

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 16, 2024

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy D. Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Lease Agreement with Rainbow Aero Modelers Society for the use of the former Rainbow Airport Field in Franklin

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

From the Executive Director of Milwaukee of County Parks, requesting authorization to enter into a lease with Rainbow Aero Modelers Society for the use of the former Rainbow Airport Field for the purpose of maintaining a radio-controlled aircraft recreational facility.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

Rainbow Aero Modelers Society (“RAMS”) and Parks have been associated since approximately 1996, when the County purchased the former Rainbow Airport, at Oakwood Road and Ryan Road in the City of Franklin, from private owners. RAMS developed approximately 18 acres the former airport (the “Premises”) and began leasing the Premises from the County in approximately 2007, after several years of obtaining annual permits.

RAMS is a member organization of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, which is responsible for obtaining Federal Aviation Administration licenses and approvals for RAMS’ activities at the Premises. The AMA also provides insurance coverage for RAMS.

RAMS generates revenue to sustain its operations by selling field licenses for hobbyists to fly radio-controlled aircraft, and through fundraising events.

RAMS has traditionally paid an annual administrative fee, and is responsible for all maintenance of the Premises, excluding the forested area which is the responsibility of the Parks Department.

Related File No's:	19-221, 14-168
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

- 1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government
- 3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability

FISCAL EFFECT

- Annual revenue of \$120.00.
- RAMS is solely responsible for turf maintenance, roadway maintenance, and certain outer margins of the forested areas.
- RAMS is responsible for trash and litter cleanup generated by their activities.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Tim Sorensen, RAMS President, timbers1976@gmail.com


Dave Lane, RAMS Treasurer, crash5200@yahoo.com

Tim Welch, RAMS Vice-President, sailor071644@gmail.com

PREPARED BY:

Saji Villoth, Contracts Services Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks 

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution
- Fiscal Note
- Lease Agreement & Exhibits
- Presentation

CC: David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon A. Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, PEEC Chair
Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, PEEC Vice Chair
Felesia A. Martin, Supervisor District 7, PEEC Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, PEEC Member
Steve F. Taylor, Supervisor District 17, PEEC Member

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Allyson R. Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB