



Public Services Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: April 29, 2025

Motion to receive an update on the development of the Outdoor Urban Adventure Center in partnership with Destination Augusta, and to approve the proposed Management and Operations Agreement with The Forge Management, LLC.

Department:	Destination Augusta Recreation & Parks Central Services
Presenter:	Bennish Brown Jennifer Bowen Tameka D. Williams Ron Lampkin
Caption:	Update - Outdoor Urban Adventure Center via Destination Augusta, and presentation of draft operating agreement.
Background:	Destination Augusta and The City entered into a MOU in November of 2023 to facilitate the design and build of an outdoor adventure center using designated SPLOST VIII funding. Destination Augusta is to lead the project through design and construction, and identify a private contractor to operate the attraction on behalf of the City of Augusta. Destination Augusta has partnered with The Forge Management, LLC to develop an Outdoor Urban Adventure Center along the Augusta riverfront. This effort includes proposed features such as a zipline attraction over the Savannah River, based at the historic Freedom 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.
Analysis:	<p>The draft 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.

This draft formalizes the working relationship and sets expectations on transparency, fiscal accountability, and ongoing coordination.

Financial Impact:

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

Alternatives:

1. Approve the agreement as presented and authorize staff to proceed with final execution.
2. Recommend revisions to the agreement and request renegotiation with The Forge.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Commission receive the update and approve the draft Management and Operations Agreement which has been reviewed by the Law Department, the Finance Department and the Administrator's Office.

Funds are available in the following accounts:

N/A

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

N/A