

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

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

BACKGROUND:

In June of this year the Parks and Recreation Commission endorsed the work of the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park (FAHHP) due to this group's goals, which are to:

- (1) 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
- (5) Develop a network of supporters and volunteers to assist with management, restoration and protection

In July the FAHHP became incorporated with the State of Iowa as a nonprofit, tax exempt organization that will operate for the charitable, scientific and educational benefit of Ada Hayden Heritage Park.

At this time, the FAHHP are requesting that a Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment A) be approved with the City of Ames. The FAHHP needs this Memorandum of Understanding to be submitted with their application form to the Internal Revenue Service to become a recognized 501(c)(3) organization. In the event the FAHHP receive this tax status, individuals will then be able to take an income tax deduction on their dues and other contributions made to this group.

It is important to note that any funds offered to the City by this group will be consistent with the funding priorities of the City Council.

At their meeting on October 6, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved recommending that the City Council enter into this Memorandum of Understanding with the FAHHP.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve and enter into the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
2. Do not enter into the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
3. Refer this item back to staff or the FAHHP for further action.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park are making this request to demonstrate on their IRS application form that the donations they receive will be directed to the City of Ames. This Memorandum of Understanding should assist the Friends group in obtaining the Federal tax status of a 501(c)(3).

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

ATTACHMENT A

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. An application to the federal IRS for tax exempt status under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, of 1986, as amended, is pending.

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 will establish an organizational structure that will support and sustain a vibrant and dedicated membership, identify and recruit knowledgeable and enthusiastic committee leaders and members, and maintain a viable cooperative agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the City of Ames.

6. 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. Although the FAHHP exists as an independent fundraising body, the purposes for which funds are solicited and the timing and nature of major fundraising activities are to be coordinated with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

7. Duration of the Agreement: This agreement 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 three years.

Approved by the City of Ames on _____.

For the city of Ames

Date

Approved by the Ada Hayden Heritage Park Board of Directors on _____

Erwin E. Klaas

Date

President of the Board of Directors