

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: City Manager

AGENDA DATE: August 16, 2005

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Joyce Wilson/541-4109

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: N/A

SUBJECT:

Approve an ordinance amending Title 13 to rename subsection 13.25.010 of the El Paso City Code and to remove the listed fees and to establish guidelines and criteria for the charging of fees at the Zoo and repeal of subsection 13.25.015.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The El Paso Zoo serves as a regional center for education, recreation and scientific study as well as actively supports conservation efforts for the world's wildlife and natural environment. Thus, there is a need to charge admission and general fees to support this regional center. This ordinance will amend Section 13.25.010 of the City Code, to remove the listed fees, as the fees will be set by the City Council through its budget resolution or other duly adopted resolution, and to establish guidelines and criteria for the charging of fees at the Zoo. Section 13.25.015 is being repealed as its provisions are being incorporated into Section 13.25.010.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required)_____ **FINANCE:** (if required)_____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____
(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 13 (STREETS, SIDEWALKS & PUBLIC PLACES), CHAPTER 13.25 (EL PASO ZOO), TO RENAME SUBSECTION 13.25.010 (EL PASO ZOO FEES) OF THE EL PASO CITY CODE AND TO REMOVE THE LISTED FEES AND TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR THE CHARGING OF FEES AT THE ZOO AND REPEAL OF SUBSECTION 13.25.015.

WHEREAS, the El Paso Zoo serves as a regional center for education, recreation and scientific study as well as actively supports conservation efforts for the world's wildlife and natural environment. Thus, there is a need to charge admission and general fees to support this regional center.

WHEREAS, the El Paso Zoo desires to amend Subsection 13.25.010, El Paso City Code, to remove the listed fees, as the fees will be set by the City Council through its budget resolution or other duly adopted resolution, and to establish guidelines and criteria for the charging of fees at the Zoo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

Section 1. That Subsection 13.25.010 of the El Paso City Code is renamed as El Paso Zoo Fees.

Section 2. That Subsection 13.25.010 of the El Paso City Code is amended as follows:

A. Fees. The City Council of El Paso authorizes the director of the El Paso Zoo ("Zoo") to charge a fee for admissions, parking, special events, special programs and facility rental at the Zoo. Said fees shall be in the amounts set by the City Council through its budget resolution or other duly adopted resolution, in accordance with the following guidelines and criteria.

1. Regular Admission. Regular admission fees will be determined by the Zoo director and will be based on the age of the person seeking to enter the Zoo. Age groups will be as follows: (a) children three through twelve; (b) persons thirteen through sixty-one; and (c) senior citizens. No military discount is available for regular admission.

a. Regular admission fees will not be charged to members or employees of the El Paso Zoological Society and Service System Associates pursuant to the terms of their respective contracts with the City of El Paso. Proof of association with such groups will be required prior to waiver of the regular admission fee.

b. Regular admission fees will not be charged to members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association ("AZA"), Zoo activity volunteers, Zoo

designated special program participants, members of other zoological societies that have a reciprocal admission agreement with the El Paso Zoological Society or individuals conducting official business at the Zoo. Proof of association with such groups will be required prior to waiver of the regular admission fee.

2. School Group Reservation. Reservations will be required of any school group prior to entrance at the Zoo. Reservations are limited to Monday through Friday, except for City holidays. Admission fees for reserved school groups will be subject to the group admission policies established by the Zoo director.

a. School group will include any public or private licensed child daycare, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, primary, secondary and special education through grade 12 or as determined by the Zoo director.

3. Advanced Ticket Discount Rate. Advanced ticket purchases in blocks of fifty (50) or more may pay a discounted admission rate and said discounted admission rate will be determined by the Zoo director. Discounts for advanced ticket purchases will be based on the age of the person seeking to enter the Zoo with such a ticket. Age groups will be as follows: (a) children three through twelve; (b) persons thirteen through sixty-one and (c) senior citizens.

4. Zoo Designated Special Event Days. The Zoo director is permitted to designate eight (8) days per calendar year as special event days. On Zoo designated special event days, regular price admission fees may be reduced for the general public, as determined by the Zoo director. Group admissions will not be scheduled on any of the Zoo designated special event days. No other discount offers will be accepted or permitted in conjunction with Zoo designated special event days.

5. Zoo Designated Promotional Events. The Zoo director is permitted to participate in promotional events, which do not include the Zoo designated special event days referenced above in Paragraph 4. Admission for Zoo designated promotional events will require an authorized promotional coupon or specified condition to obtain a discount, if any, on the regular admission into the Zoo. No other discount offers will be accepted or permitted in conjunction with the Zoo designated promotional admission.

6. Rental Authorization. The City Council of El Paso authorizes the Zoo director or designee to rent venues within the Zoo. Venue rental fees shall include a one-time, non-refundable processing charge to compensate the Zoo for reserving the venue for use by the renter and processing the associated contracts. A security deposit may also be required when renting a venue at the Zoo. All renters will be charged a service fee for use of venues within the Zoo, which will cover maintenance, equipment, staff and other services provided by the Zoo for the given rental event.

a. Arrangements for tables, chairs, sound systems or any other equipment must be coordinated by the renter with the Zoo and approved by the director or designee prior to use of such.

b. If food and beverages are to be served by renter, it must be coordinated with the Zoo's concessionaire. No outside food or beverages will be permitted in a rented Zoo venue without express written approval from the Zoo's concessionaire.

c. If alcohol is to be served during a rental under this provision, the renter must make arrangements with the Zoo's concessionaire, and must comply with the requirements of the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission as well as the relevant provision of the El Paso City Code.

d. Rentals will be limited to the hours of operation of the Zoo. After-hour events under the auspice of the Zoo, El Paso Zoological Society or Service Systems Associates will be permitted with prior authorization from the Zoo director or designee.

e. All rentals will be based on availability and will require a written contract.

7. Parking. Parking fees at the El Paso Zoo parking lots may be charged for special events and overflow vehicle parking.

Section 3. That Subsection 13.25.015 (Parking Fees) of the El Paso City Code is repealed in its entirety.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on September 1, 2005.

ADOPTED on this the ____ day of _____, 2005.

CITY OF EL PASO

ATTEST:

John F. Cook, Mayor

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Jennifer F. Callan
Assistant City Attorney

Lea Hutchinson, VMD
Director, El Paso Zoo