



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023

Parks and Recreation Board

The Board/Commission mission statement is:

(A) The Parks and Recreation Board membership should include citizens of the city who are interested in public parks and public recreation and persons who are knowledgeable in recreation matters. The director of the Parks and Recreation Department, the city manager or designee, the director of the Financial and Administrative Services Department, and the city attorney are ex officio members of the board.

(B) The board shall advise the city council and the city manager regarding:

(1) the acquisition, development, improvement, equipment, programming, and maintenance of all land and facilities managed by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Austin;

(2) the purchase of additional land to be managed by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Austin.

(C) The board shall outline a general plan of development for land, facilities, and programs. The board may submit the plan to the Planning Commission and the city manager for detail development, and the city manager may then submit the plan to the city council for approval as may be required by the City Code.

(D) The board shall promote close cooperation between the City and all private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting recreational activities, so that all recreational resources within the City may be coordinated to secure the greatest public welfare.

(E) The board shall perform other duties as prescribed by the City Code or as directed by the city council.

Source: [*The Code of the City of Austin, Texas § 2-1-165 – Parks and Recreation Board*](#)

1. **Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board has three areas of responsibility in its advisory function to the City Council. The activities this board took for fiscal year 2022-2023 are listed by area below.

- A. **The board shall advise the city council and the city manager regarding: (1) the acquisition, development, improvement, equipment, programming, and maintenance of all land and facilities managed by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Austin; (2) the purchase of additional land to be managed by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Austin.**

JULY 25, 2022

Recommendation - 20220725-008 - Recommend to Austin City Council to accept the Commercial Parkland Dedication Ordinance as written.

AUGUST 22, 2022

Recommendation - 20220822-4 – Recommendation that City Council hold this 305 S. Congress PUD Amendment applicant -like all others- to full superiority, as detailed in the recommended conditions of the Parks and Recreation Board, the Environmental Board, and the Planning Commission.

NOVEMBER 28, 2022

Recommendation - 20221128-4 - Recommend to Austin City Council to approve The Trail Conservancy's Annual Programming Plan for the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail at Townlake Metropolitan Park

SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Recommendation - 20220926-3: recommend the Brodie Oaks PUD as superior if the applicant agrees to: 1) Work with staff and Austin Transportation department to provide ten (10) free parking spaces to the neighborhood park site; 2) Amend the application to state there will be a publicly available restroom at the neighborhood park; 3) Continue to work with Hill Country Conservancy and Austin Parks Foundation to ensure this is a sustainable trail accessing the Barton Creek Greenbelt; and, 4) Investigate and report back on methods to fund off-site Barton Creek Greenbelt preservation and management through commercial development at the site

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Recommendation - 20230227-06 - Recommend to Austin City Council for the continuation of Town Lake Metro Park concessions including consideration to recent studies and how that can impact water quality, the environment, safety, wildlife and outdoor recreation. Upon expiration of a contract on Lady Bird Lake that staff consider findings of environmental and capacity studies on Lady Bird Lake and consult experts. Further recommend that staff reevaluate the revenue sharing of that concessions contract and weigh it against recent rates and the public's ability to enjoy the park

Recommendation - 20230227-09 - Recommend to Austin City Council to approve an amendment to the Parkland Improvement, Donation, and Maintenance Agreement between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Hill Country Conservancy that will allow allocation of City funding for the construction of the Circle C Metropolitan Park segment of the Violet Crown Trail system to be managed by the Hill Country Conservancy. The amendment adds a maximum amount of funding, not to exceed \$2,100,000 (Two Million, One Hundred Thousand and No/100 Dollars) that the Parks and Recreation Department will allocate for construction

Recommendation - 20230227-18 - Recommend Austin City Council authorizes execution of a construction contract for Duncan Neighborhood Park project, with Muniz Concrete & Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,240,579 plus \$148,000 contingency for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,388,576, and further recommends additional community engagement to explore the inclusion of child-friendly features such as a play scape during a second phase of improvements at the park

