



# Agenda Item Report

**Legislative Board:** City Council  
**Date:** April 1, 2025  
**Contact:** Anthony Host  
**Agenda Item ID / Number:** 2025-295- / H.4

**ITEM TITLE:** Approval of a recommendation to the City Council regarding a fee waiver for the rental of City Park for the Weiner Dog Races on April 26-27, 2025 (Tony Host Park Director)

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lions Club will host the 28th Annual Wiener Dog Races at City Park in Buda, Texas, a long-standing community tradition that attracts participants and spectators from across the region. As part of their continued partnership with the City, the Lions Club is requesting a fee waiver for this year's event. To present this request and provide further details, the Lions Club President will be available to address the Council during the April 1 meeting.

## 2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The Buda Wiener Dog Races, held annually in Buda, Texas, have become a cherished tradition since their inception in 1998. The event was inspired by Buda resident Diane Krejci, who, after witnessing dachshund races in Savannah, Georgia, proposed the idea to the Buda Lions Club. Initially met with skepticism, the first race featured approximately 35 dogs. Over the years, the races have grown exponentially in popularity. A significant turning point occurred in 2001 when "CBS Sunday Morning" correspondent Bill Geist covered the event, leading to a surge in participation and attendance. By 2023, the event attracted over 20,000 attendees annually, with hundreds of dachshunds competing. The festivities span a weekend and include not only the iconic races but also a pet parade, costume contests, barbecue cook-offs, and various family-friendly activities. Each year features a unique theme, adding to the event's charm. The Buda Lions Club organizes the races, with proceeds supporting local charities and community initiatives. The Buda Wiener Dog Races have played a pivotal role in shaping the town's identity, earning Buda the title "Wiener Dog Capital of Texas." The event not only celebrates the spirited dachshund breed but also fosters community spirit and attracts visitors nationwide.

## 3. ANALYSIS

The Wiener Dog Races in Buda, Texas have become a hallmark event for the City, drawing thousands of visitors annually. As a long-standing tradition hosted by the Buda Lions Club, the races serve as both a community engagement tool and a local economic driver.

## 4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the waiver is approved, the City will forgo \$5,000 in event-related fees.

## 5. STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS

SAFE, FUN EXPERIENCES FOR ALL - OUTDOOR CAPITOL OF TEXAS

## 6. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Event / Festival Enhancement

## 7. PROS AND CONS

**Pros:**

### **Economic Boost for Local Businesses**

The event attracts thousands of visitors, increasing spending at restaurants, hotels, shops, and gas stations.

Generates additional sales tax revenue that can help offset the waived fees.

### **Tourism & Branding for Buda**

Promotes Buda as the “Wiener Dog Capital of Texas”, strengthening its reputation as a tourist destination.

Encourages future visits and spending beyond the event weekend.

The event has been a beloved local tradition for nearly three decades.

Enhances community engagement and civic pride.

### **Charitable & Social Benefits**

Proceeds benefit Lions Club initiatives, including scholarships, vision care, and local outreach.

Encourages volunteerism and nonprofit participation.

### **Potential for Long-Term Growth**

Waiving fees could help the Lions Club reinvest savings into event improvements, attracting larger crowds and more sponsorships.

Increases opportunities for future economic expansion of the event.

### **CONS:**

#### **Loss of Direct Revenue for the City**

A \$5,000 fee waiver means the City forfeits funds that could be used for park maintenance, staff costs, or other municipal needs.

#### **Use of City Resources Without Full Compensation**

The event requires City Park space, staff for logistics, security, and maintenance.

Costs may increase over time as the event grows, creating higher financial demands on the City.

#### **Potential Precedent for Other Events**

Granting a waiver may lead to other organizations requesting similar fee reductions, increasing budget strain on city resources.

#### **Uncertain ROI on Fee Waiver**

While the event boosts tourism and business revenue, the direct financial return to the City is not precisely measured.

A more detailed economic impact study is needed to justify future waivers.

#### **Opportunity Cost**

The waived fee could have been allocated toward park improvements, infrastructure, or other city programs.

## **8. ALTERNATIVES**

### **Partial Fee Reduction**

Instead of waiving the full amount, the city could offer a discounted rate, ensuring some revenue recovery while still assisting the Lions Club.

### **In-Kind Support (Non-Monetary Contributions)**

The city could provide services instead of direct fee reductions, helping offset event costs without impacting the budget as much.

### **Performance-Based Incentive**

The City could link financial support to economic impact metrics, ensuring a return on investment.

### **Multi-Year Agreement for Stability**

Instead of an annual waiver request, the City could establish a multi-year partnership with structured fee reductions.

## **9. REQUESTED ACTION / SUGGESTED MOTION / RECOMMENDATION**

The Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend approval to City Council on March 26, 2025.Â

**Attachments:**