

RESOLUTION NO. 201408047-093

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Parkland Dedication (PLD) Ordinance No. 20070621-027 established an initial parkland dedication fee for each dwelling unit at \$650, payable at the time of site plan approval, with the dollar amount being based on a report by the City Manager that analyzes the cost of parkland acquisition and development and determines the proportionate share of those costs attributable to new residential development; and

WHEREAS, the PLD Ordinance further instructed the City Manager to prepare a similar report every three years that includes a recommendation for adjusting the dollar amount; and

WHEREAS, the answer to Council Budget Question #43 in June 2014, requesting relevant tri-annual reports since 2007, with subsequent analysis and dedication fee adjustments, indicated the first report and recommendation for Council consideration will be provided by December of 2014;

WHEREAS, in November 2009, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution No. 20091119-068 establishing the policy goal that publicly accessible and child-friendly parks or green space be provided within ¼ mile walking distance of all urban core residents and within ½ mile walking distance of all residents outside the urban core; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20091119-068 also directed the City Manager to create a working group of stakeholders to develop the implementation to reach the urban park goals, concluding in the City of Austin Urban Parks Workgroup report from October 6, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Parks Work group made several recommendations including allowing public easements on private land as an alternative to dedication of parkland and suggested changes to the PLD fee-in-lieu calculation to index it to inflation to be responsive to land costs in that district and also to tie assessments to the square footage of a unit versus a flat per unit assessment; and

WHEREAS, Council adopted Resolution No. 20120301-051 endorsing the recommendations of the Urban Parks Workgroup report and directed the City Manager to begin work on implementation; and

WHEREAS, a May 2013 Parkland Dedication Audit report identified general compliance with the PLD Ordinance but indicated the parkland dedication fee required by the City is lower than fees assessed by peer entities; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Board Recommendation No. 20130723-002 cites the work of Professor John L. Crompton and his *Analysis of Parkland Dedication Ordinances in Texas*, published in the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration in 2010, which provides options and comparisons of assessment levels and methodologies throughout the state along with relevant case law; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Board Recommendation No. 20130723-002 supported the audit and, citing *An Analysis of Parkland Dedication Ordinances in Texas* made further recommendations for transparency, assessment methodology, and consideration of Municipal

Utility Districts (MUDs) and Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) while maintaining a consideration of affordable dwelling units; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to develop a method to ensure regular analysis and recommendation for adjustment of the Parkland Dedication fee every three years as indicated in Ordinance No. 20070621-027;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report and provide staff's first analysis and recommendation for adjustment of the parkland dedication fee to Council by November 6, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to conduct a comprehensive review and make recommendations for revisions to the existing Parkland Dedication Ordinance, including but not limited to:

- Fee calculation and amount;
- Timing of assessment in the development process;
- Application of ordinance to other appropriate uses;
- Opportunities to align existing PLD districts with Imagine Austin Planning areas or other meaningful districting;
- Opportunities to improve transparency of the sources and uses of funding, including the Capital Improvement Visualization, Information and Communication (CIVIC) website;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide a work plan and timeline for developing the recommendations within 60 days.

ADOPTED: August 7, 2014

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jannette S. Goodall", written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the word "For" is written in a smaller, simpler font.

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk