

ITEM # 11

DATE: 12-22-20

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **REQUEST TO WAIVE ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITION OF
MOTORIZED VEHICLES IN ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK FOR
THE AMES TRIATHLON, JUNE 27, 2021.**

BACKGROUND:

In June 2019, Iowa Multisport (IM) hosted the first-ever Ames Triathlon at Ada Hayden Heritage Park. The event consisted of a 500M swim in the north lake, a 12-mile bike ride that started in the park, traveled through north Ames and northwestern portions of Story County, and finished in the park, and a 5K run that used the hard surface path within the park. IM is planning on hosting the second annual Ames Triathlon event on June 27, 2021. In reviewing the event in 2019, one of the concerns IM had was the inability to transport volunteers and participants for emergencies throughout the park in a safe and quick manner. **For this year's race, IM is requesting the use of golf carts to transport volunteers, assist participants for any emergencies along the run route, and to haul or transport water station supplies.**

The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park have utilized golf carts to conduct educational tours of the park for individuals who would otherwise be unable to tour the park on a bike or on foot. Each time the request has been made; Council has approved the use of the carts for the tours. IM is required to provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance for the triathlon event and staff will require the golf carts be covered under IM's insurance.

With all the concerns related with COVID-19, IM will be adhering to protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as well as local, state, federal, and USA Triathlon guidelines. IM also understands that it may not be able to host the event at the park if the City of Ames, State of Iowa, USA Triathlon, or the federal government prohibit these types of events from taking place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed this request at its December 17, 2020 meeting and recommended that City Council grant this waiver for the Ames Triathlon on Sunday, June 27, 2021.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive enforcement of Section 19.9 of Municipal Code from 4:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 27, to allow Iowa Multisport to utilize two golf carts for the Ames Triathlon at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.

It should be noted that this alternative is contingent on no restrictions being in place that would prevent this event from happening (e.g. Governor's proclamations, City mandates, etc.).

2. Deny IM's request and do not allow the use of motorized golf carts at the park.
3. Refer back to staff.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The first Ames Triathlon was a successful event that brought 300 participants from around Ames and the Midwest to Ada Hayden Heritage Park. Staff met with representatives from IM multiple times leading up to the event as well as observed all the activities that took place at the park. Staff reviewed participant feedback and feels IM was successful in ensuring participant safety. Having the ability to utilize golf carts will assist in transporting volunteers as well as participants in emergency situations.

Considering COVID-19, IM understands that it may not be able to host the event at the park if the City of Ames, State, USA Triathlon, or the federal government prohibits these types of events to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, it is the City Manager's recommendation to approve Alternative #1 as stated above.