


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>25-327</b>	Meeting:	<b>September 8, 2025</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>42</b>	Roll Call:	<b>25-1223</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Benjamin R. Page, Parks and Recreation Director</b>		

### AGENDA HEADING:

Approving agreement with the Des Moines Carousel Foundation for construction, funding, and maintenance of improvements related to the Des Moines Heritage Carousel in Union Park.

### SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approving the agreement with the Des Moines Carousel Foundation (Adam Lackey, President) authorizing the Foundation's efforts in funding, designing, constructing, operating, maintaining, and insuring improvements related to the Des Moines Heritage Carousel in Union Park.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal Impact unless the Foundation should default on the operational agreement with the City.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On January 24, 2000, by Roll Call No. 00-243, the City Council approved the initial operating agreement between the City of Des Moines and the Des Moines Carousel Foundation (Foundation) for the Heritage Carousel located at Union Park for a term to include 10 operating seasons, ending December 1, 2010.
- On February 28, 2011, by Roll Call No. 11-0316, the City Council approved the Des Moines Heritage Carousel at Union Park Operating Agreement between the City and the Foundation, setting forth the terms and conditions of continued operation and maintenance of the Carousel and related Pavilion in Union Park owned by the Foundation in City-owned Union Park through December 1, 2020, with automatic renewal through December 1, 2030.
- The Foundation is responsible for operating the Carousel annually for all operating and maintenance costs. The Foundation retains all revenue derived from the Carousel operation.
- The Foundation is requesting an agreement to build an open-air shelter with restrooms in close proximity to the Carousel to enhance rental capacity and user experience.
- The Foundation will raise the estimated \$500,000 for the shelter and manage the construction project upon approval of the site plan and construction agreement. The City is not responsible for any costs associated with the design, permitting or construction of the project.
- The goal of the Foundation is to raise the funds in 2025 and finish construction of the shelter and restrooms in 2026.

- The Foundation will enter into the necessary contracts for the design and construction of the shelter and restrooms. The Foundation will gain the City's approval of the construction contract, agrees that all improvements will be designed in accordance with State and City codes and standards, that they will provide plans and specifications to the City for review at agreed to completion milestones, and that the improvements will be constructed per approved final plans.
- Although the City does not anticipate any operating or maintenance expenses associated with this project, should the Foundation default on the operation and maintenance agreement, the improvements shall become the property of the City upon completion of construction and acceptance by the City.

*Design Concept*



**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: February 28, 2011

Roll Call Number: 11-0316

Action: [Renewal](#) of Operating Agreement with Des Moines Carousel Foundation to operate the Des Moines Heritage Carousel in Union Park. ([Council Communication No. 11-119](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: March 26, 2024

Resolution Number: 24-020

Action: Approval of Des Moines Carousel Foundation agreement. Moved by Davis to approve fees as presented. Second by Chiodo. Motion Carried.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Approving an amendment to the Operating Agreement with the Foundation to include these improvements and acceptance of ownership and control of the project improvements constructed under the agreement.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).