

REQUEST FOR COUNTY BOARD ACTION

AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2008

ITEM NO. _____

PREPARED BY: Tia Meyer, Leadership Greater Rochester

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS WITH BRIEF ANALYSIS AND ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNTY BOARD:

Approval to develop a 501(C)3 Friends of Graham Park Foundation to carry out the long-term vision of the 55-acre Graham Park County property, and the creation of an agreement between the County and the Friends of Graham Park Foundation to ensure that the Master Plan is implemented in the best interest of the community.

BACKGROUND:

LGR has spent countless hours researching options for the further development of Graham Park (the current site of the Olmsted County Fairgrounds). LGR is committed to working with the County and the vested stakeholders to create a Master Plan that will work for all groups currently vested in Graham Park, as well as include improvements to benefit the whole community. LGR is dedicated to the promotion of an inviting year-round community gathering place, an enhanced County Fair, and the implementation of additional programming, property and building improvements.

The Master Plan Design is currently being developed by collaborative efforts between the Rochester Design Society, LGR, and the vested stakeholders. The final product will be reviewed and approved by the County prior to any design implementations. LGR plans to recommend a phased plan over an approximate 10-year period. Our goal is to complete the phased Master Plan to commence Graham Park on the 100 year anniversary of Dr. Graham's gift, 2019.

There have been discussions regarding the on-going management of a newly developed Graham Park. The County currently has two successful park management models, with Friends of Chester Woods and Friends of Oxbow Park as supported by the Public Works Park Superintendent. LGR recommends that Graham Park follow this existing management structure with the formation of a non-profit group, Friends of Graham Park Foundation to carry out the long-term vision of the 55-acre property.

COUNTY BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval to proceed with organizing a 501(C)3 Friends of Graham Park Foundation.
Approval to proceed with the further development of a Master Plan Design.
Approval to proceed with the drawings of an agreement between the County and Friends of Graham Park Foundation.

REVIEWED WITH ADDITIONAL MATERIAL PROVIDED _____
County Administration

ALL REQUESTS FOR COUNTY BOARD AGENDA TIME MUST BE IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE BY THE MONDAY OF THE WEEK BEFORE THE BOARD MEETING. WHEN MONDAY IS A HOLIDAY, THE PREVIOUS FRIDAY IS THE DEADLINE.