

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Colin Smith, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

DATE: July 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution to recommend approval of a partnership agreement with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, accept a grant for \$38,000.00 and appropriate funds

Attached for your review and action is a resolution to recommend approval of a partnership agreement with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) and to accept and appropriate up to \$38,000.00 in funding into the Major Grants Fund. In 2014 the MRPA was one of a handful of agencies in the State of Michigan that was awarded funding from the newly established Michigan Health Endowment Fund. The Fund was created through the passage of Public Act 4 of 2013, which authorized certain changes to how Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) operates in the state. The law requires BCBSM to contribute funds over 18 years to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

In December of 2014, the Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF) awarded the MRPA \$1.1 million to improve the health of Michigan citizens, especially youth and seniors, by enhancing and capitalizing on the state's public parks and recreation system. One goal of the grant is to have Michigan's citizens think of public parks and recreation facilities as places to become fit, active and healthy.

Under the grant, MRPA will provide materials/resources, tools, staffing and other support as necessary to local parks and recreation agencies for health and fitness programs/activities targeted at youth, families and seniors, and economically disadvantaged groups. The MRPA is seeking agencies interested in participating as a pilot program. The City was successful in submitting a grant application in the amount of \$38,000.00 for programs that highlight the beneficial role our park and recreation facilities play in improving fitness and health. Participation by the City in this program will highlight the role that Ann Arbor's parks play in the health and well being of our community members.

Programs will include a teen camp, senior exercise classes and a program called Pathway to Our Parks that will introduce scholarship recipients to the many recreational opportunities the parks afford. These programs are expected to begin in the winter of 2016.

Participation in this program will help achieve multiple Sustainability Goals:

- Engaged Community
- Human Services
- Active Living and Learning

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
WITH THE MICHIGAN RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION, ACCEPT A GRANT
FOR \$38,000.00 AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS

Whereas, the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association is one of only a handful of agencies in the State of Michigan that was awarded funding from the newly established Michigan Health Endowment Fund;

Whereas, The MRPA is seeking agencies interested in participating as a pilot program ;

Whereas, Participation by the City in this program will highlight the role that Ann Arbor's parks play in the health and well being of our community members;

Whereas, Programs funded through this grant will include senior fitness classes, enhanced offerings for scholarship recipients, and highlight our existing teen camp,

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommend the City Council accept and appropriate funding for \$38,000.00 from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association .