

WHEREAS, the Parkland Dedication Ordinance was approved in 1985, and amended in 2016 after two years of developer and environmentalist input, as a means for helping implement the Imagine Austin plan, which highlights the need for more parks and open spaces spread equitably across our City; and

WHEREAS, the Parkland Dedication Ordinance is important for honoring the City's commitment to equity for all its citizens to have access to parks and open space throughout the City, and aligns with the Mayor's pledge to meet the Trust for Public Land's goal to provide a ten minute walk to a park for all citizens by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Parkland Dedication Ordinance has positively impacted parkland access in park deficient areas across the City, improving people's health and lives; and

WHEREAS, with climate change and rising temperatures, and as Austin grows and becomes more dense, the ordinance serves as an important tool to help develop urban parks which serve a crucial role in helping to mitigate flooding, capture carbon and provide community cooling space for our citizenry; and

WHEREAS, since the 1985 inception of the Ordinance, its impact on development has been minimal as in only 6% of cases has parkland actually been dedicated as opposed to developers paying a fee in lieu, with approximately 80% of the land dedicated located in the floodplain; simultaneously under the ordinance, over 1,700 acres of new parkland was added.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Board strongly urges the City Council to uphold and keep the Parkland Dedication Ordinance in its current version.

Passed on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8-0-1 with Board Members Donovan and Farasat absent and Board Member Rinaldi abstaining.