

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08-_____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY TO APPLY FOR AN IMPLEMENTATION GRANT FROM *PATHWAYS TO A HEALTHY KANSAS (PATHWAYS)*, A BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS (BCBSKS) INITIATIVE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RISE COWLEY COUNTY, SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO LOVIE WATSON PARK.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, owns, operates, and maintains Lovie Watson Park to provide community members opportunities to be physically active, participate in community activities; and improve the overall mental and emotional health of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, RISE Cowley County is a coalition of organizations dedicated to making Cowley County a healthier place to live, work, and play by promoting healthy lifestyles and collaborating to raise awareness with all residents of Cowley County; and

WHEREAS, RISE Cowley County is the recipient of a BCBSKS *Pathways* grant which includes funding opportunities through implementation grants to support Placemaking packages; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, desires to apply for funding from *Pathways to a Healthy Kansas (Pathways)*, a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) initiative in partnership with RISE Cowley County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arkansas City hereby affirms its commitment to providing greater access to healthy living options for our community members, that its involvement with the *Pathways* initiative helps to establish strong community norms for healthier living, and that it is willing to learn more about making healthy environment and healthy policy changes to help community members live a longer and better quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arkansas City acknowledges that it plays an integral role in creating opportunities for community members to be physically active and provide opportunities for community members to come together in public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the *Pathways* initiative is structured in terms of "community pathways" that are designed to help the coalition take a holistic, community-wide approach to improving health outcomes by addressing the social determinants of health. This Resolution addresses shared alignment in the placemaking package of the community and social context pathway; and

WHEREAS, the *Pathways* initiative defines placemaking as the shaping of a place by creatively applying arts, culture, and social context to jump-start economic development, promote community pride and morale and encourage people to be physically active; and

WHEREAS, *Pathways* requires an emphasis and targeted benefits for "populations of focus" outlined by BCBSKS; and

WHEREAS, Lovie Watson Park is located in an under resourced area of the City of Arkansas City across the street from the Northwest Community Center; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Community Center provides services to families in the area, including a long-standing outreach initiative (See attached article); and

WHEREAS, Lovie Watson Park is a park with historical significance elevating the history of African Americans in the city and established in 1971 in the name of Lovie Watson, an African American Woman community leader (See attached article);

WHEREAS, Lovie Watson Park is the site of the community's inaugural Juneteenth celebration; and

WHEREAS, the RISE Cowley coordinated input from community members about priority improvements for Lovie Watson Park as part of a Juneteenth celebration on June 17, 2023, where participants identified and voted on park improvements they would like to see implemented; and

WHEREAS, a group of Lovie Watson Park stakeholders met with officials from the City of Arkansas City in July 2023 to review community feedback regarding improvements to the park and identify specific park improvements based on community priorities; and

WHEREAS, the priorities for improvements to Lovie Watson Park identified by community members as part of the Juneteenth celebration included a restroom facility as the top priority, in addition to three mature, drought-resistant shade trees; four benches; shade structures over benches and picnic tables; two misting stations; and either a playground round swing addition or xylophone and drums play equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Lovie Watson Park stakeholders and City of Arkansas City officials developed a budget for these improvements indicating that the anticipated cost for the park improvements will be \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arkansas City commits to using these funds for the restroom as the first priority; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arkansas City commits to providing \$6,000 as matching funds for the construction of the restrooms at Lovie Watson Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arkansas City will provide in-kind labor, project oversight, and maintenance for the Park improvements for at least five years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arkansas City is seeking a *Pathways* implementation grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the costs of the Park improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arkansas City is committed to working with RISE Cowley, the Juneteenth Committee, the Northwest Community Center, and other community partners to involve residents in upkeep and maintaining community pride and investment in Lovie Watson Park; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City supports the submission of a *Pathways* implementation grant application for \$50,000 by the Mayor and/or City Manager;

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE AFORESTATED PREMISES, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS:

SECTION ONE: That the Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City hereby authorizes the Mayor and/or City Manager to sign and apply for implementation grant funding from the *Pathways* initiative to fund a Placemaking initiative at Lovie Watson Park on behalf of the citizens of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas.

SECTION TWO: The Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City hereby establishes a Placemaking Policy in relation to *Pathways* funds and commits to:

- 1) Apply for *Pathways* implementation funds, not to exceed \$50,000 to fund the improvements to Lovie Watson Park detailed, above;
- 2) Promote the new amenities at the Lovie Watson Park to encourage active living and community pride by working with RISE Cowley, the Juneteenth Committee, the Northwest Community Center, and other community partners to involve residents in upkeep and maintaining community pride and investment in Lovie Watson Park;
- 3) Develop a written policy that the park is a commercial tobacco-free place, and install signage to promote the space being commercial tobacco free, including vaping;
- 4) Recognize financial contributions provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas through *Pathways to a Healthy Kansas* initiative and acknowledge this financial contribution in any signage, social media, written documentation, or other forms of communication regarding the activities;
- 5) Maintain new or improved local facilities, paid for with *Pathways* funds for at least five years after installation;
- 6) Use the hashtag #BCBSKSPathways in social media promotion relating to this effort; and
- 7) Complete an Impact Report one year after grant funding is approved to share your impact, successes, challenges, and other lessons learned so that BCBSKS continues to improve its work with and support communities throughout the state. The report request will be sent via email and can be completed by logging in to the BCBS portal.

SECTION THREE: That the Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City hereby authorizes the Mayor and/or City Manager of the City of Arkansas City to take such further and other necessary actions that are required to effectuate the intent and purposes of this Legislative Enactment.

SECTION FOUR: This Resolution will be in full force and effect from its date of passage by the City Commission of the City of Arkansas City.

PASSED AND RESOLVED by the governing body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, on August 1, 2023.

(Seal)

Diana L. Spielman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tiffany Parsons, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Larry R. Schwartz, City Attorney

CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2023-08-_____ of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas adopted by the governing body on August 1, 2023, as the same appears of record in my office.

DATED: _____.

Tiffany Parsons, City Clerk