

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH FRIENDS OF ROOSEVELT PARK**

BACKGROUND:

In May 2013, the Friends of Roosevelt Park (FoRP) became incorporated. As stated in the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the group's mission is as follows:

- Partner with community members and city government to enhance the park's amenities and natural elements
- Host outdoor music concerts
- Create community building opportunities through events and programming for all park users
- Secure supplemental financial resources that may be used by the City of Ames for projects for the benefit of Roosevelt Park selected by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by the City Council
- Develop a network of supporters and volunteers to assist with the aforementioned goals

The Parks and Recreation Commission has given staff direction to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with all Friends groups so each group has clearly defined expectations for working with the City. There has been a MOU with the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park since 2010 and with the Friends of Emma McCarthy Lee Park and Munn Woods since earlier this year.

As the City continues to grow and additional parks are developed, Friends groups can play a vital role in the development, maintenance, and protection of the park systems resources. The FoRP has already played this role by fundraising over \$45,000 for enhancing the park development.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) City Council can approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Roosevelt Park.
- 2) City Council can decide not to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Roosevelt Park.
- 3) City Council can refer this issue back to staff to develop different language for the MOU.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Friends of Roosevelt Park is an established Friends group and has successfully conducted the Roosevelt Summer Concert Series for many years. In addition, the group has been very supportive as Roosevelt Park is being developed. Staff has been impressed with the group's organization, commitment, thoughtfulness, enthusiasm, and financial support to ensure Roosevelt Park is as good as it can be.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council support Alternative #1 thereby approving the Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Roosevelt Park.

Memorandum of Understanding Between Friends of Roosevelt Park And the City of Ames, Iowa

1. Background: The Friends of Roosevelt Park (FoRP) was incorporated in May 2013 with the state of Iowa as a nonprofit tax exempt organization to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, or educational purposes. It is the intent of the Board of Directors that FoRP will operate exclusively for the public benefit of Roosevelt Park. The Federal Internal Revenue Service approved the group as a tax exempt organization in January 2015 under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, of 1986, as amended.

2. Vision: The vision of the Board of Directors of FoRP is to enhance the city park located at 9th Street and Roosevelt Avenue in Ames, Iowa.

3. Goals: The goals of the organization are to: (1) partner with community members and city government to enhance the park's amenities and natural elements, (2) host outdoor music concerts, (3) create community building opportunities through events and programming for all park users, (4) secure supplemental financial resources that may be used by the City of Ames for projects for the benefit of Roosevelt Park selected by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by the City Council, and (5) develop a network of supporters and volunteers to assist with the aforementioned goals.

4. Fundraising Activities: In support of the City of Ames and the Parks and Recreation Department, FoRP will conduct public fundraising 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 FoRP.

5. Organization: FoRP 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. Roosevelt Summer Sundays Concert Series: The Friends have been conducting a Roosevelt Summer Sundays Concert Series since 2002. These concerts date back to when the property was originally owned by the Ames Community School District and Roosevelt was still open as a school. The concerts are open to the entire community and are a unique event for Roosevelt Park. Hosting this outdoor music series is a great way to promote the park and neighborhood through a positive, family-oriented social event. FoRP's goal is to continue offering the Roosevelt Summer Sundays Concert Series as long as it is a viable activity.

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

8. Duration of the Agreement: This agreement shall take effect immediately and will stay in force in perpetuity, or upon the dissolution by 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

Stacey Ross
Chair of the Board of Directors
Friends of Roosevelt Park

Date