

**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

May 22, 2019

No. 19-19

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**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE BONDING MONEY FOR FALCON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PARK**

**WHEREAS**, parks are an essential part of our city; and

**WHEREAS**, parks play a vital role in building healthy communities and in attracting much-needed younger workers and families and retaining retirees; and

**WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs and services contribute to the health of children, youth, adults, and seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a George Mason University study, local and regional parks in Minnesota generated an estimated \$2.8 billion in direct, indirect and induced economic activity in Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, Falcon Heights Community Park is the largest park in the city, accountable for over 55% of the city's park space, and is considered a central gathering place for numerous community events in and around Falcon Heights; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2014 report entitled Falcon Heights Park Improvement Study found, among other needs, the need to replace the park building, pavement, and basketball court in Community Park along with upgrading park amenities to make them accessible based on ADA guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2014 report recommended potential improvement costs of up to \$800,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the condition of Community Park has steadily deteriorated since the 2014 report; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trust for Public Land 2017 City Park Facts document states that the median percentage of parkland as a percentage of adjusted city area regardless of density classification was between 8.1% and 14.1% and Falcon Heights' parkland percentage of adjusted city area is currently only 2.0% and slated to drop to 1.3% according to the 2040 Falcon Heights Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Falcon Heights residents faced an increased tax levy in the past two years of over 20% each year along with property tax increases for the Roseville Area Schools November 2017 Bond Referendum of approximately \$39 per month; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Park is the central gathering point for most community functions and a social gathering point for many in the community and its' adjacent communities; and


**WHEREAS**, the Falcon Heights community, staff, and leadership are making strides to promote community cohesion and cultivating a caring community in the wake of the 2016 Philando Castile shooting; and

**WHEREAS**, further deterioration of the park and the possible closing of the park building and other amenities makes cultivating of a caring community and enhancing community cohesion efforts more difficult; and

**WHEREAS**, the project cannot be possible without the assistance of state bonding given the costs of the overall project, the size of our community, recent increases in taxes and levies, and our limited financing options. The City of Falcon Heights is committed to moving forward.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Falcon Heights hereby requests state bonding in the amount of \$1,000,000 for changes to Falcon Heights Community Park that include but are not limited to the following: full replacement of the park building, pavement, basketball court, tennis court, and walks and trails and upgrading the park amenities currently not considered accessible according to ADA guidelines.

Moved by: Miazga

Approved by:   
Randall Gustafson  
Mayor

Vacant                    4     In Favor  
GUSTAFSON  
HARRIS                    0     Against  
LEEHY  
MIAZGA

Attested by:   
Sack Thongvanh  
City Administrator

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Falcon Heights City council at a duly authorized meeting held on May 22, 2019.

  
Sack Thongvanh  
City Administrator