

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 02/27/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0184

LOG NAME: 80WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL CENTER COMPLEX PARK - CHAPTER 26

SUBJECT

(CD 7) Conduct Public Hearing and Authorize the Use of Approximately 0.124 Acres of Dedicated Parkland at Will Rogers Memorial Center Park for a Utility Easement

(**PUBLIC HEARING** - a. Report of City Staff: Lori Gordon; b. Public Comment; c. Council Action: Close Public Hearing and Act on M&C)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing under the guidelines set forth by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 26, Protection of Public Parks and Recreational Lands;
 2. Find that no feasible or prudent alternative exists for the use of Will Rogers Memorial Center Park for a utility easement;
 3. Find that the proposed utility easement includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the parkland;
 4. Close the public hearing and authorize the use of approximately 0.124 acres of parkland at Will Rogers Memorial Center Park for the utility easement; and
 5. Authorize the use of approximately 0.18 acres of dedicated parkland at Will Rogers Memorial Center Park for temporary construction workspace.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize the use of a portion of public parkland at Will Rogers Memorial Center Park for a utility easement.

The City of Fort Worth Public Events Department is renovating the sheep and swine barns, building a new arena between the barns, and constructing a recreational vehicle lot between the barns and Gendy Street under the Will Rogers Memorial Center Sheep and Swine Barns Renovations (City Project No. 104828), all within the park.

The Project requires the relocation of an existing Oncor utility easement, which triggers Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 26 - Parkland Conversion. The proposed new easement will be approximately 10 feet wide by 538.4 feet in length totaling 5,384 square feet or 0.124 acres. Installation of the project requires an adjacent temporary construction workspace totaling 7,839 square feet or 0.18 acres.

The City Forester has determined that there are no tree impacts associated with the proposed new easement.

Construction is anticipated to begin in February 2024 and last approximately 260 days. No roadways or trails will be closed. The park will be restored to previous conditions or better upon completion of the project.

On January 24, 2024, the Park & Recreation Advisory Board endorsed staff's recommendation to the City Council to authorize the use of portions of Will Rogers Memorial Center Complex Park for a utility easement.

In accordance with state law, the proposed use of parkland was advertised in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* on January 23, January 30, and February 6, 2024.

Information announcing the proposed use of parkland was posted on the City's Web page, signage at the project site, and sent via email to registered Neighborhood Associations within 1.5 miles of the park on January 12, 2024.

Will Rogers Memorial Center Park is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 7, south of Lancaster Avenue, west of University Drive, north of Interstate Highway 30, and east of Gendy Street.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of these recommendations will have no material effect on City Funds.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Jessica L. McEachern 5804

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