

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

Melinda Moritz  
Public Works Director  
City Council Meeting  
June 6, 2023

# 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.