



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20230920-004

Date: 09-20-2023

Subject: Allocation of funds to preserve the topsoil and banning parking on the Polo Field at Zilker Park

Motion by: David Sullivan

Second by: TBD

WHEREAS, photographic evidence has been provided to the Environmental Commission during Public Communication on Sept. 6, 2023 of large parcels of exposed topsoil in Zilker Park, and

WHEREAS, site visits by individual commissioners have confirmed the presence of excessively exposed topsoil in Zilker Park, and

WHEREAS, some risk exists that the topsoil may be washed away by heavy rain and run downhill to Barton Springs Pool and Barton Creek below the Pool, and

WHEREAS, the Parks Board has already asked that parking be disallowed on the Zilker Polo Fields, the largest exposed parcel of parkland, and that the Polo Fields be restored to usable park land, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission already discussed the motor vehicle parking issue in Zilker Park and requested input from the Parks and Recreation Department about parking alternatives to the Polo Field, but has received no input to date.

THEREFORE, the Environmental Commission does resolve to ask that the City Council add money to the Parks and Recreation Department budget in FY2024 for replanting native grasses on exposed parkland, including the Polo Fields, for storm water diversion, and other steps to prevent topsoil loss in Zilker Park and to protect Barton Springs, Barton Creek, and Ladybird Lake.

And furthermore take steps to prevent parking on exposed topsoil within the park while this restoration is underway, including banning parking on the Polo Field.

Vote:

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attest:

Kevin Ramberg, Environmental Commission Chair

DRAFT