



BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Parks and Recreation Board

Recommendation Number 20190226-005: Recommendation to the City Council for Funding an Increase to Summer Camps at Existing Parks and Recreation Spaces and Expansion to other Public Spaces; and Direct the City Auditor or City Manager to review the Existing Parks and Recreation Registration System.

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation summer camps is a highly sought-after affordable option for parents and guardians but there are not enough spaces to meet the demand; and

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Department provides quality Out-of-School Time programs using the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets global standard for youth programming; and

WHEREAS, Out-of-School Time programs includes summer camp services; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department summer camps have the funding and facility space for 1,044 campers a day; and

WHEREAS, the registrations for June and July summer camps are filled every year; and

WHEREAS, the summer camps held at Austin Nature and Science Center, Asian American Resource Center, Camacho Activity Center, Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, Gus Garcia, Hancock Recreation Center, Metz Recreation Center, Pam Am Recreation Center, Pickfair Community Center, and South Austin Recreation Center are quickly filled for the entire summer; and

WHEREAS, there is not enough space to allow many parents and guardians at different income brackets to register closer to summer; and

WHEREAS, more than 147,921 Austinites live in poverty and a study from CareerBuilder found that 78% of United States workers live paycheck-to-paycheck; and

WHEREAS, last year an estimated 300 Parks and Recreation Department summer campers qualified and received reduce summer camp tuition; and

WHEREAS, not all Parks and Recreation Department facilities are maximized or utilized for summer camps because of inadequate budget funding; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department has facilities but not enough funding for 388 more campers; and

WHEREAS, Dittmar, Dougherty Arts Center, Dove Springs, Duffie Recreation Center, Givens, McBeth, Montopolis, Northwest, and Parque Zaragoza have enough space to accommodate another 232 summer campers a week if there was enough funding available; and

WHEREAS, Alamo Recreation Center, Austin Recreation Center, Dickinson Museum, Dottie Jordan, and Elisabet Ney Museum have no summer camp programming because of no funding available. Combined these spaces could hold 108 campers a week; and

WHEREAS, the locations of existing summer camps are not accessible for City of Austin residents living outside of Austin’s core; and

WHEREAS, there are no facility-based summer camp spaces in SW Austin, West Austin or far/deep North Austin; and

WHEREAS, far/deep South Austin, far/deep SE Austin, far/deep East Austin, and far/deep NW Austin have only one recreation center option; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department estimates that the cost to provide Summer Camp services to all 340 students at existing facilities is \$800,000 (\$113,000 per 48 students and includes summer camp services, inclusion services, and training for counselors) and the cost to provide Summer Camp for 48 campers a week at four other public facilities located in areas that do not have a Parks and Recreation facility is \$452,000 plus facility rental costs; and **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD:

The Parks and Recreation Board strongly recommends increasing funding for Summer Camp services in the 2019-2020 budget for implementation in Summer 2020 or sooner based on available funding; and

Date of Approval: _____

Record of the vote:

Attest: _____

(Staff or board member can sign)