


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

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|  | Number: | 24-039 | Meeting: | February 5, 2024 |
| | Agenda Item: | 26 | Roll Call: | 24-0189 |
| | Submitted by: | Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director | | |

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of Agreement with Waukee Community School District regarding Aspiring Professional Experience (APEX) Student Volunteers for Parks and Recreation Projects.

SYNOPSIS:

Staff recommends approval of an agreement renewal 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, is seeking to renew a mutually beneficial relationship, first approached the Parks and Recreation Department in 2019. As a result, the City entered into its initial agreement with APEX on June 24, 2019, by Roll Call No. 19-1012, and was renewed on October 18, 2021, by Roll Call No. 21-1567. The City now desires to continue this relationship.
- This agreement renews the formalized relationship with the Parks and Recreation Department allowing students to volunteer independently during the school day. It shall be effective January 1, 2024 to January 30, 2026 and automatically renew for two (2)-year terms.
- 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 our metro area and state.
- 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, improvements to boardwalks/trails and facilities utilizing construction/engineering techniques, and other similar opportunities.

- The agreement holds the Waukee Community School District responsible for the students overall and is 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: October 18, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-1567](#)

Action: [Agreement](#) with Waukee Community School District regarding APEX student volunteers for park projects. ([Council Communication No. 21-438](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Potential future agreement renewals.

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