

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** January 11, 2023

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Thru:** Doug Thornley, City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Resolution donating Reno Access Advisory Committee (RAAC) funds to Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation (TMPF) to defray expenses associated with purchasing a GRIT Freedom Chair for visitors with disabilities of the Rosewood Nature Study Area in the amount of \$2,094. (General Fund)

**From:** April Wolfe, Therapeutic Rec Specialist

**Department:** Parks and Recreation

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### **Summary:**

The Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation (TMPF) submitted a funding request to the Reno Access Advisory Committee (RAAC) at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 29, 2022 to purchase a GRIT Freedom Chair for visitors with disabilities of the Rosewood Nature Study Area. At this meeting, the RAAC unanimously recommended Council approval of a \$2,094 donation to TMPF to defray expenses associated with purchasing this adaptive hiking chair. Staff recommends Council approval to donate \$2,094 of Reno Access Advisory Committee Funds to Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation.

### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources  
Fiscal Sustainability

### **Previous Council Action:**

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

### **Background:**

The Reno Access Advisory Committee (RAAC) is a City of Reno appointed board of citizens and is committed to making the City of Reno a regional leader in promoting the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all facets of life in Reno; thereby, promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the community. Each budget cycle, Council allocates \$20,000 from the General Fund to this committee to put toward improving ADA access in Reno.

**Discussion:**

Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation is a private nonprofit that was incorporated in 2012 and received its 501(c)(3) determination in 2013. The Parks Foundation protects and enhances our communities' livability through public engagement, education, and the sustainability of our parks, open spaces, and trails.

A GRIT Freedom Chair is a versatile all-terrain wheelchair which allows users to explore the outdoors. The chair is a mix between a manual wheelchair and a mountain bike providing access to hike trails and navigate sandy terrain.



Reno resident James Michael (Jim) Dickey passed away after a brief illness on August 24, 2022. Jim served as the Treasurer on the Board of the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, focused on enhancing our area's livability through education and the sustainability of the Truckee Meadows' parks, trails and open spaces. Prior to his passing, Jim regularly rented the City of Reno's GRIT Freedom Chair that allowed him improved access to the area he loved.

In his memory, his wife Laura Dickey (past City of Reno employee and staff liaison for the Reno Access Advisory Committee) wanted to raise funds to purchase a GRIT Freedom chair for anyone with a disability to access at the Rosewood Nature Study Area. At the November 29, 2022 meeting, the RAAC unanimously recommended Council approval of a \$2,094 donation to TMPF to defray overall expenses associated with purchasing this adaptive hiking chair.

The requested donation to purchase a GRIT Freedom Chair will substantially benefit the residents of the City of Reno by providing a publicly accessible Great Basin wetland habitat where the community can learn about and appreciate the importance of our natural open spaces and local parks.

**Financial Implications:**

The RAAC has sufficient funds to donate \$2,094 to the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation for Fiscal Year (FY)22/23.

**Legal Implications:**

Legal review complete for compliance with City procedures and Nevada Law. NRS 268.028(1) states the governing body of a city or its authorized representative may make grants by resolution to non-profit organizations created for religious, charitable or educational purposes, to be used for any purpose which will provide a substantial benefit to the inhabitants of the city.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Council adopt the Resolution.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move to approve staff recommendation.

**Attachments:**

Resolution RAAC Donation