# File No. 20-

# (Journal, )

(ITEM NO. ) From the Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to accept a Greater Milwaukee Foundation grant to support the Wisconsin Policy Forum in researching long-term, dedicated funding options to sustain the Milwaukee County Parks system for future generations, by recommending adoption of the following:

## **A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Parks fund was established in 2018 to steward private donations for future improvement projects within the Milwaukee County Parks system; and

WHEREAS Milwaukee County Parks faces historic staffing and funding challenges, reaching all-time low levels of staffing and operating budget resources.; and

WHEREAS, Parks’ long-term funding mechanisms have been in decline for over a decade, steadily becoming more dependent on revenue generation (60% of operations budget) with less tax funding (only 40%) directly supporting our non-mandated department; and

WHEREAS, Parks’ fiscal model is unsustainable, and alternatives must be identified; our system is at risk; and

WHEREAS, Parks seeks to utilize grant funds from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s (GMF) Milwaukee County Parks Fund to support the development of a research project to review the history of Milwaukee County’s financial support for parks, reassess the department’s current financial condition and challenges, and consider the range of options for creating an equitable, sustainable financial path forward for the Milwaukee County parks system; and

WHEREAS, this research would be conducted by the Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF) at a total cost of $37,300; and

WHERAS, Parks seeks to leverage $27,500 from the GMF Parks Fund for this work with the additional $10,200 coming from outside funding pursued by WPF; and

WHERAS, Parks Executive Director recommends that Milwaukee County Parks, be authorized to accept a grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Parks Fund; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize Milwaukee County Parks to accept a grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Parks Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County Parks, the Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget, and the Office of the Comptroller are authorized to execute administrative fund transfers or necessary documents to execute the transaction.