


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	24-155	Meeting:	April 15, 2024
	Agenda Item:	33	Roll Call:	24-0588
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of operation and maintenance agreement between City of Des Moines and Des Moines Singletrack Association for mountain bike trail development, maintenance, and operations.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of operation and maintenance agreement with Des Moines Singletrack Association, dba Central Iowa Trail Association, Inc. (CITA), for the purpose of mountain bike trail development, maintenance, and operations

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department is charged with the responsibility of providing recreational activities, including dirt singletrack (native earth surface) trails, within the city of Des Moines and specifically at Ashworth Park (102 45th Street), Ewing Park (5300 Indianola Avenue), Grandview Park (3230 Easton Boulevard), and Greenwood Park (100 45th Street).
- CITA (Operator) desires to be involved in the communication, maintenance, funding, planning, and design of improvements, construction of modifications, and operations for the trails for the purpose of showcasing City recreational and park facilities, and the City of Des Moines (City) and Operator have negotiated the terms of this Agreement to allow for such involvement and support from Operator.
- The Parks and Recreation Department has had a long-standing relationship with CITA. Formalizing the relationship via this agreement reflects advancements of the department and is consistent with our goal of continuous improvement. The agreement clarifies the division of responsibilities and expectations of both the City and CITA.
- CITA, located in Des Moines, Iowa, is a 501(c)(3) formed in 1998. CITA is also a local chapter of IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association).
- CITA is 100% volunteer-led organization, working with local land managers like the City, Polk County Conservation, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and Des Moines Water Works Park to maintain singletrack trails for mountain biking in the Des Moines area.

- The agreement's initial term will run through April 1, 2027, and may be renewed for one (1) additional three (3)-year term. The City may terminate the agreement if CITA fails to maintain the trails to the standard agreed to, ensure safety of the public, and/or to otherwise does not comply with the agreement.
- City of Des Moines will:
 - Maintain parkland surrounding the trails in accordance with regular maintenance standards.
 - Aid in coordination of projects and use of equipment, land, soil, rock, other trail erosion materials, and machinery when needed for a City-approved purpose.
 - Temporarily close trails during wet conditions and to address park infrastructure and improvements. The City will coordinate planned improvements with CITA.
 - Establish the rules, hours of operation and may program events at its discretion and will enforce such rules and City ordinances.
- CITA will:
 - Regularly communicate to provide current information on active Operator Board members, liaisons to trails, and date and time of Board meetings.
 - Provide insight to the City regarding the current condition of trails and areas that need attention, as needed by email notice pursuant to this Agreement and during quarterly meetings (either via phone, video call or in person) with the City.
 - Regularly maintain the trails in a manner to assure the safety of users and the public and to prevent or limit erosion.
 - Provide the full amount of the cost of approved proposed improvements and shall not begin construction of any improvements unless Operator has sufficient funds to complete such improvements.
 - Provide location, plans, and specifications for proposed trail modifications at existing trails must receive the prior written approval of the City Parks and Recreation Director.
 - Be responsible for various improvements, which may include purchasing and/or providing supplies, materials, and volunteer workforce in order to improve the trails.
 - Be responsible for the payment and placement of new signage at areas approved by the City.
 - Ensure that its activities on the trails will be performed and supervised by adequately trained and qualified personnel and trail users will observe all applicable safety rules.
 - Undertake the construction of the trail, including the site survey, tree protection, site preparation and demolition, grading, and all necessary environmental review and assessment.
 - Install temporary improvements to assist in operating the trails.
 - Provide programming at the trails in conjunction with City, following review and approval by City of proposed programming.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: April 22, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-0650](#)

Action: [Donation](#), Construction and Maintenance Agreement with Central Iowa Trail Association, Inc. regarding Advanced Loop Mountain Bike Trail in Ewing Park. ([Council Communication: 19-169](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.