



BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Parks and Recreation Board

Recommendation Number: (20171024-009): Recommendation to the City Council to instruct the City Manager to release the Request for Interests/Information (RFI) for Improvement and Management of Bolm Road District Park as an Outdoor Events Venue, Recreation Area, Trails and Waterfront Activities through Traditional or Alternative Financing Including Public Private Partnerships.

WHEREAS, Austin's public parks play a critical role in promoting public health and a sense of community, and the parks contribute to the economic vitality of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City does not have enough funding to develop all current undeveloped parkland; and

WHEREAS, Bolm Road District Park was acquired in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Austin's growing population and the popularity of special events in city parks are placing increasing demands on Austin's public park system; and

WHEREAS, the Parkland Dedication Task Force Key Task Force Final Report recommended that Bolm Road Park, John Trevino, Jr. Park, Onion Creek Metropolitan Park, and Walter E. Long Park should be considered as potential sites for events to help ensure that neighborhoods in East Austin have more equitable opportunities for cultural and neighborhood-oriented events and to serve as alternative sites for events at over-utilized urban parks; and

WHEREAS, the Parkland Dedication Task Force recommended funds in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget for studying the feasibility, requirements, and estimated costs for developing the existing publicly-owned land at Bolm Road and the John Treviño, Jr. Metropolitan Park as alternative event venues that can accommodate large special events in addition to providing new public park space for the growing Austin population; and

WHEREAS, funds for a study of Bolm Road District Park and the John Treviño, Jr Metropolitan Park were not allocated in the Fiscal Year 2017 or Fiscal Year 2018 budget; and

WHEREAS, the Parkland Dedication Task Force recommended funding a thorough financial and operational fee study to determine whether fees charged for hosting special events in public places are appropriate for covering the cost of city-provided services and short-term and long-term maintenance of the public property and infrastructure used for the event; and

WHEREAS, funds for a financial and operational fee study were not allocated in the Fiscal Year 2017 or Fiscal Year 2018 budget; and

WHEREAS, the RFI will help to determine the potential viability of Bolm Road District Park as a special events space while ensuring the space also serves other community needs; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Any future development of Bolm Road District Park will provide affected neighborhoods a formal role in the decisions about and planning for events at the park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Any future RFP evaluation resulting from the RFI decisions will include a matrix by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department to identify the economic and community benefits that events provide and to mitigate the impacts that they have on public access to parks, traffic, neighborhoods, parkland trees, and the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Any future RFP resulting from the RFI will ensure that parkland trees, vegetation, and environmentally sensitive areas are enhanced and enforced; and “green events” policies to protect air and water quality, promote recyclable materials and reduce landfill waste are emphasized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Any future development of Bolm Road District Park will ensure the property always remains City of Austin Parkland.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN PARKS and RECREATION BOARD:

The Parks and Recreation Board requests that the City Council make a recommendation to the City Manager/Parks Director to release an Request for Interests/Information (RFI) for the improvement and management of Bolm Road District Park as an outdoor events venue, recreation area, trails and waterfront activities through traditional or alternative financing including Public Private Partnerships in order to identify potential opportunities for the City to consider in the development of Bolm Road District Park.

Date of Approval: October 24, 2017

Record of the vote: Approved by the Parks and Recreation Board on a vote of 11-0.

Attest:  _____

Vera Labriola, Staff Liaison