

Beehives Donation for Community Gardens, Preserves, and Parkland

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
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Background Regarding Opportunity

- Offer made in June 2014 from Central Texas Bee Rescue (aka American Honey Bee Protection Agency):
 - Up to 1000 Langstroth-style bee boxes
 - Fencing around bee boxes
 - Adhering bee colonies
 - Protective equipment housed in job-site box
 - Beekeeping classes
- AHBPA specializes in no-kill beehive extraction and relocation (www.honeybeekind.com)



Background Regarding Opportunity

Proposed by AHBPA	Result
5-10 beehives at community gardens citywide	Approved
Beehives along Lady Bird Lake, Zilker Park, and other public locations	Under Review
Use of Austin Nature & Science Center as an educational facility where observation beehives and beekeeping classes will be held	Not Approved
Placing micro-apiaries throughout the city	Under Review
Buying a 3.5-acre lot on S. 1 st from PARD to use as AHBPA headquarters	Not Approved
Named first responder for honeybee rescue and relocation	Not Approved

Comparison to Parks Departments Nationwide

- San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department Highlighted below
 - allowed at community gardens



Current City Guidelines Regarding Beehives on Parkland

- City Code – Chapter 3-6-1
 - No actual bee permit required for public or private land, but there are restrictions and requirements
- Ordinance for bee removal mandates attempt to save bees
 - *“Wherever reasonably possible, the City shall prioritize the removal and relocation of wild or abandoned bees over destruction.” (Ord. 20120322-019)*
- Guidelines for community gardens
 - Limits on hive density (2 per quarter acre)
 - Required to have fence around hive
 - Flyway barrier 6 feet high, extending 10 feet from hives required if within 25 feet of property line
 - Aggressive colony/nucleus colony procedures
- 4 community gardens already interested, working with AHBPA

Suitability Factors Regarding Beehives on Parkland

- AHBPA-rescued native bees are not the bees put in their beehives
- Honeybees are commercial hygenic Italian strain, not native bees
- Pollination needs outside community gardens?
- Maintenance
- What is the estimated profit/month for AHBPA?
What is a fair value-for-value trade?
- Plan for responsibility/removal
- Public safety concerns



Proposed Site List

- Preserves
 - Non-native bees may be issue
 - EXCEPTIONS:
 - Zilker Nature Preserve south end / old “pistol range” site
 - Non-BCP portion of Commons Ford Metropolitan Park
- Parkland without obvious conflicts for bees
 - Neighborhood approval required
 - Pocket parks without playscapes
 - Parks without master plans that may prohibit beehives
 - HOWEVER - these sites don't have extensive plantings requiring pollination, they lack flyway barriers, and they lack fencing

Next Steps

- Community gardens are moving forward with beehives offer
- Continue to gather information and feedback from stakeholders and PARD staff to make informed decisions about undeveloped or developed land placement

For more info or questions:

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