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WHEREAS, as the City’s population continues to grow, these parks and trails are increasingly important to the environmental, health, and mobility needs of the citizens of Austin; and

WHEREAS, as areas of the City continue to redevelop with denser populations, the acreage of parks also grows due to the critical benefits provided by the City's Parkland Dedication Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, as the parks and trails, and the number of people who depend on them, increases, the need for innovative partnerships with local nonprofits becomes increasingly worth exploring; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan specifically outlines partnerships as a sustainability strategy for developing, improving, maintaining and programming park spaces; and

29 **WHEREAS**, PARD works with nonprofit organizations, conservancies,
30 community groups, and businesses to enhance and improve parks, increase
31 recreational and cultural opportunities, and preserve natural areas in Austin; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the goals of these partnerships are to enhance and expand
33 public use of PARD's grounds and facilities; encourage active recreation and
34 healthy lifestyles; improve environmental stewardship through public participation
35 and education; celebrate arts, culture, and history to build community; and
36 maximize public benefit at minimum taxpayer cost; and

37 **WHEREAS**, many peer cities such as Dallas, Houston, Chicago, New York
38 City, and others have negotiated partnerships with nonprofit organizations
39 dedicated to the maintenance and stewardship of particular parks; and

40 **WHEREAS**, nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving parks and open
41 space for the benefit of the community often have the ability to fundraise and other
42 opportunities that municipalities do not have; and

43 **WHEREAS**, in Austin, some nonprofits have already begun partnering with
44 the City to improve parkland by contributing needed infrastructure, maintenance,
45 and programming; and

46 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code, an agreement
47 between a municipality and a nonprofit organization for management services to a
48 municipal park to which the organization has provided significant financial or
49 other benefits is not subject to State competitive bidding requirements; and

50 **WHEREAS**, a coalition of partners led by The Trail Foundation in
51 cooperation with PARD has been exploring concepts for entering into agreements
52 regarding maintenance of certain parks following consultation with an Urban Land
53 Institute Advisory Services Panel that took place on August 25-30, 2019; and

54 **WHEREAS**, the Urban Land Institute Advisory Services Panel's work
55 culminated in a report which lays out a potential structure and steps that could be

56 taken toward an agreement with the City to increase nonprofits' permission to
57 maintain and improve parks and trails, and to do so in a more efficient and
58 effective way; and

59 **WHEREAS**, such an arrangement reduces the burden on PARD's budget
60 and resources; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

62 The City Council expresses support for the concept of parkland agreements
63 between nonprofit organizations and PARD if the agreements further the mission
64 and vision of the department with regard to non-enterprise fund public parks and
65 trails in an effective, efficient, and inclusive manner.

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

67 The City Council directs the City Manager to work with parks nonprofit
68 partners that have established relationships with PARD, including but not limited
69 to The Trail Foundation and the Pease Park Conservancy, to create opportunities
70 for partnership agreements that benefit the community, and to outline roles and
71 responsibilities between those groups and PARD.

72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

73 The City Council further directs the City Manager to deliver a status report
74 on potential partnership agreements to City Council by April 30, 2020, and to bring
75 any partnership agreements that may be ready for consideration to City Council by
76 June 4, 2020.

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79 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2020 **ATTEST:** _____

80 Jannette S. Goodall
81 City Clerk