Consider Approval of a Variance Geocaching Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park

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Public Works Director
City Council Meeting
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Summary

- Question
 - Should the city grant approval of a Variance request from Brendon Hyder to allow the sport of geocaching in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park?
 - Options
 - 1. Approve
 - 2. Deny
 - 3. Other



Background

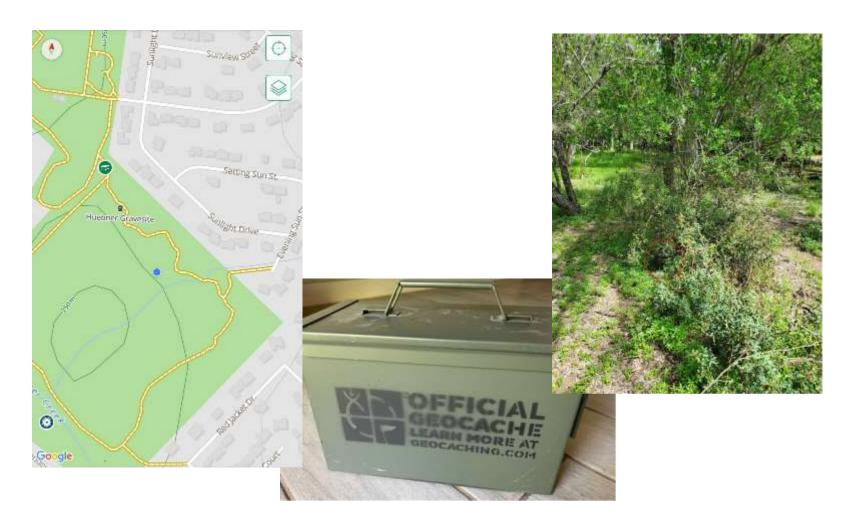
- Park Commission considered a Variance request from Brendon Hyder to allow the sport of geocaching in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park
- Mr. Hyder belongs to a geocaching club and is interested in sponsoring one of the geocaching boxes at our park
 - As of 2021, there were over 1 million players in the USA
- 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

Background

- Once placed, club members & others use Global Positioning Systems (GPS) mapping tools to find the box, sign the logbook, then add to list of other boxes they found
- Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife endorses & encourages this activity, in both regular parks & wilderness areas
- This sport encourages family outdoor activity, is fun,
 & will introduce people to our park



Geocache





Recommendation

- At their 5-11-23 meeting, the Park Commission recommended approval of this request
- Staff agrees



S.E.E. Statement

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.

