


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>21-438</b>	Meeting:	<b>October 18, 2021</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>30</b>	Roll Call:	<b>21-1567</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Benjamin R. Page, Parks and Recreation Director</b>		

### AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of agreement with Waukee Community School District regarding Aspiring Professional Experience (APEX) student volunteers for park projects.

### SYNOPSIS:

Staff recommends approval of an agreement between the City of Des Moines and the Waukee Community School District program APEX, which is a collaboration between education, business, and the community to develop highly skilled, adaptable, global innovators and leaders. Students from APEX would volunteer for the Parks and Recreation Department on jointly identified projects.

### FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Waukee Community School District Program APEX, seeking out a mutually beneficial relationship, first approached the Parks and Recreation Department in 2019. As a result, the City entered into its initial agreement, Roll Call No. 19-1012, with APEX and now desires to continue this relationship.
- Students participate in APEX programs through passion-based learning, authentic volunteer projects, and experiences that further their educational progress.
- Students add value to business partners, such as the City of Des Moines, while exploring career possibilities identified by economic trends within the metro area and state.
- This agreement renews the formalized relationship with the Parks and Recreation Department, allowing students to volunteer independently during the school day.
- Projects are identified by working with instructors and students, to the mutual benefit of the students and the Parks and Recreation Department. Projects could include volunteering for recreation-based programs, marketing events and programs, developing marketing materials, inventorying park and recreation assets, developing health-based programs to increase park use, graphic design for new trail location and emergency signage, fixing boardwalks/trails and facilities utilizing construction/engineering techniques, and other similar opportunities.

- The agreement holds the Waukee Community School District as being overall responsible for the students and liable for any damages.
- The Parks and Recreation Department also continues to work with Des Moines Public Schools to offer student volunteer opportunities.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: June 24, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-1012](#)

Action: [Agreement](#) with Waukee Community School District regarding Aspiring Professional Experience (APEX) student volunteers for park projects. ([Council Communication No. 19-272](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Cownie.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Potential future agreement renewals.

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