

A PROCLAMATION IN APPRECIATION OF COLIN SMITH

Whereas, Colin Smith has worked for the City of Ann Arbor for over 25 years and has held the position of Park Manager for the past 14 years; and

Whereas, Colin Smith began his career working for Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation in 1989 with a summer job at Leslie Park Golf Course; and

Whereas, Colin Smith was a recreation supervisor at Huron Hills Golf Course and then Buhr Park Pool & Ice Rink, where he created the first annual dog swim; and

Whereas Colin Smith became Park Manger in 2008 and his steady leadership carried the department through the uncertainty of the Great Recession and the Covid-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, Colin Smith has lead Parks and Recreation Services through expansion and addition of programs, including creating the GIVE 365 Volunteer and Outreach Program, as well as merging the Natural Area Preservation program and reunifying Park Operations and Maintenance under the Parks umbrella; and

Whereas, Colin Smith has provided invaluable leadership and guidance on many significant capital improvements to the park system, including major projects such as the award-winning Argo Cascades, Ann Arbor Skatepark and the Rotary Centennial Universal Access playground at Gallup Park; and

Whereas, Colin Smith has been a champion for public golf and was instrumental in keeping both city golf courses open and part of the Ann Arbor park system; and

Whereas, Colin Smith has guided the last two Parks and Recreation Open Space Plans; and

Whereas, through Colin Smith's leadership has led to the formation of many partnerships without which, key projects and improvements would not have been possible, and;

Whereas, Colin Smith has consistently demonstrated exceptional fiscal stewardship and integrity which has enabled Parks and Recreation Services to thrive under his leadership; and

Whereas, Colin Smith has distinguished himself as a smart, hard-working and dedicated public servant, and has earned the respect and admiration of City leadership and Park Staff; and

Whereas, Colin Smith's outstanding legacy will leave an impact on the Ann Arbor park system for many years to come; and

Whereas, Mr. Smith is celebrating his retirement as Park Manager on January 3, 2022; and

NOW THEREFORE, we the Parks Advisory Commission of the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, in gratitude for Mr. Smith's dedication and commitment to the City of Ann Arbor, and in recognition of his long career of service, professional accomplishments, and numerous contributions that have improved the quality of life for the Ann Arbor community, do hereby proclaim a commemoration of Colin Smith on December 14, 2021.