

RESOLUTION NO. 20170817-052

WHEREAS, pools allow people of all abilities and ages to engage in physical activity and relaxation, particularly during seasons of high temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's history is marred by segregation and inequitable investment in public facilities throughout Austin, and the City Council is committed to never repeat that practice and to invest equitably in public amenities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin operates seven municipal pools, twenty-eight neighborhood pools, three wading pools, eleven splash pads, one rental facility at Commons Ford Ranch, and Barton Springs Pool; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20120112-067 directed the City Manager to draft an aquatic master plan that incorporates: "1) an analysis of all existing aquatic facilities including physical condition and historic significance; 2) a future needs assessment based on population growth projections of size and geographic distribution; 3) inclusion of best practices for both operations and programming; and 4) an assessment of funding sources"; and

WHEREAS, the resolution also directed the City Manager to draft "an aquatic master plan that includes strategies to ensure that Austin's neighborhood pools remain open and free;" and

WHEREAS, many pools have experienced mechanical and structural problems, and in 2017, four pools were closed for the season; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department have worked diligently on creating a draft Aquatic Master Plan (Plan) to help guide planning decisions over the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the Plan ranks pools in part by suitability for improvements and expansion, which may exclude pools that are very important to certain communities; and

WHEREAS, the Plan also appears to point toward a system that favors larger, admission-based regional pools over neighborhood pools; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Board voted to not recommend the Aquatic Master Plan and unanimously endorsed the creation of a working group that could review the Plan's various components; and

WHEREAS, the Council is committed to allowing individuals from all over the City to have access to safe, accessible, and affordable pools; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

A Task Force on the Aquatic Master Plan is created. The Task Force consists of four members of the Parks and Recreation Board and will be selected by the existing Parks and Recreation Board Membership. The Task Force will conduct public meetings and solicit additional public feedback on this draft planning tool.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

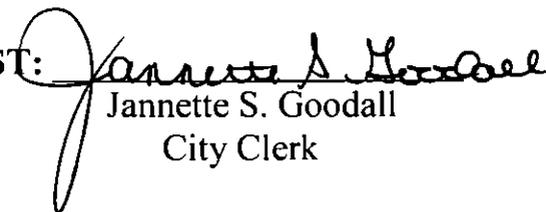
Task Force members should review the Plan with consideration for the existing criteria of geographic equity and access, environmental sustainability, and

fiscal sustainability while also taking into account historical and cultural importance, popularity, residential density and future population projections, as well as access to aquatics for residents who do not have access, creative funding sources, opportunities to create or leverage partnerships, and provide policy guidance on how to prioritize investments, including possible pool closures and the building of new aquatics facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Task Force shall provide feedback on the Aquatic Master Plan, including recommendations for potential aquatics system funding level options for the Bond Advisory Task Force and Council consideration in time for the 2018 Bond proposal.

ADOPTED: August 17, 2017

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk