# File No. 22-XXX

(ITEM NO. ) From the Executive Director of Milwaukee of County Parks, requesting authorization to execute a Friends Agreement between Milwaukee County Parks and the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens, Inc., by recommending adoption of the following:

## **A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens, Inc. (“FBBG”) is a private non-profit corporation organized under Wisconsin statutes chapter 181 with a tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), whose mission is to provide a garden setting for learning that nurtures understanding, enjoyment, and stewardship of our natural world, while nourishing and preserving Boerner Botanical Gardens (“the Gardens”) for future generations; and

WHEREAS, FBBG was formed and has functioned for the purpose of soliciting, holding, managing, investing, and expending funds and other gifts, grants, and bequests exclusively for the benefit and support of the Gardens, and such of its educational, scientific, and cultural programming as determined by its Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the County and FBBG have had a mutually-beneficial partnership for nearly forty years and FBBG has a significant positive impact in the Gardens and the surrounding community including teaching thousands of K12 students each year (over 16,000 students in 2019), providing 8,000+ volunteers since 2010 and over 18,500 volunteer hours in support of the Gardens, hosting garden walks and adult/family classes, and operating the gift store and library for the public’s benefit; and

WHEREAS, additionally, FBBG continuously works to improve the Gardens, such as adding adding nighttime lighting for the Gardens in 2018; while in 2019 FBBG identified the donor of the new children’s’ garden, Margie’s Smile, and worked with the donor on the first phase of design, and then in 2020 FBBG identified a donor that added a kaleidoscope to the Gardens; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 13 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances (MCGO) provides guidelines for County Departments that form partnerships with support groups and requires written agreements between the department and the support group for approval by the County Executive and the County Board; and

WHEREAS, as required by Chapter 13, the agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of the County and FBBG including the handling of solicitations and donations, future improvements, records and reporting, and insurance provisions; and

WHEREAS, the initial term of this agreement is three years with the option to extend for one consecutive three year period; and

WHEREAS, the MOU provides for a maintenance fund of $17,000 a year for maintaining and enhancing the Gardens, which shall increase by two percent each year, and a minimum of $5,000 per year for a Garden Fund for the operation and maintenance of the Gardens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize Milwaukee County Parks to execute a Friends Agreement between Milwaukee County Parks and the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens, Inc., for a term of three years with one three year renewal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the agreement shall comply with Chapter 13 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances.