

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin owns a 7.464acre tract of land in the upper Waller Creek watershed at 401 West St. Johns Avenue (Property); and

WHEREAS, the Property was purchased for stormwater management use and the Watershed Protection Department has identified it as an appropriate location for a stormwater management pond to address pollution; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, the City Council approved the use of the Property as a sports field and has leased the site to the University Hills Optimists (UHO) for its exclusive use since 1971; and

WHEREAS, the Property remains locked when youth sports activities are not taking place and thus is largely inaccessible for more general park use; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 Brentwood/Highland Neighborhood Plan calls for construction of a park on this Property, but the City has taken no action in the past decade to consider or facilitate such a use; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20130926-077 directed the City Manager to hold a community meeting to solicit suggestions and ideas for the future use of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the community was asked to consider options including:

- 1) using the entire Property for stormwater management;
- 2) using the entire Property as a park including a stormwater management pond and relocating UHO sports;

3) reconfiguring the Property to allow public park uses, a stormwater pond, and continued youth sports activities; and

4) maintaining the Property in its current use and configuration with modifications necessary to include a stormwater pond; and

WHEREAS, further direction was given to include the consideration of possible relocation options for UHO sports while prioritizing which sports activities fill the greatest need in the community and allowing flexibility in the use of the Property; and

WHEREAS, stakeholders, including the UHO and the Highland Neighborhood Association (HNA), have participated in six stakeholder meetings since November 2013, and Parks and Recreation Department (PARB) staff have met with UHO and HNA leadership to reach consensus on a sharing arrangement; and

WHEREAS, staff presented the outcome of these meetings to the Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) on April 22, 2014, and May 27, 2014; and

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2014, the PARB recommended a shared use arrangement most similar to option 3 above, based upon the consensus agreements among the stakeholders after extensive deliberation; and

WHEREAS, the PARB made several specific recommendations, including that PARB:

- Allow for a portion of the Property to be maintained as parkland;
- Develop a master plan that provides options for sports facilities and open park space;

- Maintain in perpetuity a storm water management pond on approximately one acre of the Property;
- Maintain the two lighted fields currently located on the southeast corner of the Property for tee-ball, coach pitch, and kickball until the park master planning process is completed;
- Retain the northern side of the Property as open space, but remove fencing to allow for an open park feel while allowing soccer to continue;
- Continue to explore partnership opportunities for youth sports delivery between Gus Garcia Recreation Center and UHO;
- Limit park development or deconstruction until the master plan process is completed, guiding future park development decisions;
- Include ball field space in the future master plan process to be located on the north side of the Property on approximately 1.3 acres of space; and
- In recognition of Edward Reznicek's contributions, rename the two lighted fields located on the southeast corner of the Property as "Reznicek Fields." Should fields be relocated to another area on the Property, the fields should maintain the same name recognition.

WHEREAS, the Council desires to move forward with a shared use arrangement for some period of time; and

WHEREAS, the Council will review uses on this site periodically to ensure that the Property continues to meet the needs of the surrounding

neighborhood and the City as a whole; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to implement the recommendations resulting from the community meetings and the (PARB) regarding future options for the use of City property located at 401 West St. Johns Avenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is further directed to initiate the process to rename an area of this park, and the Council supports the nomination of Edward Reznicek for that designation.

ADOPTED: June 26, 2014

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk