

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	April 1, 2024
Action Required:	City Council may approve the attached memorandum of understanding.
Presenter:	Riaan Anthony, Interim Director
Staff Contacts:	Jacob Stroman, City Attorney Riaan Anthony, Interim Director Ashley Marshall, Deputy City Manager
Title:	Resolution for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Bennett's Village and the City of Charlottesville

Background

The Parks and Recreation Department staff have been holding discussions with the representatives of Bennett's Village, a nonprofit community organization which aims to create a fully accessible playground in Central Virginia. These discussions have been going on for several years, and it has been concluded that an opportunity exists to host such a facility within the City's park system at Pen Park.

Representatives from Bennett's Village presented their proposal for an All-Abilities Playground at Pen Park to the City Council on March 18th, 2019. The City Council then adopted a resolution on April 1st, 2019, to establish a partnership between the City and Bennett's Village. The City Council also authorized staff to draft a Memorandum of Agreement that defines the partnership between the entities for this purpose.

Discussion

In November 2019, the City and Bennett's Village entered into a memorandum of agreement which was amended further in September 2021. Upon reviewing the current memorandum of agreement, the staff and representatives of Bennett's Village have decided to rewrite it in order to meet the current standards so that Bennett's Village can gain access to more grant opportunities.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

The Bennett's Village All-Abilities Park project fulfills the Council Strategic Initiatives:

- Recreation, Arts & Culture
- Partnerships
- Council's Commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Community Engagement

The Adaptive Recreation community in the region has shown significant and consistent support for a facility. The initial design takes into consideration various factors such as play elements, integration, accessibility, and staff. Bennett's Village has collaborated with several community service providers in the region to ensure that the facility caters to the needs of individuals across different ages and ability levels. Furthermore, this draft memorandum of understanding has been reviewed by Bennett's Village representative(s).

Budgetary Impact

Bennett's Village is committed to raising the funds to design and construct this project. The City will provide support, guidance and expertise through its Certified Playground Inspectors who are already on staff in the Parks and Recreation Department. This request does not require any funding from the City budget at this time.

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Department staff wholeheartedly support this effort and project. Staff recommends that City Council approve the attached memorandum of understanding.

Alternatives

City Council could choose to provide alternative direction.

Attachments

1. Bennett's Village Draft Resolution of Approval.3.13.24
2. BV MOA.Clean.FINAL.3.27.24
3. Ex. A-City of Cville MOA for Bennetts Village signed 2019 (1)
4. Ex. A continued-Sept2021AmendedMOA
5. Ex. B-Bennetts_Village_Total Project Area
6. Exhibit C-BV_Phasing_2023_FINAL_sm
7. Exhibit D-BV Ground Lease - Pen Park 2024 MODEL PHASE LEASE.Final