



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

20231108-003: Recommendation to Approve Austin Public Health Chapter 26 Application

WHEREAS, in the City of Austin, zip code 78741 is a child care desert with only 15.8 child care seats per 100 children of working parents and only 2.9 subsidized child care seats for working parents at < 200% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the location has a long history, dating back to 1957, of providing early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, affordable, high-quality early childhood education is the current site's primary use; and

WHEREAS, approval of Austin Public Health's Chapter 26 application would allow a high quality child care center to continue to operate and potentially expand access to high quality affordable care from 20 to 60 children; and

WHEREAS, the child care program expansion would incorporate an outdoor learning environment including a garden and food forest and a strive to use sustainable green design and construction; and

WHEREAS, there would be no impact to the soccer court, tennis court, gravel path/track and pool area;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Early Childhood Council encourages the Austin City Council to approve Austin Public Health's Chapter 26 Application to transfer the northeast portion of Civitan Neighborhood Park from the Austin Parks and Recreation Department to Austin Public Health to meet the community goals of expanding access to affordable, high quality child care.

Date of approval: November 8, 2023

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 9-0 vote

Attest:

*Caitlin Oliver, Early Childhood Council staff liaison*