

RESOLUTION NO. 20150305-025

WHEREAS, Austin's public parks play a critical role in promoting public health and a sense of community, and the parks contribute to the economic vitality of the City; and

WHEREAS, Austin's growing population and the popularity of special events in city parks are placing increasing demands on Austin's public park system; and

WHEREAS, Council created the Policy Committee on Use of Parkland (PCUP) to address the balance between the everyday use of the park system, organized special events, and impacts on neighborhoods near the parks; and

WHEREAS, the PCUP recommended placing a cap of 30, later reduced to 25, special events in Town Lake Park Metropolitan Park; and

WHEREAS, Council resolutions adopted in 2012, 2013, and 2014 have directed studies on the impacts and costs of special events on adjacent neighborhoods, and the establishment of a special events team of City staff to act as a one-stop shop for special events; and

WHEREAS, Analyses done to date have focused more on long-term redevelopment plans for Town Lake Metropolitan Park and less on other issues identified in the resolutions, such as the impact of increasing the number and size of events on the parklands, park event coordination and scheduling, comprehensive traffic and parking studies, mechanisms to ensure fees collected are used for maintenance and repair of the facility used for the event, and opportunities for new venues for events; **NOW THEREFORE**,

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

A. The Parkland Events Task Force (PETF) is created to develop recommendations to ensure that all City parks, but most particularly Auditorium Shores, Zilker Park, and Festival Beach, remain first and foremost assets for the citizens of Austin to enjoy and that the parks are preserved and enhanced for future generations of Austinites and visitors to experience and enjoy.

B. The PETF scope of work shall include:

- 1) an inventory of special events at City parks, including the number of events, number of participants, and number of days each park is unavailable for general park use;
- 2) a review of existing park special events policies as well as existing practices related to events scheduling, coordination, and enforcement of contracts and agreements;
- 3) a comparative analysis of Parks and Recreation Department fees for park use received versus the cost of repair, maintenance, and other costs for each park facility, in coordination with the City Council's Economic Opportunity, Technology, Innovation and Creative Industries Committee and building upon the information gathered pursuant to Resolution No. 20130926-078;
- 4) an assessment of the impact that park special events have on surrounding neighborhoods, businesses, and infrastructure, in coordination with the work under way by the City Council's Mobility Committee regarding transportation impacts;

- 5) identification of opportunities for new public and private venues to accommodate events, including an assessment of their carrying capacities and potential impact on surrounding neighborhoods, businesses, and infrastructure;
- 6) recommendation of mechanisms that ensure fees collected for special events are sufficient for the maintenance and repairs for any post-event issues;
- 7) consideration of a policy change to direct fees collected for use of park facilities for a special event be directed to parks maintenance and operations; and
- 8) determination of whether an adjustment to the number of events held at City parks, most particularly Auditorium Shores, Zilker Park, and Festival Beach, is appropriate.

C. Membership of the PETF shall be as follows:

- 1) 11 members, one appointed by each member of the City Council on the basis of the appointee's experience in park advocacy, special events promotion and planning, landscape architecture, neighborhood perspectives, cultural arts, or economic development;
- 2) three members consisting of one representative each from the Parks and Recreation Board, the Music Commission, and the Environmental Board; and
- 3) three members appointed by the City Council's Committee on Open Space and the Environment.

D. The PETF shall be subject to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, and all meetings shall be open to the public and include opportunities for public comment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall provide reasonably necessary resources and technical assistance to the PETF, including but not limited to the resources listed in the attached **EXHIBIT A**. In addition, the City Manager shall appoint one member of City staff from each of the following departments to serve as a resource for the PETF on an as needed basis:

- 1) Parks and Recreation Department;
- 2) Economic Development Department;
- 3) Office of Sustainability;
- 4) Austin Water Utility;
- 5) Watershed Development Department;
- 6) Austin Resource Recovery;
- 7) Austin Transportation Department; and
- 8) Austin Police Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The PETF will provide periodic reports to the Council Committee on Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability and shall provide a draft final report to the Committee not later than June 5, 2015.

The PETF expires upon the completion of its assigned tasks or one year after the effective date of this resolution, whichever is sooner.

ADOPTED: March 5, 2015

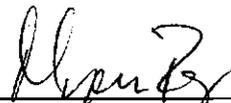
ATTEST:  *For*
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A
RESOURCES TO BE PROVIDED TO THE PETF

List of each event held at Auditorium Shores, Zilker Park, and Festival Beach.

Acreage per venue.

Number of attendees per day at each event.

Dates of each event, including any time the park is closed to the public for maintenance, set-up, and break-down.

Contracts for each event.

Community benefits of each event.

Costs to the City associated with maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of parkland and vegetation as a result of each event.

Revenue the City collects for each event.

Revenues received by Austin Parks Foundation for each event.

Process for City review of events.

Alternative special events venues.