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From the Executive Director of Milwaukee of County Parks, requesting authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Lake Park Friends for the Ravine Road Bridge Maintenance Fund, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) is the owner of Lake Park (the Park), a historic park located adjacent to Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Lake Park Friends (LPF) is a nonstock, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, which was incorporated in 1996, and whose mission is to promote the preservation and enjoyment of the Park, to sponsor educational, recreational, and cultural events in the Park, and to raise funds for the restoration and enhancement of the Park, in the spirit of Frederic Law Olmsted; and

WHEREAS, the Park is part of the National Register of Historic Places, and is home to several historic landmarks, including the Lake Park Ravine Road Footbridge (the Bridge), designed by Ferry & Clas, and completed in 1905; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, increased cracking in the Bridge and soil washout at the abutments prompted a condition assessment, which led to closure of the Bridge and the drive below it (Ravine Road), as a precautionary measure until it could be determined the Bridge was safe to use; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last few years, various alternatives for the restoration of the Bridge were studied and discussed, beginning with the Historic Lake Park Arch Bridge Over Ravine Road In-Depth Inspection Report, prepared by GRAEF on behalf of the County (July, 2015), which estimated construction costs for replacement of the Bridge at \$2.6 million; and

WHEREAS, LPF, seeking to maintain the historic nature of the Bridge, commissioned an independent review of bridge restoration alternatives in 2017 by TranSystems, and the report concluded that the Bridge can be rehabilitated to extend its service life at least another 50 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the County applied for and received an intent to award a \$2 million grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for replacement of the Bridge, but indicated that it was possible to revise the scope of the grant to use the awarded funding for Bridge rehabilitation; and

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WHEREAS, the revenue budget for Capital Project WP48401 – Lake Park Ravine Bridge included \$1,030,800 in general obligation bonds, and \$1,469,200 in private contributions, to finance the anticipated \$2.5 million construction phase of the Bridge project; and

WHEREAS, because the Bridge will be rehabilitated rather than replaced, the design budget for the project will be higher than initially planned, and the construction costs for the project will be lower than initially planned; and

WHEREAS, LPF raised or received commitments of approximately \$877,000 towards the initial \$2 million private donation requirement, included in the 2017 Adopted Budget, which will now be offset by the \$2 million TAP grant award; and

WHEREAS, the TAP grant award cannot be used for ongoing maintenance of the Bridge, so to ensure the Bridge is well maintained over its extended lifecycle, LPF has agreed to commit a portion of the funds they raised to create a fund for future maintenance needs of the Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide clarity on how the Escrow Fund will be used in relation to the needs of the Bridge; and

WHEREAS, LPF has proposed to fund the maintenance fund with a contribution of \$300,000, which at a conservative interest rate of one percent, should provide for the approximately \$607,000 of maintenance needs that are outlined in Exhibit A of the MOU over the 50-year lifespan of the Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the term of the MOU is an initial ten years, with automatic renewals for four, additional ten-year periods; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of December 8, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-866 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, is hereby authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Lake Park Friends for the Lake Park Ravine Road FootBridge Maintenance Fund, with a term of ten years, and four, ten-year renewals.

kae  
12/08/20  
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