

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO WAIVE ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITION OF
MOTORIZED VEHICLES IN ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK**

BACKGROUND:

Each September from 2004 through 2011, members of the local Moose Lodge provided golf cart rides around Ada Hayden Heritage Park (AHHP) for older adults with mobility impairments. Lodge members determined that if they did not provide this service, these individuals may never get to experience the overall beauty of the 437 acre site. Please note that mobility impaired individuals can use motorized mobility devices (i.e. electric wheelchairs, motorized mobility scooters, etc.) on the trails, however, many individuals do not have this type of device that enables them to enjoy the park system.

In 2016 through 2018, the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park (Friends) provided this valuable service to individuals with mobility impairments and received many positive comments. As a result, the Friends are proposing to offer tours on Thursday, September 12, 2019, between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. The Friends will rent golf carts, provide volunteers as drivers and interpreters, and provide the City with a Certificate of Insurance to cover liability. Tours will be promoted and reservations will be taken for various time slots.

This opportunity has been well received in the past, however, Ordinance 19.9 restricts motorized vehicles to streets and parking lots. **Therefore, the Friends are requesting City Council waive the enforcement of this Ordinance on Thursday, September 12 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM at AHHP. In the event of inclement weather, they will use Friday, September 13 as a rain date.**

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed this request at its August 15, 2019 meeting recommending City Council grant this waiver.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive enforcement of Ordinance 19.9 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Thursday, September 12 as well as Friday, September 13 if needed for a rain date, at Ada Hayden Heritage Park to allow the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park to provide golf cart tours to mobility impaired individuals.

2. Deny the request to waive enforcement of Ordinance 19.9 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Thursday, September 12, as well as Friday, September 13 if needed for a rain date, at Ada Hayden Heritage Park to allow the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park to provide golf cart tours to mobility impaired individuals.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park are proposing to provide a tremendous service for members of our community that otherwise would not have the opportunity to tour this park in its entirety. Therefore, it is City Manager's recommendation to approve Alternative #1 as stated above.

16 July 2019

Keith Abraham and Ames Parks Commissioners
Director of Ames Parks and Recreation
Email: kabraham@city.ames.ia.us

Dear Keith and Parks Commissioners:

For the past several years, the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park have held a one-day opportunity in the fall for Ames folks who have mobility issues to access Ada Hayden Park. We have rented golf carts from an Ankeny firm, provided a driver/interpreter for each one, and provided 1.5-2 hour tours of the park for these folks. The reviews have consistently been outstanding, with 60-80 people participating each year. We have, in the past, contacted various senior housing operations in Ames (Northcrest, Green Hills, etc.) plus Mainstream Living. The response has always been enthusiastic.

We would like to offer this opportunity again in fall, 2019. Our proposed date is Thursday, September 12, 2019, with a rain date of Friday, September 13, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on those days. We seek approval from both the Parks Commission and Ames City Council for temporarily suspending the "no motorized vehicles" rule on the trails to hold this special event.

The Friends of Ada Hayden are happy to provide this service to mobility challenged citizens of Ames at no cost to the City or the Parks Department. We hope you will approve this request. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns with this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Pease". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James Pease, President
Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park