



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Date: October 28, 2015

Agenda Item #: 5

Agenda Item: Process for waiving admission fees at Barton Springs Pool for Austin residents eighty years of age and older.

Vote 2-1-1. CM Garza was off the dais and CM Zimmerman voted against.

Sponsors/Department:

Summary of Discussion

Kim McNeely briefly presented the history and current process of the request for receiving a lifetime pass from the City Council. The current process requires citizens to submit a written request to the City's aquatics division and to fulfill certain requirements, such as being at least 80 years of age, that they contributed to Barton Springs pool in some way, and that they are a regular swimmer at the pool.

McNeely also explained the various alternative options that the City could pursue to avoid sending each citizen to Council to request the lifetime pass. City staff would then create a request for council action to request a fee waiver after receiving approval from the Land and Facilities Programs Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board, and the Open Space, Environment and Sustainability Council Committee.

Staff proposed an amendment to the method which would allow citizens 80 years old and older to provide proof of age in turn for their lifetime pass without having to submit the request to Council. Staff estimated that the fees waived per person over 80 could be approximately \$171; staff offered to monitor this number further and report back with more exact estimates.

- *Identification through passes*

CM Pool asked what method would be used to identify the lifetime members whether it is through their own driver's licenses or through a City-issued pass, similar to a library card. Staff explained that the method is still being discussed and ultimately they may simply allow the citizens to individually choose their preferred method if they aren't able to visit a City facility to get the pass made.

- *Opposing view*

CM Zimmerman shared his concerns over the possible segregation that could occur among

citizens if some are allowed a lifetime pass and others are not.

Public Comments

None

Direction

The item will move forward to Council.

Recommendation

Recommendation for City Council's approval to amend the FY 2016 Fee Schedule by adding a fee of \$0 for City of Austin Residents 80+ allowing free access to all City of Austin operated/managed aquatic facilities was approved on MPT Tovo's motion and on CM Pool's second.