



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD RECOMMENDATION YYYYMMDD-XXX

Date:

Subject: Public Transportation to Barton Springs

Motioned By:

Seconded By:

Recommendation for Transit Solution during Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation

Whereas the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation project is anticipated to begin in Winter of 2024 and be completed in Spring of 2025;¹

Whereas during the Bathhouse Rehabilitation construction, the parking lot in front of Barton Springs Pool, with approximately 140 spaces, will be closed for use by staff and the public beginning in early 2024 and continuing for 14 months, through the popular summer tourist season;

Whereas the Parks and Recreation Board, on July 24th 2023, unanimously approved a recommendation that the Austin City Council direct PARD to permanently close the Zilker Polo Field to overflow visitor parking beginning September 4th 2023, and to fund shuttles for transportation within Zilker Park.²

Whereas the Parks and Recreation Board voted to create a Zilker Shuttle Working Group on July 24th, 2023, to recommend solutions for parking and shuttle transportation within Zilker Park.³

Whereas alternative solutions to guide visitors to Barton Springs Pool's north entrance will be essential in 2024;

Whereas the Bathhouse Rehabilitation construction is under the supervision of Public Works of the Transportation and Public Works Department;

Whereas no plans have been made as yet by Public Works to provide solutions for visitor access alternatives during the Bathhouse Remodel at the pool's north entrance for the summer of 2024;

Whereas the several existing Zilker Park parking lots near the pool's north entrance will likely be at full capacity on peak-use summer days during the same hours of the day when the number of visitors entering at the pool's north entrance are projected to be 500-800 individuals per hour;

¹ <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/barton-springs-bathhouse-rehabilitation>

² <https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=412493>

³ <https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=414295>

Whereas the Zilker Shuttle Working Group seeks to collaborate with Austin Transportation and Public Works Dept. (TPW) and CapMetro to find the best public transportation solution for Zilker Park and Barton Springs Pool in 2024;

Whereas a brief postponement of approval of the Bathhouse Remodel would create several opportunities for commissioners and council members to hear from the public about the Bathhouse Remodel and transportation solutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board:

1. Recommends that prior to approval of the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation project, the Austin City Council have a joint meeting with the Urban Transportation Commission, allowing three times for public comment (at the joint meeting, at the Urban Transportation Commission meeting and at the Council meeting.)
2. Recommends that the Austin City Council direct the Transportation and Public Works Dept. to develop a Transportation Plan for visitors to Barton Springs during the Bathhouse Rehab. Construction.
3. Recommends that the Austin City Council directs PARD to develop a transportation plan within Zilker Park, utilizing shuttles.
4. Recommends that the minimum requirements of a proposed 2024 Transportation Plan and parking solution be sufficient to deliver 500-800 visitors per hours during peak hours on summer weekend days, from one or more external parking source(s) to the existing CapMetro bus stop, which is located within walkable distance to Barton Springs Pool's north entrance.

Vote

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attest: *[Staff or board member can sign]*