

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Colin Smith, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

DATE: October 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding and Modification of Partnership Agreement with Leslie Science and Nature Center and Ann Arbor Hands On Museum

Attached for your review and recommendation is a resolution to recommend approval of a Memorandum of Understanding and Modification of Partnership Agreement with Leslie Science and Nature Center (LSNC) and Ann Arbor Hands On Museum (AAHOM).

As shared in previous visits to PAC, two years ago AAHOM and LSNC entered into a union to become one united entity, with two unique sites and areas of focus. Aware of the importance and recognition factor of the organization names and identities within the community the goal was to bring together resources to strengthen both organizations, while not losing what makes each unique and beloved.

As a united entity, LSNC & AAHOM have been able to share staff across development, marketing, HR, facilities, and Finance, and currently are bridging some program staff across the organization. This “shared resources” model has allowed for the retention of highly trained and skilled employees while providing for growth opportunities within the organization. This brings a level of resources to LSNC never before seen, some examples include: more grant applications in 2017 with a shared grant writer than ever before, the award of the first ever capital grant for LSNC as a non-profit entity, and a shared facilities maintenance staff person starting to rotate a regular shift at LSNC. Park users should see a heightened ability for LSNC to maintain and repair elements of the site within their jurisdiction, something for which there was previously not staffing capacity to handle; as well as programs having an increased level of support and new unique offerings in the coming year.

While LSNC and AAHOM have unified their organizations in many ways, legally they are still two separate 501(c)3 organizations and still have to hold their financials separately, while paying for and producing two separate audits. The MOU presented will allow LSNC and AAHOM to complete their merger, and unify finances into one Quickbooks file. Approval of the MOU will allow LSNC and AAHOM to only have to perform a single audit. This MOU begins this process, while City staff and LSNC/AAHOM work to update the original partnership agreement between the City and LSNC. The partnership agreement should be updated this coming winter.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND MODIFICATION OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH LESLIE SCIENCE AND NATURE CENTER AND ANN ARBOR HANDS ON MUSEUM

Whereas, In 2016 Leslie Science and Nature Center (LSNC) and the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum (AAHOM) entered into a partnership;

Whereas, The City and LSNC have operated under a partnership agreement since 2008;

Whereas, The union of LSNC and AAHOM provides for organizational efficiencies and service delivery improvements;

Whereas, The City is supportive of the LSNC and AAHOM union;

Whereas, The City is in the process of updating the partnership agreement with LSNC and AAHOM; and

Whereas, The Memorandum of Understanding will allow LSNC and AAHOM to complete their merger while the partnership agreement is updated;

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommends approval of a Memorandum of Understanding and Modification of Partnership Agreement with Leslie Science and Nature Center (LSNC) and Ann Arbor Hands On Museum (AAHOM).