

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Standing Boy Preserve Intergovernmental Agreement and Management Agreement
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Georgia Department of Natural Resources and a Management Agreement with Standing Boy, Inc. for the use and operation of the Standing Boy Preserve. SBI will provide all financial resources for the construction and maintenance of the trail network. No funding is required by the city.
INITIATED BY:	City Manager's Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a Management Agreement (MA) with Standing Boy, Inc. (SBI) for the use and operation of the Standing Boy Preserve.

Background: The Standing Boy Preserve located along the river in northwest Columbus is 1600 acres of relatively unused property owned by the State of Georgia since 2000. It has operated as a Wildlife Management Area. The mission is to keep the preserve in its natural state. SBI is a nonprofit organization that desires to construct a trail network on the preserve and has been under construction.

Analysis: SBI has raised private funding totaling almost \$2.5 million to construct 25 miles of multi-use trails, 5 miles of biking only trails and 6 miles of hiking only trails. The City of Columbus will provide public safety support as done in all areas of the city and support SBI with any grant opportunities that are available.

Financial Considerations: SBI will provide all financial resources for the construction and maintenance of the trail network. No funding is required by the city.

Legal Considerations: Council originally approved this transaction on September 27, 2022 by Resolution No. 297-22. Since that time DNR has asked for a revision of the legal description of the property to include a tract of property on which a park ranger's residence was situated. DNR has now agreed to demolish the structure at its own cost and include that piece of property in its IGA with the city.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a Management Agreement (MA) with Standing Boy, Inc. (SBI) for the use and operation of the Standing Boy Preserve contingent upon the demolition of the structure and the clearing of any liens for the demolition work from the property.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND A MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH STANDING BOY, INC. FOR THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE STANDING BOY PRESERVE.

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia owns 1600 on the river in northwest Columbus under the oversight of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and,

WHEREAS, Standing Boy, Inc. (SBI), a nonprofit organization, desires to construct a biking and hiking trail network and utilize the property in its natural state; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus desires to partner with SBI for the operation of the preserve; and,

WHEREAS, no financial resources are requested from the City of Columbus to provide this quality of life amenity to the community;

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 297-22 was approved prior to certain revisions of the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement by DNR and needs to be rescinded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

To authorize the City Manager to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, a Management Agreement with Standing Boy, Inc. for the use and operation of the Standing Boy Preserve, and the execution of any other related documents contingent on the State completing the demolition and of the structure on the property and removing any liens incurred from such demolition.

Resolution No.297-22 is hereby rescinded.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting _____.
Councilor Barnes voting _____.
Councilor Crabb voting _____.

Councilor Davis voting _____.
Councilor Garrett voting _____.
Councilor House voting _____.
Councilor Huff voting _____.
Councilor Thomas voting _____.
Councilor Tucker voting _____.
Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, Mayor