




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, M.Ed., CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

DATE: December 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Staff Update on Waller Creek Boathouse (Resolution 20220901-085)

The purpose of this memo to provide an update to Council [Resolution 20220901-085](#), relating to the relocation of the Austin Rowing Club and other organizations that use the Waller Creek Boathouse to similar facilities located on the site of the former Youth Hostel owned by the City at 2200 South Lakeshore Boulevard. The resolution directs the City Manager to return with a financing plan to make improvements to the former Youth Hostel site and authorizes the negotiation and execution of agreements necessary for the operation of organizations that currently utilize the Waller Creek Boathouse. The Mayor and City Council Members [received an update](#) from the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) on June 28, 2023 stating that additional direction was needed from the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP).

Since the approval of the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan on June 6, 2023, PARD has resumed coordination with Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on the environmental process, which includes assessing the impacts to and identifying mitigations for the parkland where the current Waller Creek Boathouse is located. Coordination with the Austin Light Rail environmental process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is ongoing. Community engagement to support the NEPA process will begin in January 2024, and is anticipated to continue through 2025.

PARD has entered into a contract with a consultant selected from the City of Austin's Architecture Rotation List to complete the Youth Hostel Boathouse Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study and ongoing discussions will determine the next steps including a plan for financing the boathouse and dock construction. The Feasibility Study is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2024. As the Feasibility Study progresses, PARD and ATP will seek stakeholder and community input and provide updates. In addition, PARD is in the process of creating a project webpage called the Youth Hostel Boathouse Feasibility Study, where updates will be provided to the community.

PARD will provide another progress update by June 1, 2024.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (512) 974-6717.

Cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager
Robert Goode, P.E., Interim Assistant City Manager