



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 14

Agenda Date: August 15, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Updating Section 22-28 of City Code and establishing a curfew for Hemisfair Park

SUMMARY:

An ordinance updating Section 22-28 and establishing a curfew for Hemisfair Park beginning at 11 p.m. and ending at 5 a.m. daily.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Section 22-28 of the City Code establishes public parks hours of operation and curfew, which the vast majority close at 11:00 p.m. and re-open at 5:00 a.m. daily. Exceptions include Woodlawn Lake Park which closes at midnight and re-opens at 5:00 a.m. daily; and Alamo Plaza, Hemisfair Park, Market Square, La Villita, and the River Walk between Josephine Street and Eagleland Drive are wholly excepted from park curfew making them open 24-hours daily. Currently, anyone found in a city park during non-operating hours may receive a citation under Section 22-28(f) as a Class C misdemeanor. Such an offense is not applicable to the parks excepted from curfew such as Hemisfair Park. However, public parks may be used for special events and/or holiday use between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. on any day with the prior written approval of the Parks and Recreation Director through the issuance of a special events permit or holiday declaration.

ISSUE:

Area stakeholders have expressed security concerns for activity in the park after 11 pm after the businesses within Hemisfair are closed. The Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation, Hemisfair tenants and surrounding stakeholders support the curfew provided exceptions are made to accommodate persons that may be walking through Hemisfair to get to a destination such as their apartment, hotel room, or car or if the person is walking their dog. The Public Safety Committee meeting was provided a briefing on this item on June 28, 2024, and a motion was approved to move consideration of a park curfew for Hemisfair to City Council for approval. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was also briefed and coordinated with accordingly.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could direct staff to evaluate curfew times other than 11 p.m. for Hemisfair Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with changing municipal code.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of updating Section 22-28 of City Code and establishing a curfew from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. for Hemisfair Park.