

RESOLUTION NO. 20140227-046

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to being the most family-friendly city in the country and to ensuring that its policies and decisions support and enhance the quality of life for Austin's families and children; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin needs more family friendly amenities accessible to downtown residents and visitors with children; and

WHEREAS, the Families and Children Task Force final report recommended that the city create public spaces with amenities that attract and engage children and highlighted downtown as an area in particular need; and

WHEREAS, providing another reason for families with children to come Downtown would have positive benefits for nearby businesses; and

WHEREAS, cities such as New York, Albany, Boston, and Missoula have activated public spaces through the installation of carousels; and

WHEREAS, carousels can be an artful and playful component of urban revitalization, historic preservation, and community building around the cultural arts;

WHEREAS, in 2009 the Rose F. Kennedy Greenway Conservancy launched a pilot project by hiring a vendor to install and operate a rental carousel in the park; and

WHEREAS, the vendor handled inspections, maintenance, and staffing; and

WHEREAS, between 2009 and 2013 the Rose Kennedy Greenway carousel had nearly 400,000 riders, and the City of Boston received \$.75 per ticket sold; and

WHEREAS, revenue from a carousel concession in a City of Austin park could support targeted youth programs, such as summer camp scholarships or playscape improvements; **NOW, THEREFORE,**


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

The City Manager is directed to solicit feedback from the Parks and Recreation Board, the Downtown Commission, and the Early Childhood Council regarding the merits and potential location of a carousel pilot project, as well as suggestions for how revenues might best serve the City of Austin's youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is to report back to the City Council by June 26, 2014 regarding the options for locating and the feasibility of installing and operating a carousel for the use and enjoyment of Austin families and visitors at minimal or no cost to the City of Austin.

ADOPTED: February 27, 2014

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk