

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO WAIVE ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITION OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES IN ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK FOR THE AMES TRIATHLON, JUNE 25, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

Iowa Multisport (IM) is planning to use Ada Hayden Heritage Park (AHHP) to host the fourth Ames Triathlon on June 25, 2023. The event consists of a 500-meter 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.

Section 19.9 of Ames Municipal Code prohibits the use of motorized vehicles in parks. For the upcoming triathlon, IM has requested a waiver of this ordinance. The rationale for the request is that in 2019, IM experienced issues with the inability to transport volunteers and participants safely and quickly throughout the park for emergencies. City Council approved the use of the carts along the run route for the 2021 and 2022 Ames Triathlons. IM is again requesting the use of golf carts to transport volunteers, assist participants for any emergencies along the run route, and to 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 August 18, 2022, meeting and recommended that City Council grant this waiver for the Ames Triathlon on Sunday, June 25, 2023. In addition to the golf cart request, IM requested to enter the park for set up starting at 5:00 AM on June 25, which is prior to regular park hours (6:00 AM – 10:30 PM), and to have the Commission waive the no swimming rule from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. **These two additional requests were approved by the Commission, but do not need Council approval.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive enforcement of Section 19.9 of Municipal Code from 5:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 25, 2023 to allow Iowa Multisport to utilize two golf carts for the Ames Triathlon at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
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:

IM has hosted three triathlons at Ada Hayden Heritage Park, and all 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 the 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 recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative #1 as stated above.