MARCH 27, 2023

Recommendation - 20230327-04 - Recommend to the Austin City Council: 1) The approval of the PARD FY 2024 Operating Budget as presented in the FY 2024 Budget Forecast; 2) The allocation of additional funding on top of the proposed PARD FY 2024 Budget Forecast in such an amount as to fully fund the attached Under Resourced Service Expectations; and 3) The allocation of sufficient additional funding on top of the proposed PARD FY 2024 Budget Forecast to fully fund a study, estimated at \$250,000, regarding parkland visitation and best practices with the goal of recommending specific methods for parkland visitation tracking in the City of Austin, along with estimated cost figures

- B. The board shall outline a general plan of development for land, facilities, and programs. The board may submit the plan to the Planning Commission and the city manager for detail development, and the city manager may then submit the plan to the city council for approval as may be required by the City Code.**

JULY 25, 2022

Recommendation 20220725-4 - Recommend the following criteria in determining whether to recommend approval of a CUP to the Planning Commission. The application must: credibly justify a change of city and park policy to allow sales of alcoholic beverages; demonstrate the benefit to the city of the change of zoning at the location; demonstrate sufficient plans, policies, staffing and infrastructure to comply with existing laws and contractual obligations related to alcohol sales and consumption; locate the alcohol sales and consumption a safe distance from water bodies and children's areas, as well as any other potential hazards in the park's unique location; demonstrate valid community engagement processes and results of feedback from park users, community groups and surrounding neighborhoods on the issue of alcohol sales at the proposed location; and address any other unique issues that may inhibit safe and equitable access of the park for which the CUP is requested.

Recommendation 20220725-5 - Recommend approval of the conditional use permit at Republic Square for the Sale of Alcohol.

NOVEMBER 28, 2022

Recommendation - 20221128-3 - Recommends to Austin City Council to approve 9,574 square feet of Permanent Drainage Use on parkland located at Pioneer Crossing Neighborhood Park.

Recommendation - 20221128-5 - recommend that Council refrain from putting a cap on the money that Endeavor (the 305 S. Congress PUD applicant) would owe for the Parkland Dedication Fees and recommend against leaving park maintenance in the hands of the developer

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Recommendation - 20230227-05 - Recommend that the Parks & Recreation Board: 1) Because of the above-referenced concerns about the public engagement process, cannot not support the inclusion of the language in the Draft Zilker Park Vision Plan referring to the Zilker unified (umbrella non-profit); and 2) Recommends that this resolution be presented to all boards and commissions and City Council along with the Draft Zilker Park Vision Plan, until there is a public process of community engagement to discern the type of entity, if any, the public feels is appropriate to have a role in the operation, management, concessions management, advocacy, and fundraising for Zilker Park

MARCH 27, 2023

Motion to appoint Stephanie Bazan as the Parks and Recreation Board's primary representative to the Joint Sustainability Committee

Motion to appoint Lane Becker as the Parks and Recreation Board's alternate representative to the Joint Sustainability Committee

APRIL 22, 2023

Recommendation - 20230522-2 - Recommend to Austin City Council to: 1) Recommends that the Austin City Council approve the Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan; 2) Recommends that appropriate environmental, financial, safety, equity, design, and traffic studies be undertaken before the implementation of any project or phase of the Vision Plan in order to encourage advancement of the Vision Plan; 3) Recommends that both traffic and parking studies be undertaken in the planning phase to determine whether the suggested Vision Plan improvements (including reducing Barton Springs Road to one lane) are anticipated to provide sufficient multimodal and public transportation access and passage to and through Zilker Park; 4) Recommends promoting close coordination and collaborative efforts of the Vision Plan with CapMetro during the Project Connect design to help maximize opportunities for effective public transit options; 5) Recommends that an environmental study be undertaken regarding the current impact and the potential impact of removing the existing surface parking lots, as well as the impact on the local environment of adding the proposed parking garages; 6) Recommends further evaluation of the placement of the Hillside Theater, including consideration of alternate locations other than the proposed location; 7) Recommends that access, drainage, and ecological enhancements along shoreline restoration areas should maintain a naturalistic design where possible for aesthetic benefit; 8) Recommends that the agreement governing the relationship between PARD and the Non-Profit ensures a high degree of transparency into the financial and contractual obligations of the Non-Profit in order to allow PARD to vet the partnership in accordance with PARD's adopted partnership policies; 9) Recommends an annual summary update of progress toward identified Vision Plan goals be shared publicly to help promote understanding and accountability; 10) Recommends the Zilker Park Vision Plan implement a study to determine the historic under-use of Zilker Park by historically disadvantaged City of Austin residents and how this may be corrected; 11) Recommends retaining the historic concessions in Zilker Park (Zilker Boat Rental, Zilker Eagle Train, and Zilker Café) as they are part of the history and culture; and 12) Affirms that this Recommendation shall supersede and replace Parks and Recreation Board Recommendation 20230227-5

