

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: June 6, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director

THROUGH: Crystal Caldera, City Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action to Consider Approval of a Variance Request to allow Geocaching in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park.

SPONSOR(S): Park Commission

PURPOSE

The purpose of this M & C is to consider approval of a Variance request from Brendon Hyder to allow the sport of geocaching in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park.

Mr. Hyder belongs to a geocaching club and is interested in sponsoring one of the geocaching boxes at our park. The sport involves hiding a box filled with a “cache” of various items, including a logbook and small treasures, then entering the coordinates of the box into the club’s and other websites. Once placed, other club members and members of the general public use their Global Positioning Systems (GPS) mapping tools to find the box, sign the logbook, and then add it to the list of other boxes they have found in the past.

The Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife endorses and encourages this activity, in both regular parks and in wilderness areas. This sport encourages family outdoor activity, is fun, and will introduce people to our park.

SEE LEON VALLEY

Social Equity - Providing the citizens with additional recreational activities encourages a healthy lifestyle for all citizens, which adds to the overall quality of life.

Economic Development – Having the park mentioned on various websites will encourage people to visit our park system, which may attract businesses and new residents.

Environmental Stewardship – Geocaching enthusiasts are encouraged to “leave no footprints” in the parks and wildlife areas they visit as a part of this sport.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

At their May 11, 2023 meeting, the Park Commission recommended approval of this variance request.

APPROVED: _____ DISAPPROVED: _____

APPROVED WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

ATTEST:

SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Secretary