



# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM

**MEETING DATE:** 9/24/2024

**PREPARED BY:** Megan Mainer, Director of Parks & Recreation

**AGENDA CONTENT:** Discussion and possible action on Chapter 17 – Parks and Recreation, Article 3. – Use of Public Parks, Section 17-38. – Permits and reservations and Section 17-75. - Merchandising and advertising.

**AGENDA ITEM SECTION:** Regular Agenda

**BUDGETED AMOUNT:** \$0

**FUNDS REQUESTED:** \$0

**FUND:** \$0

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On September 17, 2024, Mayor Wright requested an agenda item be placed on the City Council agenda to discuss park usage related to Angleton ISD Project Graduation. This request stemmed from messages and posts on Facebook (see post enclosed).

Parks & Recreation staff communicate regularly with individuals requesting to utilize park facilities for fundraisers. Recently, Angleton Recreation Center staff fielded inquiries related to fundraising at Bates Park for the Angleton ISD Spanish National Honor Society, fundraising at Bates Park for Project Graduation, and fundraising at Freedom Park for Project Graduation (see emails enclosed in your packet). When the Parks & Recreation Department receives non-profit requests, we reference our use of public park ordinances. Our ordinances state the following:

**Sec. 17-38. - Permits and reservations.**

- (a) The Bates Park Pavilion shall not be reserved, except by the city.
- (b) A permit shall be obtained from the parks director by any person wishing to reserve any city park facility other than the Bates Park Pavilion.

**Sec. 17-75. - Merchandising and advertising.**

- (a) No person shall expose or offer for sale any article or thing, nor shall he station or place any stand, cart or vehicle for the transportation, sale or display of any such article or thing. Exception is here made as to any regulation of the director.
- (b) No person shall announce, advertise, or call the public attention in any way to any article or service for sale or hire.

Exceptions have been made if it's not in conflict with concession sales at the sports complexes (e.g. Freedom Park, Bates Park, & BG Peck Soccer Complex). We refer non-profit groups to these organizations to receive approval to work in conjunction with these groups.

Also, while we try to adhere to the ordinance due to the numerous requests we receive, we have made exceptions for non-profit groups (e.g. Juneteenth Celebration and food pickup/drive-through location for non-profits with no transactions onsite).

Additionally, Parks and Recreation staff note that individuals must acquire appropriate food permits from City Hall if food is sold to the public.

The Parks & Recreation Department receives numerous requests for fundraisers, business operations, classes, private lessons, etc. within Angleton parks. The ordinance outlined in Sec. 17-75. – Merchandising and advertising help to prevent activities that may impact park user enjoyment and safety. However, the Parks & Recreation Department considers activities that may be mutually beneficial to the city, park users, and aforementioned entities through contractual agreements or mass gatherings permits.

The Parks & Recreation Department is working with Park Board members to revise the Use of Public Parks ordinance. Any proposed changes by the City Council will be reflected.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the City Council provide direction on the authorized use of the Bates Park pavilion and merchandising and advertising activities within Angleton Parks.