



COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

DEPT./DIVISION SUBMISSION & REVIEW:

Kevin Beavers, Director of Parks and Recreation
Chuck Ramm, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Mike Hemker, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM DESCRIPTION: SECOND & FINAL READING: Consider adopting an ordinance approving the Temple Parks & Recreation Department's Youth Programs Standards of Care and approving the 2021 annual report.

BACKGROUND: The City of Temple's Parks and Recreation Department operates an after school recreational program, known as "The Zone" at local school campuses. Under Texas Human Resources Code Section 42.041(b)(14), an elementary-age (ages 5-13) recreation program operated by a municipality is exempt from State childcare licensing requirements so long as certain conditions are met. In order to qualify as an exempt youth recreation program, a municipality must annually adopt standards of care by ordinance after a public hearing for such programs. The standards of care must be provided to the parents of each program participant, and the parents of participants must be informed that the program is not licensed by the State, and the program may not be advertised as a childcare facility. The ordinance must include, at a minimum, staffing ratios, minimum staff qualifications, minimum facility, health, and safety standards, and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing the adopted local standards.

Some of the key elements of the City of Temple's Youth Programs Standards of Care include:

- Defining a participant as a youth, ages 5-13, whose parent(s) have completed all required registration procedures and is determined to be eligible for a Temple Youth Program
- Ensuring that criminal background checks will be conducted on prospective Youth Program employees and disqualifying certain candidates from employment based on certain criminal history records.
- Requiring that as soon as possible after employment all appropriate staff will complete a course in first aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

- Providing training and orientation to program employees and program-specific manual for each Youth Program.
- The ratio will be no greater than 20 participants per one leader.
- Assuring parents that they will be notified immediately if a:
 - 1) participant is injured,
 - 2) participant has a sign or symptom requiring exclusion from the site (i.e., communicable disease, fever, illness),
 - 3) if there is an outbreak of any communicable disease that is reportable to the State Department of Health
- Requiring an annual report to the City Council on the overall status of the Youth Program and its operation relative to the adopted Standards of Care.

COVID-19 has significantly affected the enrollment in youth programming at the Zone after-school sites as well as the summer camp program and camps held during the school year holidays. The health and safety of program participants was the highest priority for camps with the COVID-19 protocols that were put in place. No camp failed to operate during 2020, although all programs saw lower overall attendance.

The Zone After School program served 152 children across eight sites for the 2020-21 school year, while the current 2021-22 school year has served 203 participants across six campuses. Overall, reduced staffing capacities in 2021 and 2022 has limited the ability to reach the pre-pandemic participation and staffing rates.

All training and inspection requirements in the Youth Standards of Care have been met.

The overall participation in summer camp programming also experienced reduced enrollment and capacities in 2020 and 2021. In summer 2020, a single "Summer Camp 2020" was held at three sites divided by age groups and served 284 children.

In summer 2021, two new all-day general day camps were created: "Camp Discovery" for children ages 5-7" and "Camp Pathfinder" for children ages 8-13. These two camps were held at a BISD elementary school campus. In addition to those two camps, Wilson Park Recreation Center offered a variety of all-day specialty camps including arts, sports and STEM camps. Together all of the summer camp opportunities served a total of 273 children in this new format.

Each year the Parks and Recreation Department is required to review the previous year's youth programming, including after-school and camp programs, and develop an annual report, including any recommendations of change to the Standards of Care. Previously, the Standards of Care and annual report were brought to council in January of each year. This year the Department is asking for approval concurrently with the timing for both Temple ISD and Belton ISD interlocal agreements to continue offering these after school program services and plans to continue with this schedule. In order to continue to be exempt from the State's childcare licensing requirements, the Department will bring the Standards of Care to Council for adoption by ordinance annually.

Staff is not recommending any changes to the Standards of Care for the upcoming year.

ALIGNMENT WITH ADOPTED PLANS:

Plan	Comments
Strategic Plan	This item supports the Strategic Plan goal of “An organization committed to performance excellence.”

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Conduct the public hearing on first reading, adopt the ordinance and Youth Programs Standards of Care and approve the 2021 Annual Report as presented.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATION: This item was not reviewed by any of the official boards and commissions.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS:

Ordinance
2022-24 Child Care Standards of Care
2022 Annual Report