovative
60 financing models and partnerships to support, maintain, and expand parks, open
61 spaces, recreational facilities and our urban trail network under the Health and
62 Environment Strategic Outcome (HE.8); **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

64 The City Manager is directed to provide a description of the roles and
65 responsibilities of each of the parties to the Consent Agreement related to
66 construction, operations, maintenance and funding for the Park District.

67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

68 The City Manager is further directed to provide regular updates to the City
69 of Austin website to strengthen and protect the image, identity, progress,
70 investment, and character of the Park, including but not limited to the Parks and
71 Recreation Department webpage, the Boards and Commissions webpage, and the
72 Commercial Development Map. These updates should include, but not be limited

73 to, planning, design, and construction of the three-mile loop for hiking and biking,
74 the trails along Slaughter Lane, the pond, and other open space areas within the
75 southern portion of the development;

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

77 The City Manager is further directed to provide a status update on the
78 contribution of capital improvement funds, contribution of bond funds, and
79 construction of improvements in coordination with the Park District, including but
80 not limited to delivery of power, lighting, and potable water for water fountains,
81 restrooms, and a wastewater system;

82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

83 The City Manager is further directed to coordinate with the Park District to
84 develop recommendations related to bond funding of the parkland to address the
85 needs for activities and improvements as outlined in the Park Master Plan. Any
86 new improvements recommended by the Park District should also include a
87 commitment from the Park District for ongoing funding for maintenance and
88 operations of any added improvements.

89 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

90 The City Manager is further directed to provide a report to Council
91 regarding the status of these directives within 120 days of approval of this
92 Resolution.

93 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2021 **ATTEST:** _____
94 Jannette S. Goodall
95 City Clerk
96