



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20241106-004

Date: November 6, 2024

Subject: Bird-Friendly Design Working Group

Motion by: Jennifer Bristol

Seconded by:

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission was given a presentation about Bird Safe Design by Heidi Trudell Bird Safe Design Specialist with support from Travis Audubon; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission recognizes the City of Austin was named a Bird City in Feb. 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission recognizes that over 400 species of birds reside or migrate through Travis County every spring and fall, including the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler and threatened Black-capped Vireo; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission recognizes the City of Austin benefits from the annual \$1.8 billion generated from bird tourism in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission recognizes birds colliding with poorly designed buildings results in up to 1 million birds dying in the US every year; and

WHEREAS, to better understand the issues and best design practices for Bird-Friendly Buildings, the Environmental Commission formed a working group in June 2024 with other commissions, architects, developers, and conservationist; and

WHEREAS, the working group met monthly to study what other cities are doing, what are the best practices, and what the City of Austin is already doing; and

WHEREAS, after studying the issue and solutions the Working Group, with support from Council Member Leslie Pool's office, submitted a resolution for consideration by council. The resolution will be considered on November 21, 2024; and

THEREFORE, the Environmental Commission recommends supporting the resolution as it falls in line with meeting the environmental goals of improving habitats for species, improving and stabilizing biodiversity within the city limits and ETJ, and improving the quality of life for people residing in or visiting Austin.

VOTE

For:

Against:

Recuse:

Absent:

Approved By:

Perry Bedford, Environmental Commission Chair

DRAFT