- C. The board shall promote close cooperation between the City and all private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting recreational activities, so that all recreational resources within the City may be coordinated to secure the greatest public welfare.**

JULY 25, 2022

Recommendation - 20220725-006 - Recommend that Austin City Council authorize the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Lower Colorado River Authority for the installation, maintenance, and replacement of buoys to assist boaters in recognizing hazards on Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, Decker Lake, and the area surrounding Handcox Water Treatment Plant on Lake Travis.

Motion to approve the Parks and Recreation Board Annual Internal Review Report.

AUGUST 22, 2022

Recommendation - 20220822-3 - Recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Board encourages the City of Austin and the Parks and Recreation Department to explore all available means to educate the public about this issue, and to expand fenced off-leash dog areas, prioritizing the high density areas that lack these facilities

Motion to form an Aquatics Working Group.

OCTOBER 24, 2022

Recommendation - 20221024-6 - Recommend to Austin City Council to approve the amended Joint Use Agreement between Austin Independent School District and the City of Austin

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Recommendation - 20230227-07 - Recommend to Austin City Council to authorize the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Austin Community College to provide heating, ventilation and air conditioning training course instruction at Turner Roberts Recreation Center

Recommendation - 20230227-08 - Recommend to Mayor and Council in support of Pease Park Conservancy's Annual Programming Plan for Kingsbury Commons within Pease District Park

MARCH 27, 2023

Recommendation - 20230327-03 - Recommend to Mayor and City Council to support The Trail Conservancy's Art and Culture Plan for Butler Trail for portions of Town Lake Metropolitan Park

APRIL 24, 2023

Recommendation 20230424-008 - Recommend that City Council form a Parks Safety Task Force that would put much needed resources into this effort and would be tasked with evaluating the following: Funding and reinstatement of a parks police unit, 311 and 911 calls regarding safety concerns in parks, Strategies to address

homelessness at parks by working with the Austin Homeless Strategies Office Increased funding to greatly expand our Park Ranger program, Improvements of lighting, signage, security equipment within our park system, Equitable resource distribution across park systems in all parts of the city, and Impact of enforcement based solutions on those who disproportionately experience them

JUNE 26, 2023

Recommendation - 20230626-5 - Recommend to Austin City Council to authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and the Austin Independent School District for SwimATX, a year-long swim lesson program that includes the 36-hour lifeguard certification course, which will be provided to the students of select AISD high schools

Recommendation - 20230626-6 - 1) Recommend the Austin City Council direct the City Manager, Legal Department, and the Parks & Recreation Department ensure that any contract negotiation between the City, PARD, and SXSW include provision requiring fair pay for domestic artists performing at City of Austin parks, park facilities, and city owned property; and 2) recommend that the Austin City Council require changes to artist pay and compensation by SXSW before waiving any future fees at Vic Mathias Shores, or at other parks, park facilities, or city owned facilities

Motion to appoint Board Member Stephanie Bazan to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board

Motion to appoint Board Member Jennifer Franklin to the Downtown Commission

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

Yes.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

A. Take action to recommend to City Council and/or Director enhancements, additions, and deletions to Parks and Recreation Department programs and planning;

B. Recommend to the City Council and/or Director approval of concessions on City parkland designed to serve citizens using the parks; and

C. Recommend granting temporary and/or permanent easements making repairs or enhancements to City utilities or improving City property adjacent to city parkland through Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funding.

D. The Board this year has prioritized the following goals:

- To focus on ways we can best provide parks-related services to residents
- To rectify issues that prevent underserved residents from accessing parks
- To preserve the natural parklands/ecology that make Austin so livable, and
- To identify ways to recognize citizens of all economic levels and ethnicities who have contributed to our communities historically.