

ITEM # 13
DATE: 04/25/23
DEPT: P&R

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. Although motorized mobility devices (e.g., electric wheelchairs, motorized mobility scooters, etc.) are permitted on the trails, many individuals do not have this type of device that enables them to enjoy the park system.

In 2016-2019 and 2021-2022, the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park (Friends) provided this valuable service to individuals with mobility impairments. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the golf cart tours were not held in 2020. When the tours have been held, the Friends have received many positive comments. **As a result, the Friends are proposing to offer tours on Monday, September 11, 2023, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM, with Tuesday, September 12, 2023 as a rain date. 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.**

Municipal Code Section 19.9 restricts motorized vehicles to streets and parking lots. **Therefore, the Friends are requesting City Council waive enforcement of this Ordinance on Monday, September 11 and Tuesday, September 12 (rain date), 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM at AHHP.** This request is attached. The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed this request at its April 20, 2023 meeting and recommended City Council grant this waiver.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive enforcement of Section 19.9 of Municipal Code between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM on Monday, September 11 and Tuesday, September 12, 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.

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.

April 10, 2023

Keith Abraham and Ames Parks Commissioners
Director of Ames Parks and Recreation
kabraham@city.Ames.is.us

Dear Keith and Parks Commissioners:

Friends of Ada Hayden would like to provide an opportunity for Ames area residents who have mobility issues to access Ada Hayden Park in the Fall '23. We would rent golf carts, provide a driver/interpreter for each cart and facilitate a 1.5 – 2-hour tour of the park. In 2021 & '22 the reviews were outstanding, with 60-70 people participating each year. In 2023 we are proposing September 11th (the 12th would be a rain date) as the date for the tours.

Our principal contacts have included the ever-growing senior housing operations. Northcrest, Green Hills, Northridge, The Meadows and others would welcome the event to continue. We are planning to expand the audience with increased publicity and additional contacts.

We would like to offer this activity again in the Fall '23. Tours would be conducted beginning at 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the proposed day. We will provide liability/hazard insurance for both the City of Ames and the golf cart company. We are seeking approval from both the Parks Commission and the Ames City Council for a temporary suspension of 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 the mobility challenged residents of the community at no cost to the City or the Parks Department. We appreciate your partnership and that you will approve this request. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about the event.

Thank you.



James Patton, Board Member
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