




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager 

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, M. Ed., CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: December 12, 2022

SUBJECT: Staff Response to Repairs and Operations of the Zilker Park Train Ride (Resolution No. 20200220-046)

This memo serves as a response to [Resolution No. 20200220-046](#) directing the City Manager to explore options to procure a temporary vendor through an expedited process to oversee the repairs and operations of the Zilker Park train ride.

On November 30, 2021, The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) entered into a partnership agreement with the Austin Parks Foundation (Foundation) for the construction, operations and maintenance for a miniature train ride at Zilker Park. Per the agreement, the Foundation (or their subsidiary) owns the train, the tracks and all equipment; and is responsible for repairs, maintenance and operations of the train. The Foundation has acquired the train, installed tracks, and received needed parts to operate. During recent testing, the Foundation found additional engine work is required to ensure fail-safe functioning of the train. Additionally, the difficulty in obtaining parts in a timely manner has further delayed their timeline. The foundation has a website that provides details on the train: <https://www.zilkertrain.org/>

Should you have any questions, please contact Joy Casnovsky, Chief Mission Officer, Austin Parks Foundation at (512) 387-3051 or joy@austinparks.org.

cc:

Spencer Cronk, City Manager