

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	48258	Agenda Number	39.
Meeting Date:	9/17/2015		Department:	Parks and Recreation	
Subject					
Approve the Historic Cemeteries Master Plan, which includes recommendations for Oakwood Cemetery (District 1), Oakwood Cemetery Annex (District 1), Plummers Cemetery (District 1), Evergreen Cemetery (District 1), and Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. (District 7)					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Fiscal Note					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:					
For More Information:	Kim McKnight (512) 974-9478; Ricardo Soliz (512) 974-6752; April Shaw (512) 974-6716				
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	June 24, 2015 - Recommended by Open Space, Environment & Sustainability Committee of the Austin City Council. June 23, 2015 - Recommended by Planning Commission on a vote of 8-0 with Commissioner Shieh absent; June 17, 2015: Recommended by Environmental Board on a vote of 7-0; May 26, 2015 - Recommended by Parks and Recreation Board on a vote of 5-0 with Board Members Osgood and Glover absent; May 20, 2015 - Recommended by Urban Forestry Board 6-0 with Board Member Classen abstained; May 18, 2015 - Recommended by Historic Landmark Commission 4-0-1 with Commissioner Wolsenden-Guidry recused and Commissioners Rosato and Myers absent.				
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					
Additional Backup Information					
<p>The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) manages five historic cemeteries comprising more than 60,000 burials. The Historic Cemeteries Master Plan provides a long-term framework for the management and rehabilitation of the five municipally owned cemeteries within the City: Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Plummers Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, and Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. This plan documents how these cemeteries developed over time; examines the current condition of historical, cultural, natural, and built resources within each cemetery; identifies and prioritizes challenges and needs; recommends treatment options; and presents a guide for implementing those recommendations.</p> <p>In Summer, 2013, PARD held the following community meetings to develop the Scope of Work for the Historic Cemeteries Master Plan:</p>					

- Introducing the Cemetery Master Plan Process
 - Jun. 8, 2013: Carver Branch Library
 - Jun. 12, 2013: Northwest Recreation Center
- Existing Cemetery Conditions
 - Jun. 22, 2013: Northwest Recreation Center
 - Jun. 27, 2013: Carver Branch Library
- Review and receive feedback on the Scope of Work for Cemetery Master Plan
 - Aug. 20, 2013: Northwest Recreation Center
 - Aug. 22, 2013: Carver Branch Library

Master Plan Community Meetings:

- Apr. 30, 2014: Carver Branch Library
- Jun. 26, 2014: Northwest Recreation Center
- Aug. 23, 2014: Ruiz Branch Library
- Nov. 3, 2014: Zilker Botanical Garden
- Jan. 24, 2015: Carver Branch Library

Update on Resolution No. 20131017-042 – Cemetery Ornamentation:

In 2013, City Council passed Resolution No. 20131017-042, directing the City Manager to conduct a public engagement process to evaluate cemetery rules, in particular, existing rules that govern grave ornamentation. The resolution directed the city to implement a policy allowing ornamentation that is appropriately sensitive to personal and cultural expressions of grief within the boundaries of a burial plot, subject to applicable laws allowing removal for health and/or safety reasons, and pending the outcome of a stakeholder process and final policy direction from the City Council. PARD notified City Council in a July 31, 2014, memo that the department recommended integration of the rules review process into the larger cemetery master planning process. The Historic Cemeteries Master Plan provides an important foundation that will serve as a basis for a revision of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. Following adoption of the Historic Cemeteries Master Plan, PARD will begin a comprehensive review of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations, which will include further public engagement.