

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, there are numerous parks where private ticketed events may occur which enhance the cultural life of Austin residents; and

WHEREAS, the City has included a per ticket fee for such private events, titled the "Special Event Park Maintenance Fee" in the fee schedule of Austin Parks and Recreation (APR), but this fee schedule has not been updated for inflation or the cost of maintaining City parks; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20250813-013 directed the revenue generated from this per ticket fee to the Parks Enhancement Fund to be used exclusively for the maintenance and enhancement of the City's park system; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20241121-072 directed the City Manager to explore sustainable funding opportunities for APR, and the resulting report prepared by PFM Group Consulting, LLC and Trust For Public Land released on July 23, 2025, recommended charging fees proportional to ticket pricing and retaining revenues for use by APR; and

WHEREAS, the City would benefit from a broader update of fees and regulations for special events held in City parks; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20240215-023 directed the City Manager to explore and provide recommendations on ways to support and preserve accessible, inclusive, open-to-the-public events and create an application process for City co-sponsorship or other partnerships; and

WHEREAS, during the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget cycle, staff responded to Council Budget Question 212, which requested a progress update on the co-sponsorship process and other ways of supporting free community events,

by noting that an interdepartmental working group was meeting regularly and would present proposals when complete; and

WHEREAS, the rising cost of producing community events demands both urgency and creative approaches by multiple departments to sustainably support these efforts; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to study whether the City's fees and fee amounts, including Special Events Park Maintenance Fee, that apply to ticketed events on City parks align with the City's costs to maintain those City parks. The City Manager is directed to return to the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee in January 2027 with recommendations based on the results of the study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In addition to studying the fees, the City Manager is also directed to work with special event organizers that hold ticketed events at the City's parks to get feedback on the impact of updating fees and regulations associated with:

1. reserving parkland for event production load-in and load-out,
2. use of parking lots on parkland, and
3. segmenting out of large parks that are currently reserved as one regardless of the size of the event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

If the City Manager recommends changes to the fees, the latest those changes should be brought to City Council for consideration during the budget deliberations for Fiscal Year 2027-2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to develop a process for accepting proposals to use underutilized City parks, including Walter E. Long Park or Johnny Trevino Park, for special event purposes if an organizer agrees to invest in installing on-site infrastructure that is consistent with an adopted vision plan or with Council approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report back on the interdepartmental progress of Resolution No. 20240215-023 by December 1, 2026.

ADOPTED: _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____

Erika Brady
City Clerk