

RESOLUTION NO. 20210520-062

WHEREAS, the 1984 Town Lake Comprehensive Plan and 1985 Town Lake Corridor Study were initial efforts by the City to begin to consolidate parkland and useful recreation space through selective land acquisitions, thereby initiating the opportunity to create an active new “living room” for the heart of the City; and

WHEREAS, those efforts began the work to locate future civic functions and performance venues and outlined zoning overlays to guide development on both sides of the lake; and

WHEREAS, the guidance provided by these plans have informed subsequent discussions over the years concerning parkland, facilities planning, area development and other associated topics; and

WHEREAS, many great cities have found a compatibility between cultural institutions such as museums, galleries, theaters, and concert halls, and the graciousness of a natural park setting; and

WHEREAS, the natural environment and how we live with, respect and preserve it is at least as valuable a measure of our cultural heritage and values as is our built environment; and

WHEREAS, commercial and residential development and some of the unintended consequences of a growing population interacting with our natural open spaces have placed stress on the natural environment our people and culture requires to thrive; and

WHEREAS, climate change is predicted to have significant impacts in Austin as outlined in the report “Climate Change Projections for the City of Austin” by Katharine Hayhoe of ATMOS; and

WHEREAS, Zilker Park may be one of the largest publicly owned parcels of land for climate mitigation purposes in the City; and

WHEREAS, protecting and enhancing our natural spaces are key strategies in mitigating the impact of climate change and vigorously pursuing such strategies is our community's responsibility to itself and the larger world and represents our best cultural aspirations; and

WHEREAS, "Cultural Park" is the appropriate classification for Butler Shores Park, as it is the location of the main office for the Parks and Recreation Department, the Zachary Scott Theater, and the soon-to-be relocated Daugherty Arts Center (DAC), numerous other cultural assets are nearby, including the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, the Zilker Botanical Gardens, and the Zilker Hillside Theater, and large events gathering our community occur in the open spaces in or near Butler Shores, such as the Austin City Limits Music Festival, the Trail of Lights, and the Zilker Park Kite Festival; and

WHEREAS, with each of these individual cultural pieces there has not been a means to fully coordinate a comprehensive approach to address the area's competing needs or leverage the public investments to full effect to create a Cultural and Climate Innovation District that would serve to enhance and better guide private development and planning, as well as transportation infrastructure and management, in a comprehensive way in the Butler Shores area and around and through the shoreline park areas; and

WHEREAS, planning and analysis is needed to address the competing needs in an area that is in rapid transition due to private development, public investments for the DAC, corridor and transit, and increasing population and density demands; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 990715-115 established the boundaries of Butler Shores as "the property bounded by the Town Lake shoreline on the north,

the various and respective southern boundaries of all legal lots existing as of July 17, 1986, that abut the south public right-of-way of Barton Springs Road on the south, Lee Barton Drive on the east, and the centerline of Barton Creek on the west”; and

WHEREAS, the Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan is currently underway and is tasked to study parking and transportation circulation around and through Zilker Park, including Toomey Road, which bisects the Butler Shores area; and

WHEREAS, the DAC Redevelopment Project is currently underway and states that “The goals for this project will build on the DAC’s mission: to support emerging and established artists who create, showcase and experience the arts first-hand. PARD envisions the DAC as Austin’s cultural living room, where people of all ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, genders, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, nationalities, and religions gather to create community through the arts.”; and

WHEREAS, additional project goals identified in the planning phase of the DAC Redevelopment Project include, but are not limited to:

- Develop the surrounding parkland consistent with the vision for the Butler Shores area and a Cultural and Climate Innovation District;
- Strengthen trail connections and activate parkland through outdoor education, play, and performance amenities;
- Consider alternatives for pedestrian and vehicular circulation, site access, and parking; and
- Demonstrate high achievement in sustainable design for architecture and landscape; and

WHEREAS, Austin is a forward-thinking climate award winning hub of innovation and a new Cultural and Climate Innovation District will showcase all

that Austin is about - art, music, environmental stewardship, inclusion and cutting-edge ideas; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to work with the Parks and Recreation Department, supported by other City departments as he deems appropriate to:

1. Explore creation of a City Cultural and Climate Innovation District (CCID) for the South Shore/Barton Springs area including Butler Shores and surrounding South Austin cultural assets. The CCID shall include, but is not limited to, the Long Center for the Performing Arts, Zachary Scott Theater, the Daugherty Arts Center (DAC), the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, the Zilker Botanical Gardens, the Zilker Hillside Theater, the Zilker Preserve, and the Austin Nature and Science. The exploration will include actions needed to initiate creation, a process for convening representatives of the cultural and climate assets, a process for community engagement, and an outline of next steps and timelines.
2. Coordinate an analysis of the area to be designated a Cultural and Climate Innovation District that will inventory the built cultural assets and the natural open spaces as climate protection and recreation related assets and develop strategies to protect and enhance both. That analysis and strategic work will include review of both emerging and existing successful examples of technologies and methods to enhance transportation and visitation which will decrease the pressure on the climate assets while continuing to be available to all residents of our growing community.
3. Develop a diagnostic analysis of the area which includes (a) an inventory of parcels to include existing cultural assets; (b) information

on the status of parcels, including planned and future development, for use in any future small area planning for the area; (c) information on where opportunities may exist to leverage and optimize existing and future cultural assets to strengthen the identity of the area as a Cultural and Climate Innovation District; and (d) opportunities to enhance greenspace in the area.

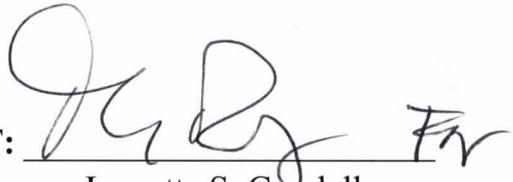
4. Recognize the Butler Shores area as a City Cultural Park as established in City Code Sections 25-2-671(2) and 25-2-672(d), with a commitment to preserve, maximize and enhance open greenspace for public enjoyment, including activities related to the cultural assets; and to the greatest extent possible restrict development to walking, exercise, and bicycle paths.
5. Fully coordinate a traffic impact analysis with the Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan, DAC redevelopment, recent approved private developments in the area as well as any current applications for development within the Butler Shores area. Analysis and proactive planning for the area should include impacts from area festivals and events as well as CapMetro transit services and other multi-modal modes, including consideration of current and ongoing study of circulator transit options within the District and linking potential future Districts and other destinations; and
6. Explore incorporating the recommendations identified in Recommendation No. 5 of the Zilker Park Working Group Final Report, especially to “utilize COA approved tactical urbanism strategies to build temporary protected bike lanes on Barton Springs Road to the park from Lamar Blvd; for example, temporary paint, planter boxes, and parking stops.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall report back to Council by September 30, 2021 with an update and plan for next steps to include a timeline and work steps for the creation of a Cultural and Climate Innovation District for the South Shore/Barton Springs area. The update and plan should also address the deliverables from each of the above bullets, including: (a) an inventory of the assets and strategies to protect and enhance the assets, (b) the diagnostic analysis, (c) traffic impact analysis, (d) bicycle/multimodal transportation strategies, and (e) description of community engagement process to support its creation.

ADOPTED: May 20, 2021

ATTEST:



Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk