



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

DATE: 05/23/2025

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Joe Kerlin, Parks Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution No.96-24-25 – MOU with Friends of the Shaw Family Playground

ISSUE

Should the Public Works Committee recommend authorizing the appropriate City officials to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Friends of the Shaw Family Playground, Inc. regarding the terms and understanding between the parties with regard to the playground designed for use by children of all abilities?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

In 2016, the City entered into a MOU with the organization created by Angie and Ryan Shaw, known as the Sheboygan Park Project ("SPP"). The MOU allowed SPP to fundraise and build a universally accessible playground designed for children of all abilities. The SPP worked with the Sheboygan Jaycees to facilitate the receiving and spending of the money raised for the project.

After several years of the playground being built, the SPP has now received their own non-profit status under the name of the Friends of the Shaw Family Playground, Inc. ("Friends"). The Friends desire to enter into a new MOU with the City to replace the prior MOU to further clarify the expectations of the parties related to the playground.

The MOU is intended to last for the intended life of the playground and shall therefore expire on December 31, 2043. The MOU will automatically renew for three, ten-year terms and may be further extended by mutual, written agreement of the parties.

Some of the highlighted responsibilities are as follows:

- Friends desire to aid the City in maintaining, adding to, and improving the playground, including the pavilion.
- The playground is property of the City and part of a public park system and will be cared for by the City.
- Friends may raise funds to be used to further improve and maintain the park.
- The City is not obligated to the Friends to expend additional City funds for construction, improvement, or additional park and playground maintenance beyond customarily contemplated in the City's annual operating budget.
- Any past, present, or future funds raised by Friends, shall be placed into an endowment fund for the playground. Said funds shall be controlled by the Friends.
- The City may request funds from the endowment fund to fund repair and replacement of items associated with the playground.

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AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

- The City will seek consensus from Friends before making any change to the playground.
- The City will promptly notify Friends of removal of any known hazard.
- The City agrees not to rent the pavilion for private rentals.
- A designee of the Director of Public Works will serve as the Friends' primary point of contact and may attend meetings of the board of directors for the Friends upon Friends' request.

FUNDING IMPACT

Funding maintenance for the playground will be covered by the Park Departments annual budget. The City will have the ability to request funds from the endowment fund held by Friends.

IF APPROVED, NEXT STEPS:

The City will continue a partnership with Friends, providing a universally accessible playground, designed for use by children of all abilities.