

STAFF REPORT

Date: November 15, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), for the use of a portion of City Plaza, located at 10 North Virginia Street, for the purpose of promoting public health and safety, and improving water quality in the Truckee River by providing a sanitary restroom facility.

From: Karina Mercier, Management Analyst

Department: Parks and Recreation

Summary:

Council is asked to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) for the use of a portion of City Plaza, located at 10 North Virginia Street, for the purpose of promoting public health and safety, and improve water quality in the Truckee River by providing a sanitary restroom facility. TMWA would install and maintain a Portland Loo restroom, which has been used successfully in Brodhead Park and John Champion Park as well as other urban cities, or another restroom facility of a similar nature and functionality. The Portland Loo was developed by Madden Fabrication with City of Portland, Oregon staff and officials and is specifically designed to prevent the type of problems encountered with other public restrooms such as cleanliness, crime, and upkeep. Staff is seeking Council approval for the interlocal agreement between the City of Reno and TMWA, and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Previous Council Action:

On May 11, 2022 – Council approved City Plaza as the next location for a public restroom facility.

February 23, 2022 – Council approved an Interlocal Agreement with Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), for the use of a portion of John Champion Park, located at 975 Kuenzli Street, for the purpose of promoting public health and safety, and improving water quality in the Truckee River by providing a sanitary restroom facility.

February 9, 2022 – Council heard an update regarding the One Truckee River Management Plan, including the river restroom project and vegetation management plan. Council directed staff to seek additional public input on proposed locations in downtown Reno, and to return to Council in 60 days.

November 13, 2019 – Council approved an Interlocal Agreement with TMWA for the use of a portion of Brodhead Park to install a Portland Loo.

September 28, 2016 – Council adopted the One Truckee River Management Plan.

Background:

From the One Truckee River (OTR) Management Plan, “... [the plan] provides recommended actions to create a sustainable, clean, and thriving river community that is recognized in the hearts and minds of all. It is part of the One Truckee River Initiative launched by Nevada Land Trust (NLT) and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) in 2015. One Truckee River is a collaboration of local, regional, and state agencies, nonprofit and community organizations, businesses, and numerous other partners who share a sincere appreciation of the Truckee River, and hold for it and each other the vision of a better future.”

The OTR Management Plan was unanimously adopted by the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County in September 2016. Installing a restroom facility for use by the public is a part of the OTR Restroom Project, which is Objective 1.3.c of Goal 1: Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River. Applicable pages from the OTR Management Plan are attached to this staff report.

Discussion:

The Portland Loo was developed by Madden Fabrication with City of Portland, Oregon staff and officials and is specifically designed to prevent the type of problems encountered with other public restrooms such as cleanliness, crime, and upkeep.

The pilot project for the Portland Loo installation at Brodhead Park and the second location at John Champion Park have been successful. As a result, OTR and TMWA would like to proceed with installation of a Portland Loo at City Plaza. An Interlocal Agreement between TMWA and City of Reno for providing a sanitary restroom facility on the City’s City Plaza property for use by the public, would be required.

Similar to the Interlocal Agreement previously approved for Brodhead Park and John Champion Park, the City, OTR and TMWA seek to promote public health and safety and improve water quality in the Truckee River by providing a sanitary restroom facility on the City’s City Plaza

property for use by the public. The purpose is to provide the public with a sanitary restroom to reduce the amount of human waste created near the Park and along the Truckee River and thereby improve public health and safety in the area around the Park and water quality in the Truckee River. The Parties desire TMWA to install a Portland Loo restroom, which has been used successfully in other urban cities, or another restroom facility of a similar nature and functionality.

Per the Agreement, TMWA will use a portion of the City Plaza property to construct, install, operate, and maintain, a restroom and related facilities for use by the public. The City shall have no responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Restroom Facilities, it being the intention that TMWA or third parties be responsible for operation and maintenance of the Restroom Facilities as may be delegated by TMWA.

The City, by action through the Reno City Manager, may terminate this Agreement at any time so long as it provides TMWA with 90 days advance notice of such termination and provides TMWA a reasonable time period to remove the Restroom Facilities.

In the event that this unit becomes an ongoing problem for law enforcement and maintenance personnel, prior to issuing notice of termination of the agreement City staff would work with OTR and TMWA to allow the ability to make adjustments to correct any issues in a swift manner as deemed appropriate. If after adjustments fail to improve any deficiencies or issues, the City can deem issues with the restroom outweighs the public benefit, terminate the agreement and the restroom will be removed.

Financial Implications:

None at this time. TMWA is responsible for all maintenance and expenses.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno and Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Interlocal Agreement - TMWA COR Portland Loo at City Plaza
City Plaza Portland Loo Installation - Exhibit A