



**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Dripping Springs**  
**PO Box 384**  
**511 Mercer Street**  
**Dripping Springs, TX 78602**

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**Submitted By:** Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director

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**PRC Meeting Date:** March 1, 2021

**Agenda Item Wording:** Discuss and consider approval of a recommendation for the creation of forming a Friends of Dripping Springs Parks Foundation

**Agenda Item Requestor:** Robbie Zamora + Matt Zarbaugh

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**Summary/Background:** A parks foundation is a non-profit organization that supports a specific park or more likely parks across a wider geographical area such as a city, with time, expertise and privately raised funds.

A parks foundation is not restricted to one form, but they are likely to have charitable status and a board incorporating involvement from the local community, parks managers and local businesses. They may also vary in size and functions, but ultimately the goal is to bring together fundraising, sponsorship, other income, and volunteering to support the parks in remaining free, open and accessible to the wider public.

The National Association of Parks Foundations states that: "An optimally functioning park foundation can counteract public budgeting trends by invoking the power of philanthropy and volunteerism to replace unfunded budgetary items, which reduce the need for higher revenue-producing user fees and the pay-to-play trends happening across public recreation."

Park Foundations have access to funding resources and grants that municipalities do not. With the addition of Rathgeber Natural Resource Park it is even more imperative that Dripping Springs secures additional funding resources to support and maintain its park system and grow its quality of life programs.

**Staff Recommendation:** Approve the formation of the Friends of Dripping Springs Parks Foundation.

**Attachments:**

1. Example board selection notes from Friends of Bee Cave Parks Foundation
2. Example Bylaws from Friends of Bee Cave Parks Foundation
3. Example tax form from Friends of Bee Cave Parks Foundation
4. Example Strategic Plan of Friends of Bee Cave Parks Foundation
5. Example MOU from FOBCP

**Next Steps/Schedule:**

More discussion, research, survey the community for interest and involvement. Possibly host open house for Inaugural Board Member recruitment. Author draft bylaws. Research current costs associated with Foundation formation. Confer with City attorney. Draft MOU that clearly defines role of Foundation and mission so that it does not compete with mission of the Parks and Community Services department but rather enables it. Return to Commission in April with progress report.