

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER - AGENDA ITEM DATA SHEET

Agenda Item: 2026 Symons Contribution

Committee Review: Finance Committee during 2026 budget review meeting on 9/30/2025

Meeting Date: Finance and Council on 10/7/2025

Requested by: Ashley Oliphant, City Administrator

Background:

The Symons Recreation Complex has operated under a shared funding model between the City and County since 1987. The primary purpose of the City and County contributions is to subsidize the complex's core operating expenses (wages, utilities, etc.), which are otherwise largely covered by membership fees (approximately 80%). The combined and equal City and County contributions account for approximately 10% of the complex's total operating costs.

The City's financial commitment has remained consistent, with recent contributions and requests outlined as follows:

	Contribution	Add 'l Exp	Total
2020	\$34,291.50	\$20,000.00	\$54,291.50
2021	\$34,291.50	N/A	\$34,291.50
2022	\$36,141.62	\$99,159.00	\$135,300.62
2023	\$32,295.30	N/A	\$32,295.30
2024	\$54,492.06	N/A	\$54,492.06
2025	\$53,960.42	N/A	\$53,960.42
2026	\$53,190.25	TBD	\$53,190.25

The Symons Foundation and other donors play a separate but equally vital financial role. Unlike the City/County funds, which cover operating expenses, all private donations are directed into County Fund 370. These donations are specifically earmarked for capital needs, including the replacement of aging equipment, facility upgrades, solar panel repairs, and signage. Symons Director Mike Hardy notes that donor contributions often match the amount provided by the City. For example, over the last two years, approximately \$100,000 in donations were raised and spent entirely on these non-operating capital improvements. This structure allows the City and County contributions to provide stability for day-to-day operations, while Fund 370 ensures the facility and equipment remain modern and functional.

Committee Recommendation: Approve a contribution 2026 that is the same or less than provided in 2025 and abstain from any separate capital improvement related contributions.

Financial Impact: \$53,190.25

Funding Source: 2026 Budget, 10-55500-475 Symons

Requested Action:

FINANCE: Motion to recommend to the Council to approve the requested 2026 contribution of \$53,190.25 for the operation of the Symons Recreational Complex.

COUNCIL: Motion to approve the requested 2026 contribution of \$53,190.25 for the operation of the Symons Recreational Complex.

Attachment(s): 2026 Symons Budget Request