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From the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, requesting authorization to execute a Ground Lease Agreement with the Urban Ecology Center in the amount of \$1 per year for certain land within Washington Park for an initial 25-year term with two 25-year extension options, and an Option to Purchase Agreement in the amount of \$1 for the existing boat house structure in Washington Park, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2018, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) preliminarily approved the terms of the Term Sheet in File No. 18-495, that outlined the purchase of the existing boat house structure in Washington Park by the Urban Ecology Center (UEC), and a 25-year term lease with two 25-year extensions with UEC, for certain land within Washington Park; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC), in consultation with Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel, has finalized the Option to Purchase and Lease Agreement for final approval by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the UEC has been a long-term partner of Milwaukee County (the County) and DPRC through their work in the community, and at Riverside and Washington Parks; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the UEC is to foster ecological understanding as inspiration for change, neighborhood by neighborhood, by providing outdoor science education, protecting and using public natural areas, preserving these areas and making them safe, accessible, and vibrant, promoting community through offering resources that support learning, volunteerism, stewardship, recreation, and camaraderie, and by practicing and modeling environmentally responsible behaviors; and

WHEREAS, in support of its mission, the UEC leased the boat house structure in Washington Park from the County in 2007, and extended that lease in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the current lease of the Washington Park boat house structure references the desire of the County and the UEC to develop a long-term plan for increasing UEC programming in the park; and

WHEREAS, the current lease contemplates natural restoration of certain areas of Washington Park, to be conducted in consultation with the DPRC; and

WHEREAS, the DPRC and the UEC have worked to develop a restoration plan for certain areas of Washington Park, which would be expanded under a new proposal; and

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WHEREAS, the UEC intends to construct a new building at the current location of the Washington Park boat house, and this new building would serve as a hub of activity in Washington Park and base for UEC programming; and

WHEREAS, the UEC intends to fund the construction of the new building through donations and other fundraised support; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the capital and deferred maintenance needs of the County, the UEC and the County intend to include approximately \$2,000,000 worth of new public improvements in the fundraising campaign; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with File No. 18-495, DPRC is submitting the final Lease and Option to Purchase Agreements to the County Board for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of March 12, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-227 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) hereby supports the Urban Ecology Center (UEC) in its endeavor to improve the Washington Park boat house, expand programming in Washington Park, improve public facilities, and ensure the long-term presence of the UEC in Washington Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby authorizes the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, the Department of Administrative Services, the Office of Corporation Counsel, and any other Department that may be necessary to execute and record all documents, and perform all actions, as required to execute the Lease Agreement and Option to Purchase Agreement attached to this file; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Executive and County Clerk are authorized to execute any required documents regarding this transaction.

kae
03/12/19
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