

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin strives to provide access to park space within one half mile from all households in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the property located at 401 West St. John's is City-owned land, and allowing public use of the property is a high priority for the adjacent neighborhoods and would address a deficiency in parkland for this area of Austin; and

WHEREAS, over the past few years there have been multiple proposals regarding the use of the land while ensuring that basic stormwater management issues were addressed; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhood representatives, the University Hills Optimist Club, and City staff have been working diligently to find a solution that fits the needs of all parties; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) held multiple community meetings and made presentations to the Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) on several occasions, which has now provided a recommendation to Council; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations from the stakeholders and PARB for the immediate proposed use of the property are to:

- Maintain in perpetuity a storm water management pond on one acre,
- Maintain the two 125-foot lighted fields currently located on the southeast corner of the property for tee-ball, coach pitch, and kickball until a park master plan is completed,
- Retain the northeast side of the property as open space, removing fencing to allow for an open park area and allow soccer to continue,
- Continue to explore partnership opportunities for youth sports delivery between the Gus Garcia Recreation Center and the University Hills Optimist Club, and
- Limit park development or deconstruction in the immediate future and allow the master plan process to guide future park development decisions; and

WHEREAS, the first funding request is for \$22,525 to allow for PARD to accomplish the initial readiness and maintenance for the area to be used as parkland; and

WHEREAS, PARD also presented recommendations to the PARB regarding the master plan, including: preserving the existing tree line, allowing the master plan process to guide park development, and being open to kickball/soccer remaining in the future with the relocation of fields providing acreage to not exceed 1.3 acres of the full site; and

WHEREAS, the second funding request is for approximately \$100,000 to create a master plan for the property, some of which may be matched by in-kind donations of resources from the community, and some of which could be funded through existing or expected Parkland Dedication Fees; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Council adopts the recommendations from the stakeholders and PARB for the immediate proposed use of the City-owned property at 401 West St. Johns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide two budget items for City Council consideration during the Fiscal Year 2015 budget process: one that would fund the initial park readiness at \$22,525, and a second item that would provide up to \$100,000 for a master plan for the City-owned land located at 401 West St. John's.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014 **ATTEST:** _____
Jannette Goodall
City Clerk