



**MEETING TYPE  
STAFF REPORT**

**Agenda Date:** July 10, 2023

**Eric Buckman, City  
Manager:**

**Department:** City Commission

**Department Head Name:**

**Presenter:** Kim Berry

**Kim Berry, City Clerk:**

**This form and any background material must be approved by the City Manager, then delivered to the City Clerk by 4:00 PM the Tuesday prior to the Commission Meeting.**

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:**

Soo Line Steam Engine Club

**BACKGROUND:**

The Soo Line Club has had meetings regarding the City owned Steam Engine #730. Originally this group began with approval to clean, repaint, fix electrical and install bird netting on the City steam engine. The club came up with many additional ideas for not only the City owned steam engine but the area where the locomotive is located. These ideas included acquiring additional sections of train, holding fundraisers, opening an account with the Community Foundation under their name and establishing an authority.

Club Minutes of February 13<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup> prompted a meeting with club members John Pickard, John Norkooli, Howard Keeton and Don Darmogray and Mayor Thompson, Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, City Manager Buckman and Clerk Berry. This was held on April 4, 2023 at City Hall. This meeting clarified the process that any club proposed projects related to the City steam engine need to go through with the City of Gladstone. The club was encouraged to submit a written proposed project plan including dimensions if applicable, estimates and timeline to either the City Manager or City Clerk. Also, at that meeting it was determined that the donations given to the City for the locomotive would be sent to the Community Foundation account once receipts from the club were submitted to the City.

On June 12, 2023 club members spoke under public comment requesting assistance with additional projects at the locomotive site and the creation of a temporary welcome center. At this meeting Clerk Berry advised that at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting a written plan needs to be submitted to the City for review to proceed.

On June 20, 2023 club members attended the Gladstone DDA meeting and spoke under public comment requesting a meeting to discuss their plans for the locomotive and a welcome center downtown. The DDA motioned that they would like to have a joint meeting of the DDA and Commission to discuss the locomotive and welcome center plans the club has.

To date the Locomotive Club has not submitted any written project plans, timelines of the project plans or cost estimates of each project. Additionally, no receipts have been submitted nor have they asked permission from the city to establish an authority.

The City has always been willing to work with organizations and clubs for proposed projects. Successful projects have been the Gladstone Disc Golf Course, the pump track, and the Gladstone Pickleball Project, to name recent ones. It is difficult for city staff to begin the review and recommendation process on the many ideas and endeavors the locomotive club members are taking or want to take without written project plans for the city locomotive.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the Commission direct the Locomotive Club to submit written plans to the City Manager to begin the required review process and submit required receipts to allow the City to transfer funding to the Locomotive Club's Community Foundation account.