



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: August 16, 2022
To: Each Director
From: Adam Sutton, Environmental Educator
Subject: I&E Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Information and Education Subcommittee met at 4:45pm Monday, August 15th, 2022. Subcommittee members present were John Yoakum (Chair), Susan Seacrest, Vern Barrett, Tom Green, Lisa Lewis, Ray Stevens and Ken Vogel. Others present included Paul Zillig, David Potter, McKenzie Barry, Adam Sutton, and Parker Robinson.

Chair Yoakum called the meeting to order at 4:45. The first agenda item was consideration of the K-3rd Grade School Tour Program Agreement with Pioneers Park Nature Center.

The NRD has had an Agreement with PPNC/City of Lincoln to cost-share on grades K-3 Discovery Habitat Hikes for the past 10 years. These hikes are 1.5 hours long and each year PPNC provides hikes for approximately 6,500-7,000 Lincoln Public School and Non Lincoln Public School students in our District. The proposed agreement has no price changes from past agreements with the NRD cost-share remaining at \$3/student, not to exceed \$25,000 a year to help support these hikes and make them accessible to all schools wanting to attend. This agreement is for one year and can be renewed for one year additional terms, up to three years. The Agreement is attached.

It was moved by Director Stevens, seconded by Director Lewis, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Agreement with the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department for the Pioneers Park Nature Center School Tour Program and authorize the General Manager to approve the renewal of the Agreement for up to three years.

Next on the agenda was subcommittee consideration to renew the Prairie Immersion Program Agreement with Pioneers Park Nature Center.

The Prairie Immersion program is geared towards 4th graders when they study prairies and Nebraska history and is open to all Lincoln Public School and Non Lincoln Public School students in our District. Schools either attend this field trip at Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC) or Spring Creek Prairie (SCP).

The NRD has had an agreement with PPNC/City of Lincoln for the Prairie Immersion Program for 4th grade students since 2018. These hikes are 4 hours long, and each year PPNC provides hikes for approximately 1,700-2,000 Lincoln Public School and Non Lincoln Public School students in our District. This proposed agreement does include a rate change, from \$6.50/student increasing to \$8/student, not to exceed \$17,000. The Agreement is attached for your review. This agreement is for one year and can be renewed for one year additional terms, up to three years. Even with the increase in price there is enough money in the budget for this program.

It was moved by Director Seacrest, seconded by Director Green, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Agreement with the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department for the Pioneers Park Nature Center Prairie Immersion Program and authorize the General manager to approve the renewal of the Agreement for up to three years.

The last item on the agenda was the consideration of financial support for the Prairie Immersion Program with Spring Creek Prairie.

As previously mentioned, the Prairie Immersion Program is geared towards 4th graders when they study prairies and Nebraska history and is open to all Lincoln Public School and Non Lincoln Public School students in our District. Schools either attend this field trip at Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC) or Spring Creek Prairie (SCP).

We received a letter from Spring Creek Prairie again requesting financial support for the Prairie Immersion Program. We have financially supported these Field Trips to SCP since the program began in 2018. The letter proposes a rate change from \$6.50/student to \$8/student, not to exceed \$15,000 a year. The letter is attached.

It was moved by Director Lewis, seconded by Director Stevens, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve financial support to Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center for the Prairie Immersion Program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Yoakum at 5:00pm.