

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AMES TRIATHLON IN ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK**

**BACKGROUND:**

Iowa Multisport (IM) is requesting to use Ada Hayden Heritage Park (AHHP) to host the third Ames Triathlon on June 26, 2022. The event consists of a 500M swim in the north lake, a 12-mile bike ride that starts in the park and travels through north Ames, northwestern portions of Story County and finishes in the park, and a 5K run that uses the hard surface path in the park.

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 the 2021 race, City Council approved a suspension of the ordinance prohibiting motorized vehicles on paths in City parks, in order to allow 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 2021 event was successful with over 275 participants. IM is again 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. 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.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed this request at its January 20, 2022 meeting and recommended that City Council grant this waiver for the Ames Triathlon on Sunday, June 26, 2022. **In addition to the golf cart request, IM requested the Commission to waive the no swimming rule for the event, and to complete set up starting at 5:00 AM on June 26, which is prior to regular park hours (6:00 AM – 10:30 PM). The additional requests were approved by the Commission and, therefore, do not need Council approval.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the request from Iowa Multisport for the Ames Triathlon at Ada Hayden Heritage Park on Sunday, June 26, to waive enforcement of Section 19.9 of Municipal Code from 5:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 26 to utilize two golf carts at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
2. Do not approve the request.
3. Refer back to staff to find an alternative location for the event.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

IM has hosted two triathlons at Ada Hayden Heritage Park and both have been successful in bringing many participants from Ames and around Iowa to the park. Staff met with representatives from IM multiple times leading up to both events as well as observed all the activities that took place at the park 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.

Therefore, it is the City Manager's recommendation to approve Alternative #1 as stated above.