

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**           **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH FRIENDS OF  
ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK**

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2010, the Parks and Recreation Commission endorsed the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park (FAHHP). In response to this support, FAHHP became incorporated with the State of Iowa in July 2010 as a nonprofit tax exempt organization in order to operate for the charitable, scientific and educational benefit of Ada Hayden Heritage Park.

In October 2010, the Ames City Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with FAHHP. This agreement was to stay in force in perpetuity, or upon dissolution by either entity. However, the initial agreement was to be reviewed every three years.

**After this review, the following two changes are being proposed to the original agreement, which is included as Attachment A:**

- Adding Section 6 giving responsibility for selecting future nominees for the names of Iowa conservationists to be placed on stones at Ada Hayden Heritage Park to the FAHHP.
- Changing the review period from three to five years as outlined in Section 8.

This relationship has been very positive and the list below highlights some of the contributions the FAHHP has accomplished:

- Developed a Land Management Plan
- Planted numerous trees
- Partnered with Parks and Recreation to hire an intern for the Summer of 2014
- Fundraised to help fund small projects
- Provided invaluable expertise and guidance to staff
- Conducted public education and outreach activities

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1) Approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park that reflects the two changes highlighted above.
- 2) Do not approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
- 3) Refer this item back to staff for additional modifications.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park has engaged in many activities to make the park a better place for everyone to enjoy the beauty it has to offer. Staff believes the relationship with FAHHP has been positive and should continue. Amendments in the attached agreement will facilitate that continued cooperation.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, thereby approving the revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Between Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park  
And the City of Ames, Iowa**

**1. Background:** The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park (FAHHP) was incorporated in July 2010 with the state of Iowa as a nonprofit tax exempt organization to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes. It is the intent of the Board of Directors that FAHHP will operate exclusively for the public benefit of Ada Hayden Heritage Park. The Federal Internal Revenue Service approved the group as a tax exempt organization in November 2010 under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, of 1986, as amended.

**2. Vision:** The vision of the Board of Directors of FAHHP is to help perpetuate examples of Iowa's prairie, savanna, woodland and wetland natural environments in a way that is compatible with passive recreation and appropriate public use.

**3. Goals:** The goals of the organization are: (1) to partner with community members, and city government to enhance the park's natural environment, (2) support public awareness, educational programs, and research efforts, (3) secure supplemental financial resources that may be used by the City of Ames for projects selected by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by the City Council, (4) build connections between recreation, learning, and appropriate public use of the park, and (5) develop a network of supporters and volunteers to assist with management, restoration and protection.

**4. Fundraising Activities:** In support of the City of Ames and the Parks and Recreation Department, FAHHP will conduct public fund raising efforts, will maintain bank accounts, financial records, investments, and respond to requests from the City of Ames for projects that are within the ability of FAHHP.

**5. Organization:** FAHHP has an organizational structure that supports and sustains a vibrant and dedicated membership, identifies and recruits knowledgeable and enthusiastic committee leaders and members, and maintains a viable cooperative relationship with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the City of Ames.

**6. Heritage Stones:** The word 'heritage' is in the park's name because the Ames City Council and park supporters, at the time the park was planned, believed that preserving our native ecosystems is an important function of this unique park.

They recognized that the park also provides the opportunity to further commemorate Ada Hayden and other Iowa conservationists who have contributed significantly to the state's conservation heritage by placing their names and likenesses on granite stones deposited here during glaciation. To ensure that this tradition is continued, the FAHHP accepts the responsibility for selecting future nominees for the names of Iowa conservationists to be placed on stones at Ada Hayden Heritage Park. Any future placement of stones for accepted nominees will be done in close coordination and agreement of the Ames Parks and Recreation Commission and the Ames City Council.

**7. Relation to the City of Ames:** The Board of Directors of FAHHP recognizes the role of the City of Ames as the body responsible for the operations of Ada Hayden Heritage Park, the establishment of park policies, and the development for plans and budgets for the park. FAHHP agrees to coordinate its activities with Department of Parks and Recreation.

**8. Duration of the Agreement:** This agreement is a renewal of a previous agreement dated 12 October 2010 and shall take effect immediately and will stay in force in perpetuity, or upon the dissolution of either entity. The agreement may be revised at any time, but shall be reviewed by both parties at least every five years.

Approved by resolution of the Ames City Council at their regular meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann H. Campbell, Mayor \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved by the Ada Hayden Heritage Park Board of Directors on 12 November 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Erwin E. Klaas \_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Board of Directors Date

# Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park—Vision, Mission, and Goals

## Vision

The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park strive to perpetuate examples of Iowa’s prairie, savanna, woodland and wetland natural environments in a way that is compatible with passive recreation and appropriate public use.

## Mission

The mission of the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park is to:

- partner with community members, county and city government to enhance the park’s natural environment
- support public awareness, educational programs, and research efforts
- secure supplemental financial resources
- build connections between recreation, learning and appropriate public use of the park
- develop a network of supporters and volunteers to assist with management, restoration and protection

## Goals

### Organization

- Establish an organizational structure that will support and sustain a vibrant and dedicated membership
- Identify and recruit knowledgeable and enthusiastic committee leaders and members
- cooperative agreement between the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park and the City of Ames

### Fundraising

- Solicit and collect membership dues and contributions
- Respond to requests for special projects envisioned by City of Ames\*
- Establish a long-term endowment with a local foundation for 2020 and beyond

### Public Awareness

- Educate the community regarding the mission / vision of the park
- Contribute to development of the park’s website

### Education

- Develop interpretive programs on water quality, ecosystem function, and wildlife and plant identification

- Share and report research findings
- Promote the park as an outdoor laboratory for local schools and youth groups

#### **Habitat Management**

- Assist with vegetation management and control of invasive plants
- Work to prevent erosion and environmental degradation
- Assist with prairie burns
- Support litter control
- Provide wildlife plantings

#### **Monitoring and Surveys**

- Conduct surveys of birds, plants, insect and other wildlife
- Monitor water quality and ecosystem function

#### **Photography and Art**

- Collect and organize photographs documenting the natural history of the park
- Provide photographs for art exhibitions
- Support the development of video or film projects to highlight park's natural attributes