



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD RECOMMENDATION 20240226-12

Date: February 26, 2024

Subject: Establish Austin as a Recognized Soccer City

Motioned By: Pedro Villalobos

Seconded By: Stephanie Bazan

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Board Recommends that the Austin City Council approve a resolution to establish Austin as a recognized soccer city and direct the City Manager to analyze challenges and needs in soccer field development and soccer programming and to provide recommendations.

Rationale:

Whereas, the city of Austin has demonstrated a growing interest and participation in the sport of soccer, with a vibrant community of players, fans, and organizations dedicated to its promotion and development;

Whereas, Austin's diverse population embraces soccer as a unifying force, bringing together people of various backgrounds, cultures, and ages in the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie;

Whereas, soccer serves as a catalyst for promoting equity and community health, offering opportunities for social inclusion, physical activity, and youth development across all neighborhoods and demographics in Austin;

Whereas, ensuring equitable access to soccer fields and programming is integral to addressing disparities and promoting wellness among underserved communities in Austin;

Whereas, the emergence of professional soccer teams, such as Austin FC, has captured the enthusiasm and support of residents, contributing to the city's identity as a dynamic and inclusive soccer city;

Whereas, the availability and accessibility of quality soccer facilities and programming are essential to nurturing talent, fostering youth development, and promoting healthy lifestyles among Austin's residents;

Whereas, there exists a need to assess and address the challenges and requirements associated with soccer field development, maintenance, and programming to ensure equitable access and utilization across Austin's communities;

Whereas, recognizing the importance of strategic planning and resource allocation in advancing soccer initiatives, it is imperative to empower the City Manager to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the current landscape of soccer facilities, programming, and associated needs within Austin;

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

1. Recommends that the Austin City Council approve a resolution to establish Austin as a recognized soccer city and direct the City Manager to analyze challenges and needs in soccer field development and soccer programming and to provide recommendations.

Vote **The motion to recommend that that the Austin City Council approve a resolution to establish Austin as a recognized soccer city and direct the City Manager to analyze challenges and needs in soccer field development and soccer programming and to provide recommendations was approved on Chair Villalobos' motion, Board Member Bazan's second on an 8-0 vote. Board Member Taylor off the dais. Board Members Hayes and Orme absent.**

For: Pedro Villalobos, Kathryn Flowers, Stephanie Bazan, Lane Becker, Jennifer Franklin, Lisa Hugman, Nicole Merritt and Holly Reed.

Against: None.

Abstain: Kim Taylor.

Absent: Julie Jayes and Shelby Orme.

Attest: Tim Dombeck, Board and Council Liaison, Parks and Recreation Department.

Tim Dombeck
