



Agenda Item Report

Legislative Board: City Council
Date: March 5, 2024
Contact: Anthony Host
Agenda Item ID / Number: 2024-166- / H.4

ITEM TITLE: Approval of a recommendation by the Parks & Recreation Commission of a fee reduction for the 2024 Lions Club Weiner Dog Race (Tony Host Parks Director and Lions Club Representatives Justin Krause)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lions Club has approached the City of Buda seeking a reduction in fees to host their 27th annual event at City Park. The request highlights the club's desire to continue contributing positively to the community by hosting their event in a public space. The reduced fee would enable the Lions Club to allocate more resources towards the event itself, potentially enhancing its scale and impact. By collaborating with the Lions Club and accommodating their request, the City can further foster a sense of community engagement and support local initiatives that benefit residents.

Lions Club representatives presented their request for consideration to the Parks Commission on February 21. The Commission recommends approval to City Council with a 6-0 vote.

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The Weiner Dog Races in the city of Buda are an exciting and beloved annual event in April that celebrates the unique charm of dachshunds. Held in the heart of Buda, this fun-filled occasion brings together dachshund enthusiasts and spectators alike to watch these adorable dogs compete in a series of races and agility challenges. With a festive atmosphere and enthusiastic crowd support, the Weiner Dog Races in Buda showcases the agility, speed, and playful spirit of these beloved canine companions, providing a weekend of joy and entertainment for all involved.

3. ANALYSIS

Per the Parks Ordinance, the Parks Commission may recommend fee waivers and reductions that may be considered by City Council. By collaborating with the Lions Club and accommodating their request, the City can further foster a sense of community engagement and support local initiatives that benefit residents.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

For the entire City Park site, the deposit is \$3,000 (refundable) and the non-profit organization fee (per event) is \$3,500. The financial impact to the City will depend on any reduction in fee granted to the Lions Club for the Wiener Dog Races.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS

SAFE, FUN EXPERIENCES FOR ALL - OUTDOOR CAPITOL OF TEXAS

6. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

City/Community Events/Festivals Enhancement

7. PROS AND CONS

Pros:

Increased Community Engagement: Lower fees may encourage more community organizations to host events in public spaces, fostering greater participation and engagement among residents.

Economic Stimulus: Events held in public parks can attract visitors from outside the area, benefiting local businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and shops, thus stimulating economic activity.

Promotion of Local Culture: Events organized by community groups often celebrate local culture, traditions, and interests, enriching the cultural landscape of the area.

Enhanced Public Image: Supporting community events by offering fee reductions can enhance the City's reputation as a supportive and vibrant place for residents and visitors alike.

Cons:

Revenue Loss: Reduced fees may result in a loss of revenue for the City, potentially impacting its ability to maintain and improve public parks and facilities.

Equity Concerns: Other organizations that pay full fees for park usage may perceive the fee reduction as unfair treatment, leading to discontent or disputes.

Overuse and Maintenance Costs: Increased demand for park usage due to lower fees may lead to higher maintenance costs for the City to upkeep the facilities.

Precedent Setting: Granting fee reductions for one organization may set a precedent for others to seek similar discounts, potentially straining City resources and budget allocations.

8. ALTERNATIVES

Offer In-kind Support: Instead of reducing fees, offer in-kind support such as waived permit application fees, assistance with event logistics, or promotional support through official City communication channels.

Provide Sponsorship Opportunities: Encourage the Lions Club to seek sponsorship from local businesses or organizations to offset event costs. The City could also explore sponsorship opportunities to support the event without directly reducing fees.

Flexible Payment Plans: Offer the Lions Club a flexible payment plan to spread out the cost of park usage fees over a longer period, easing the financial strain while still ensuring the city receives its full revenue.

9. REQUESTED ACTION / SUGGESTED MOTION / RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval.Â

Attachments: