

**RESOLUTION NO. 20090514-036**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council amended its Citywide Strategic Priorities to realize the City's vision of being the most livable city by focusing on a "Healthy, Safe, and Family-Friendly City"; and

**WHEREAS**, public open space is critical in achieving the goals of being a "Healthy, Safe, and Family-Friendly City"; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has reviewed and adopted a number of recent initiatives aimed at improving the functionality of public space and providing a more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly environment, including the new Commercial Design Standards, Transit-Oriented Development districts, Parks Master Plan, Trails Plan, and the Sidewalks Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 29, 2009, the City Council adopted the Design Commission's recommendations on the Downtown Design Guidelines, which includes principles that open spaces and plazas are public spaces, and that these natural public amenities encourage human occupancy; and

**WHEREAS**, public open space can accommodate and encourage the interaction of the wide social, cultural, ethnic, economic and age diversity that exists in our city; and

**WHEREAS**, public open space may be used as a transition and to link residential neighborhoods to commercial development through expanded streetscapes, linear greenways, or neighborhood parks and plazas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Families and Children Task Force recommended that all City of Austin planning efforts pertaining to parks and open space should take into consideration the special needs of children of all ages and include family-friendly amenities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Land Use and Transportation Committee of the City Council reviewed the recommendations of the Families and Children Task Force, as well as the city's existing open space standards, and identified a need to improve the clarity and consistency in the wording and outcomes of existing standards, as well as to ensure that the standards result in the best possible design for Austinites of all ages and abilities; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

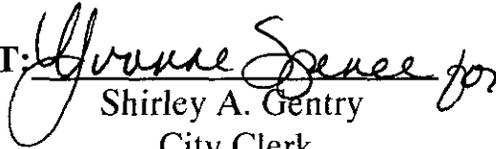
The City Council directs the City Manager to work with relevant boards and commission, including but not limited to, the Design Commission and the Early Childhood Council to review and make recommendations on modifications to the city-wide standards and criteria for what qualifies as open space.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The proposed revisions should consider the needs of families and children, including child-friendly features such as interactive play spaces, art, requirements for public access, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, and the functionality of the open space provided.

**APPROVED:** May 14, 2009

**ATTEST:**

  
Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk