CHAPTER 32–PARKS AND RECREATION PROPOSED ORDINANCE UPDATES

Presentation to City Council
Quality of Life Committee
September 30, 2015
WHAT IS CHAPTER 32?

- Chapter 32 governs the Parks and Recreation Department
  - Duties and authority of the Director
  - Use of parks
  - Events in parks
  - Park use permits
  - Trees, plants and shrubs
  - Authorized uses of park revenues
  - Dog parks
  - Park food vendors
  - Miller Theatre Advisory Board
  - Houston Parks Board
WHY ARE WE UPDATING CHAPTER 32?

- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit Ruling
  - Article III, Public Gatherings is unenforceable
  - Must be updated

- Minor periodic updates, but no comprehensive review and update in over 25 years
Current: Article III, Public Gatherings

- Requires a permit for:
  - Public meeting or gathering
  - In designated areas of the park
- Public meeting/gathering is undefined
- No list designating specific areas of the parks for which permits are required
Held to be unenforceable because of vague requirements for permits

City must provide definition of *public gathering*

City must designate areas of the park to which permitting requirements apply
PROPOSED CHANGES TO ARTICLE III

- **Current:** Article III, Public Gatherings
- **Proposed:** Article III, Park Events
  - Require permit for group of 30 or more
  - Smaller groups are not required to get permit unless to reserve facility
  - Special event permit required for any park event requiring the significant provision or coordination of city services (MOSE)
Article I, Sect. 31-11 – Off-leash dog recreation areas

- Simplifies the current ordinance
- Recognizes Director’s authority
  - To designate off-leash areas
  - To make rules and regulations for their operation
    - Must be countersigned by the Director of ARA (BARC)
OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES

- Remove **Article V, Garden Center**
  - McGovern Centennial Garden replaced Houston Garden Center
  - 2013 - City Council approved amendments to Concession and Development agreements with Hermann Park Conservancy
  - HPC manages McGovern Centennial Garden facility
OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES

- Remove Article VII, Tennis Centers
  - Unnecessary
  - Only facility type with its own section
  - Falls under any park facility
OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES

- Substantial changes in Article IX, Park Food Vendors
- Article IX – New Section on Food Trucks
  - Define options for operating a food truck in a park:
    - Special Events Permit through MOSE
    - Contract awarded pursuant to Chapter 15
    - Concession contract approved by City Council pursuant to Section 32-8(b)
Other changes to Article IX:

- Defines types of Park Food Vendors
- Defines permit and requirements by type of vendor
- Cleans up application requirements
- Renames “license” to “permit”
- Defines condition of permit
OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES

- Delete **Article X, Motorized Mobile Vendors**
  - Moved to Article IX
- Other changes throughout to update and clarify
- Review Chapter 32 redline at [www.houstonparks.com](http://www.houstonparks.com)
Public Input & Council Action

- 30 day public input period starts October 1st, 2015
- Review redline at www.houstonparks.com
- Send comments to Ch32PublicInput@houstontx.gov
- Submit to City Council for adoption of the Ordinance in November 2015
Q & A

Contact us at:

Ch32PublicInput@houstontx.gov

www.houstonparks.com