



City Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date: August 1, 2023
From: Nick Rizzio, Municipal Project Manager
Item: BCBSKS initiative *Pathways* to Healthy Kansas Implementation Grant & Placemaking Policy - Lovie Watson Park

Purpose: A Resolution authorizing the City of Arkansas City to apply for an implementation grant from *Pathways to a Healthy Kansas (Pathways)*, a Blue Cross Blue Shield Kansas (BCBSKS) initiative, in partnership with Rise Cowley County, supporting improvements to Lovie Watson Park. **(Voice Vote)**

Background:

Blue Cross Blue Shield in partnership with Rise Cowley County, has teamed up with Juneteenth members apply for funding to make improvements to Lovie Watson Park through Phase Two of the *Pathways to a Healthy Kansas (Pathways)*.

The Pathways initiative, known as *Pathways to a Healthy Kansas*, is the largest community grant initiative ever funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas. It combines community-wide, evidence-based solutions and practices to help Kansas communities improve active living, healthy eating, and tobacco prevention. The initiative provides community coalitions with the tools and resources needed to engage their communities and remove barriers to healthy living. *Pathways* started in 2016 with eight communities and expanded to 16 communities in 2017. In 2020, the *Pathways* initiative started a second phase of work with a total of 24 communities – 12 new and 12 returning communities from across the BCBSKS service area.

This grant would allow for up to \$50,000 park improvements at Lovie Watson Park. In order to qualify for the grant, the City of Arkansas City needs to commit to the established Placemaking Policy in relation to *Pathways* funds as inscribed in section two, of the enclosed Resolution.

City of Arkansas City (partner) acknowledges that we play an integral role in creating spaces that promote health in our community. Our position provides us with a significant opportunity to assist members of our community in leading healthier lives. We are committed to taking steps toward providing the healthiest possible environment in our community.

Commission Options:

1. Approve the Resolution
2. Disapprove the Resolution
3. Table the Resolution for further discussion

Fiscal Impact:

Amount:

Fund: Department: Expense Code:

Included in budget Grant Bonds Other Not Budgeted

Approved for Agenda by:

Randy Frazer, City Manager