



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 31

Agenda Date: April 11, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Self-Monitoring Standards for the 2024 Summer Youth Program and other applicable recreation programs

SUMMARY:

Ordinance approving Self-Monitoring Standards for the Parks and Recreation Department's Summer Youth Program and other applicable recreation programs to comply with Texas Department of Health and Human Services regulations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services (TDHHS) allows an exemption from childcare licensing regulations to municipally operated recreation programs that serve school-age youth and adopt Self-Monitoring Standards. These standards must include staffing ratios, minimum staff qualifications, minimum facility health and safety standards, mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement; and are required to be adopted by City Council annually. Copies of the Self-Monitoring Standards are provided to the parents of all program participants as required. Parks and Recreation staff conduct comprehensive compliance reviews to ensure that guidelines are achieved at each program site. The State reserves the right to visit sites and inspect records to evaluate compliance of Self-Monitoring Standards.

The Parks and Recreation Department has provided recreational summer programs for youth for over three decades. These programs provide supervised, structured recreational activities to children ages 6 through 14 years. The programs operate for approximately 8 weeks and serve roughly 3,000 children at around 40 sites each summer, consisting of community centers, school sites, and other City locations throughout the community. In 2024, the Parks and Recreation Department is planning to offer the Summer Youth Program at 22 Parks and Recreation facilities and 22 partnering school sites. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department offers additional out-of-school camps during school breaks.

The Summer Youth Program participants enjoy a variety of activities including traditional sports, active games, craft projects, fitness, and reading as well as math and science enrichment programs, as part of weekly themed programming. Participants will also receive two meals daily in the program.

The recommended Self-Monitoring Standards were presented on March 25, 2024, to the City's Parks and Recreation Board. The City's Parks and Recreation Board endorsed the recommended Self-Monitoring Standards, and an opportunity for citizen input was provided at the meeting. There was one recommended change to the 2024 Self-Monitoring Standards, which was an increase in staff training from 20 hours to 24 hours of documented training.

ISSUE:

This action adopts Self-Monitoring Standards for the Parks and Recreation Department's Summer Youth Recreation program and other applicable recreation programs to comply with Texas Department of Health and Human Services regulations.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative to this action is to operate the program without these standards, and for the City to move toward operating licensed child-care facilities which would require additional staffing and funding. The Parks and Recreation Department has operated under these standards since 2003 with oversight from the State.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of these Self-Monitoring Standards.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the adoption of the Self-Monitoring Standards for the Parks and Recreation Department's summer youth program and any other applicable recreation programs.