Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-3758, **Agenda Item #:** 42. 1/26/2023

Posting Language
Authorize negotiation and execution of an amended interlocal agreement with Austin Independent School District regarding the use of jointly-owned park facilities.

Lead Department
Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note
This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:
The first written policies cover the joint use of school and recreation facilities and were adopted by City Council December 1, 1960, and the Austin Independent School District (AISD) Board January 9, 1961. The Agreement was amended and signed by the City Manager and Superintendent on July 15, 1981, and approved by the AISD Board August 10, 1981.

For More Information:
Kimberly McNeeley, Director, 512-974-6722; Christine Chute Canul, Program Manager II, 512-974-9515.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

October 24, 2022 - Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board on a vote of 6-0 with Vice Chair Faust and Board Members Barnard, Flowers, Rinaldi and Taylor absent. Recommendation Number 20221024-6. November 17 - 2022, AISD Board Approved the Amendment to the Agreement.

Additional Backup Information:
Since the separation of AISD from the City of Austin in 1955, there has been an ongoing history of cooperation and joint use of facilities. Through the preceding years since the original Joint Use Agreement was signed, there has been considerable growth and change the city and in our school parks. In particular, schools have begun embracing the park space as a secondary classroom and with that the installation of ecological features to enhance both the environment and learning opportunities. However, with these new features we have also seen increased confusion around the design and maintenance requirements and responsibilities. Efforts to update the agreement began in 2017 to locate current inefficiencies in the operations and maintenance of these sites; develop clear roles and responsibilities; and create a streamlined and transparent process for community activated improvements moving forward. In 2018, PARD and AISD also established a review process for community activated projects on joint use sites and integrated into the Joint Use Agreement Amendment draft. From 2018-2021 PARD and AISD held meetings with pertinent divisions and staff to understand operations and ownership of amenities at sites and draft new language that reflects the operations and maintenance occurring at these sites, including adding language surrounding amenities not reflected in the 1981 Amendment. In conjunction with the Amendment, staff have developed a webpage specific to the Joint Use Agreement with general information for the public, frequently asked questions, and a map of existing Joint Use School Parks.

Attachments include:

- Original Joint Use Agreement and 1981 Amendment
- 2022 proposed Agreement Amendment

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Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment; Culture and Lifelong Learning; Government that Works for All.

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