

RESOLUTION 2013-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT FOR FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUND TO CONSTRUCT THE ARROYO COLORADO OVERLOOK POINT TRAIL ON THE TIO CANO DRAIN RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE VICINITY OF WHITE RANCH ROAD FROM U.S. BUSINESS HIGHWAY 83 TO THE ARROYO COLORADO

WHEREAS, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas; and,

WHEREAS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is currently accepting applications to the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas; and,

WHEREAS, trails for walking and cycling constitute vital health and recreational infrastructure for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of La Feria; and,

WHEREAS, numerous studies have documented a positive correlation between the presence of nearby recreational trails and increased real estate values and economic development; and,

WHEREAS, many studies have documented the positive economic effect of spending by nature-tourists in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and the Arroyo Colorado Overlook Point Trail represents a nature-tourism resource for western Cameron County; and,

WHEREAS, the many miles of existing inter-connected drainage rights-of-way and irrigation canal rights-of-way represent a tremendous natural asset for the development of a trail network in La Feria, Cameron County and the entire Lower Rio Grande Valley; and,

WHEREAS, as of yet, the potential of stormwater and drainage rights-of-way to accommodate recreational trail use is largely unrealized in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; and,

WHEREAS, the City of La Feria, with assistance from the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program for Disaster Recovery, will soon be constructing a five mile drainage channel that will connect land owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge to the Arroyo Colorado and for that project will be acquiring in ownership of a two hundred foot (200') wide right-of-way; and,

WHEREAS, the Watershed Protection Plan for Arroyo Colorado states that the Arroyo Colorado is an impaired water body, that the public is generally uninformed and unaware of the Arroyo Colorado, and that increased public awareness is essential if improved water quality is to be realized; and,

WHEREAS, public access to the Arroyo Colorado for purposes of enjoying its scenic beauty, wildlife watching, or exercise is very limited in western Cameron County; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Arroyo Colorado Overlook Point Trail will provide public access to the Arroyo Colorado where it runs between strikingly beautiful natural bluffs and to which there is currently no public access; and,

WHEREAS, the Arroyo Colorado Overlook Point Trail will model the recreational potential that the many miles of existing drainage right-of-way and irrigation canal rights-of-way represent; and,

WHEREAS, the Arroyo Colorado Overlook Point Trail represents the first 2.3 mile segment of a possible trail corridor that can be extended another 2.5 miles to the north and thus connect to the Tio Cano Section of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife refuge; and,

WHEREAS, there are many additional possibilities for networking the Arroyo Colorado Overlook Point Trail to additional recreational trails in the future; and,

WHEREAS, the City of La Feria is known for its beautiful and well-maintained parks, the City does not yet have a recreational trail such as the proposed Arroyo Colorado Overlook Point Trail; and,

WHEREAS, the maximum amount of any grant award from the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas shall be \$200,000; and,

WHEREAS, the City is obligated to spend at least twenty percent (20%) in matching funds for a grant from National Recreational Trails Program in Texas,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS THAT:

1. The City Manager is authorized to prepare and submit an application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for funding in the amount of \$200,000 from the National Recreational Trails Program for the Arroyo Colorado Overlook Point trail; and,
2. If the City of La Feria is chosen to receive a \$200,000 trails grant, the City of La Feria agrees to provide matching funds of \$69,000 to complete the project; and,
3. Upon approval of the application, the City Manager is authorized to serve as the City's official representative for all matters related to said grant and to execute all documents necessary and to perform all acts necessary to implement the project.

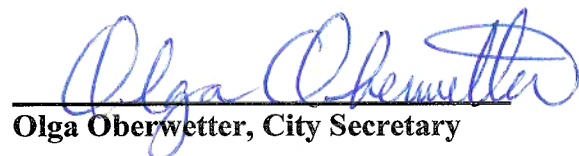
PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Commission of the City of La Feria on this the 22nd day of January 2013.

APPROVED:



Steve Brewer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Richard S. Talbert, City Attorney