



Parks & Recreation

To: Mayor and City Council Members
Doug Faseler, City Manager

From: Jack Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation

Through: Rick Cortes, Assistant City Manager

Date: May 5, 2015

Subject: **Ordinance on first reading amending the Seguin Code of Ordinances Chapter 74, Parks, Article III, Use Regulations; providing for publication of this ordinance; providing a severability clause; providing for an effective date; and authorizing city staff to prepare this ordinance for submission as a supplement to the Code of Ordinances.**

Attached is the proposed City of Seguin Code of Ordinances for Parks and Recreation Chapter 74 Parks and Recreation Article III noting what changes have been made to the existing ordinance. With Park West officially opening for public use this summer, it was appropriate to take a close look at Chapter 74 that governs Parks and Recreation. The current ordinance has not been significantly revised since 2005. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reviewed the proposed ordinance during their monthly meetings on March 2 and April 6, 2015. On May 4, 2015, the Board will formally consider the proposed ordinance for City Council consideration.

In reviewing Chapter 74 and factoring in the growth of Seguin's park system over the years, some proposed changes are being recommended for the welfare of all park users and the well-being of the park system. In addition, some of the language written in the current ordinance was tweaked to reflect current realities. Highlights of the proposed ordinance for consideration include the following:

- Tobacco products and e-cigarettes are prohibited where children typically gather and play. (Staff has spoken with leaders of the Seguin Little League, Seguin Youth Soccer Club, and the All Youth Sports Organization and they are in support of this provision.)
- Sex offenders are prohibited from entering public parks.
- Clarified that alcohol is prohibited on all park property except in designated areas by permit only.
- Language was added from the Animal Services code that addresses defecation by animals specifically on park property in that it is the responsibility of whoever is in possession of the animal shall dispose of any excreta the animal deposits.
- Use a park facility or amenity for anything other than its intended use such as golf on a soccer field or skateboarding and soccer on tennis courts is prohibited.
- Metal detecting on park property is not allowed unless a permit has been issued by the Parks and Recreation Department.

City staff has referenced its surrounding cities code of ordinances to include New Braunfels, San Marcos, Schertz, and Buda. Based on the needs of the City of Seguin, the proposed changes are similar to those surrounding cities. For example, the City of San Marcos enforces no smoking or chewing tobacco products within the borders of designated play areas; the City of New Braunfels elaborates this policy and prohibits the use within 50 feet of any outdoor city-owned youth areas; and the City of Buda prohibits tobacco use within 25 feet of where children play. All of the compared cities prohibit alcohol consumption in areas where youth programs are held and allow consumption by permit only in selected areas. Only the City of Schertz has addressed sex offenders in parks as they have incorporated child safety zones in their code of ordinances.

City staff recommends approval of an Ordinance on first reading amending the Seguin Code of Ordinances Chapter 74, Parks, Article III, Use Regulations; providing for publication of this ordinance; providing a severability clause; providing for an effective date; and authorizing city staff to prepare this ordinance for submission as a supplement to the Code of Ordinances.