

Resolution Concerning Eliza Springs Amphitheater, Phase I

WHEREAS, the amphitheatre surrounding Eliza Springs (the Springs) in Zilker Park located near Barton Springs Pool is the oldest structure in Zilker Park and both the Springs and the amphitheatre structure that surrounds it are historically significant to the City of Austin and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Eliza Springs provides valuable habitat for the endangered Barton Springs Salamander and the Springs and its amphitheater serve as an important educational facility for both school children and adults to learn about the history and fragile ecosystem of the Springs; and

WHEREAS, the current amphitheatre structure around the Springs needs structural repairs and improvements to make it accessible to all citizens of Austin and to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin obtained a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1539 (section 10(a) permit) providing, among other things, that Eliza Springs will be used as an outdoor educational facility for the study of the biology and ecology of Central Texas springs and that educational kiosks will be installed to enhance public awareness of resource; and

WHEREAS, the Eliza Springs Committee was formed by concerned citizens to develop and implement a project to restore the structure of the amphitheatre and the habitat of the Springs and to bring the amphitheatre into compliance with the ADA and the purpose of Phase I of this project is to bring the amphitheatre into ADA compliance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Board supports the Eliza Springs Committee project, including Eliza Springs Amphitheater, Phase I; recommends that the Parks and Recreation Department continue working with the Eliza Springs Committee throughout the project to restore and enhance the educational value of Eliza Springs consistent with the City of Austin's section 10(a) permit and the ADA; and requests that the Eliza Springs Committee provide periodic updates to the Board's Land and Facilities Subcommittee on the progress of Phase I and future phases of the project.