

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(7/23/2019, Amended in Board)

[Park Code - Non-Resident Fees at Certain Specialty Attractions]

Ordinance amending the Park Code to permit the Recreation and Park Department General Manager to set non-resident adult admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden, the Coit Tower Elevator, the Conservatory Of Flowers, and the San Francisco Botanical Garden by flexible pricing based on certain factors and at certain times; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

The Park Code allows the Recreation and Park Department (RPD) to charge admission fees for visitors to the Japanese Tea Garden, Coit Tower Elevator, the Conservatory Of Flowers, and the San Francisco Botanical Garden. The rates vary depending on the age of the visitor, and whether the visitor is a San Francisco resident.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would let the RPD general manager increase the non-resident adult rates at the above facilities once a year, by up to 50%. Each year's fee increase, if approved, could apply only during the following times:

- Tea Garden: March-October
- Coit Tower: from 11am to 4pm
- Conservatory of Flowers: Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays
- Botanical Garden: Saturdays and Sundays

The RPD general manager could also decrease the default non-resident adult rates at the above facilities, at any time during the year. The decision whether to increase or decrease the rates would be based on one or more of the following factors: fluctuations in customer demand at particular times or on particular days or dates, rates at comparable facilities, adverse weather conditions, and facility conditions. The ordinance would not change rates for San Francisco residents (regardless of age), non-resident minors (under the age of 18), or non-resident seniors (65 and older).

The proposed ordinance would not become operative until September 1, 2019, and would expire by operation of law on June 30, 2021. RPD would report to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor no later than March 2, 2021 to review the impact of the fee changes on both attendance and fee revenue at the facilities in question.

Background Information

The rates codified in the Park Code are subject to annual cost-of-living adjustments by the Controller. This ordinance shows the codified rates and is not intended to invalidate any cost-of-living adjustments that the Controller has previously approved. The Recreation and Park Department maintains a list of the current rates. The current rate for non-resident adults at each of the four facilities is \$9.

This legislative digest reflects amendments made at the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Supervisors on June 26, 2019, with respect to the timing of how frequently RPD may increase the rates, when any increases shall be applicable, the ordinance's operative date, and the requirement of reporting. This legislative digest also reflects amendments made on July 23, 2019 to further update the reporting requirement, and to include a sunset date, and to include clarifying language that the existing Coit Tower fees are for use of the elevator at Coit Tower rather than for admission to the facility itself.

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