



CITY OF AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL HOURS

JUNE 23, 2015
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Presented by:
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Division Manager



Background

- Review City Ordinances relevant to Park Operational Hours
8-1-14 Use of Parks During Certain Hours Prohibited

Team- Parks Police, Ranger Team, Department Representatives, Law Department

- Austin City Council-
Set a public hearing November 20, 2014

- Austin City Council-
Conducted public hearing and adopted ordinance 20141211-188
related to park operating hours December 11, 2014

Purpose Today

Brief the Parks and Recreation Board regarding proposed
change to Ordinance 8-1-14

Use of Parks During Certain Hours of Operation

Current Ordinance

- The Director may establish and post the operating hours for a park, nature preserve, greenbelt and trail pursuant to Chapter 1-2. Unless otherwise posted, public recreation areas are operated between the hours of 5 am and 10 pm.
- Requires public recreation area hours of operation to be set by administrative rule

Public Recreation Area defined as park, recreational facility, athletic field, building swimming pool, or playground owned and managed by a governmental entity

Current Ordinance Challenge

The Director/Department does not have the authority to determine operational hours based upon personnel resources, budget or other best practices.

- Inconsistent with other service operations within the City (Libraries, HHSD, Animal Services, etc.)
- The administrative rule process gives the public the impression that feedback can/will be incorporated

“Unless the director adopts and posts different hours, the operating hours of a public recreation area are 5:00 am to 10:00 pm”

- All playgrounds, swimming pools, recreation centers, senior centers, administrative buildings, splash pads, cultural centers, museums, golf courses, etc...would be required to be open 17 hours daily
- Not realistic

Ordinance Revision Summary

Eliminates the requirement of the Director to adopt hours of operation by rule (1-2) for Public Recreation Areas

Allow Director to administratively set hours of operation for Public Recreation Areas, nature preserves, greenbelts, and trails.

Maintains general park hours 5 am to 10 pm

Questions?