



RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Seniors

Recommendation Number: (20210113-03B): Seating in Parks, Greenbelts, Trails and other Open Spaces

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has added to the inventory of parkland, greenbelts, and trails through application of voter- approved bond funds; and

WHEREAS, much of the existing parkland, greenbelts, and trails lack adequate benches that would help older adults, children, people with limited mobility and others use and enjoy these green spaces; and

WHEREAS, seating encourages walking, socializing and enjoyment of green spaces because there is somewhere to rest; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Age Friendly Action Plan includes the following goal and strategy:

Goal: Increase access to and utilization of parks, open spaces and public buildings. Strategy: Increase the number of parks and public spaces that are equipped with functional seating at frequent intervals, drinking fountains, shaded resting areas, walkways suitable for wheelchairs/walkers and accessible public restrooms; and

WHEREAS, the privately funded "memorial bench" program needs expansion; and

WHEREAS, non-profits and businesses may want to work with the Parks and Recreation Department through the Partnership Program to further the City's ability to provide adequate seating in parkland, greenbelts, and trails.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors recommends the Parks and Recreation Department to emphasize the placement of benches on trails and other developed parkland areas at appropriate intervals based on professional guidance and the design elements of the trail or other green space so older adults and others can enjoy the parkland assets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors recommends the Parks Department promote the "Memorial Bench" program and encourage community partners to support expanding the number of benches and related infrastructure available for residents, including older adults.

Date of Approval: January 13th, 2021

Record of the vote: **15-0**

Motioned By: Varteressian

Seconded By: Grampp

For: Briesemeister, Varteressian, Hauser, Temperley, Spain, De Maria Nicola, Garcia-Pittman, Lugo, Angel, Grampp, Cagle, Bordie, Van Sickle, Jackson, and Kareithi

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Bre", followed by a long horizontal flourish.