

**Proposed Maintenance and Facility Use
Agreements
between the City of Austin and
the Austin Metro Baseball League and
Huston-Tillotson University**

Parks and Recreation Board
Tuesday May 24, 2016

Presented by
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Department Mission Statement

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the Austin community.



Purpose

- Negotiate and execute an agreement with Huston-Tillotson University (HT) for university programming
- Negotiate and execute an agreement with Austin Metro Baseball League (AMBL) to provide adult programs at Downs Field

Current Status

- Agreement with HT is in its second amendment which expires 10/30/16.
- Agreement with AMBL is in its second amendment which expires 10/30/16.
- Partners are currently in good standing

Agreement Purpose and Status

- **1914** – Field donated to Samuel Huston College named for Rev. Karl Downs, President of Samuel Huston College
- **1920's** - Samuel Huston College began playing baseball at the Rev. Karl Downs site
- **1920's** – Home of the Austin Black Senators, a semi-professional black counterpart to the White Austin Senators Baseball Team
- **1938** – Original site sold to Austin Public Schools and converted into football stadium for Anderson High School
- **1949** – City of Austin built Downs Mabson baseball field on Springdale & 12th St.
- **1954** – City of Austin relocated Downs Mabson baseball field to current location
- **1988** – AMBL began playing at Downs Mabson
- **2015** - Recorded as a Historic Texas Landmark

Background and History of Field

- The City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department seeks to continue its partnership with HT to provide National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Baseball.
- The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department seeks to continue its partnership with AMBL to provide recreational Baseball to the citizens of Austin.
- The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department seeks to provide opportunities for community access.

Agreement Goals and Objectives

- Establish a three-(3) year contract term with 2 two-year extension options for a total of seven years with both Austin Metro Baseball League and Huston Tillotson University
- Establish facility operations and maintenance roles and responsibilities for both Austin Metro Baseball League and Huston Tillotson University
- Create an equitable practice and game schedule to appropriately meet the needs of both Austin Metro Baseball League and Huston Tillotson University

Agreement Elements

- Establish proportionate utility fees commensurate with usage for both Austin Metro Baseball League and Huston Tillotson University
- Require both Austin Metro Baseball League and Huston Tillotson University to set aside dates in the season calendars for scheduled community use of the facility in support of community, historical and cultural activities

Agreement Elements (cont'd)

The proposed agreements will provide adult programming that could not otherwise be provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, while maintaining community access.

Public Purpose

Make a recommendation to the Austin City Council regarding authorization to negotiate and to execute agreements with Huston –Tillotson University and the Austin Metro Baseball League for the maintenance and use of Downs Field and to waive the associated field use fees.

Board Action