



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20230920-004

Date: 09-20-2023

Subject: Allocation of funds to preserve the topsoil and restore grassland within Zilker Park

Motion by: David Sullivan

Second by: Richard Brimer

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 parkland, 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, and,

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission acknowledges the need for a comprehensive vision plan that includes provisions, affordable parking and otherwise, for equitable access to Zilker Park for all park visitors, and

THEREFORE, the Environmental Commission does resolve to ask that the City Council add money to the Parks and Recreation Department budget in FY2025 for planting native grasses where appropriate on exposed parkland, for stormwater diversion, and other steps to prevent topsoil loss in Zilker Park and to protect Barton Springs, Barton Creek, and Ladybird Lake, and

Furthermore, the Environmental Commission asks that the City Council take steps to prevent parking on exposed topsoil within the park while this restoration is underway in FY2025, and

Furthermore, prepare to ban regular parking on the Zilker Polo Field in FY2025, and add additional parking elsewhere within or near Zilker Park, and

Furthermore, the Environmental Commission asks the City Council to direct staff to create a comprehensive plan for sustainable parking and transportation in and around Zilker Park that protects natural assets in Zilker Park.

Vote: 9-1

For: Kevin Ramberg, Perry Bedford, Jennifer Bristol, Richard Brimer, Peter Einhorn, Mariana Krueger, Haris Qureshi, Melinda Schiera, David Sullivan

Against: Hanna Cofer

Abstain: none

Absent: Colin Nickells

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KEVIN RAMBERG". The letters are in all caps and have a slightly cursive, informal style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kevin Ramberg, Environmental Commission Chair