



Public Services Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: July 8, 2025

Outdoor Urban Adventure Center in partnership with Destination Augusta

Department:	Destination Augusta / Recreation & Parks / Central Services
Presenter:	Jennifer Bowen, Ron Lampkin, Charles Jackson
Caption:	Receive an update regarding the Outdoor Urban Adventure Center via Destination Augusta; approve related Management and Operating Agreement (with The Forge Management LLC) and approve the waiving of all associated City Planning Fees for the project.
Background:	<p>Per a MOU with the City of Augusta to Design, Build, and select an Operator for an Outdoor Urban Adventure Center, Destination Augusta has partnered with The Forge Management, LLC to develop this attraction and asset along the Augusta riverfront. This effort includes proposed features such as a zipline attraction over the Savannah River, based at the historic Fifth Street Bridge, along with other eco-tourism and recreation-oriented elements. The project is part of a broader vision to create a unique experience blending adventure, education, and riverfront revitalization. The Forge has completed similar projects in other U.S. cities and brings specialized expertise in outdoor recreational development.</p>
Analysis:	<p>The Management and Operations Agreement between the City of Augusta and The Forge Management outlines key operational roles, fiscal responsibilities, and revenue sharing arrangements for the Adventure Park. Under the agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Forge will independently manage and operate the facility while providing quarterly reports to the City.• The City retains ownership of the capital assets and will receive 3% of net revenue quarterly.• The Forge is responsible for staffing, maintenance, legal compliance, and insurance.• The agreement is effective through December 31, 2030, with early termination clauses and indemnification provisions clearly outlined. <p>This draft formalizes the working relationship and sets expectations on transparency, fiscal accountability, and ongoing coordination.</p>
Financial Impact:	<p>There is no direct cost to the City for ongoing operational expenses under this agreement. The Forge Management will cover all operational costs, while the City will retain financial responsibility for capital equipment</p>

replacement. Revenue received by the City is projected to be 3% of net Adventure Park revenue, providing a long-term, passive income stream.

Alternatives: Do not approve the Management and Operating Agreement (with The Forge Management LLC) and/or do not approve the waiving of all associated City Planning Fees for the project.

Recommendation: Receive an update regarding the Outdoor Urban Adventure Center via Destination Augusta; approve related Management and Operating Agreement (with The Forge Management LLC) and approve the waiving of all associated City Planning Fees for the project.

Funds are available in the following accounts: N/A

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY: N/A