



Item Number: 1

# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** March 25, 2025

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Community Development Committee

**LIAISON:** Mary Kate Berens, Deputy City Manager

**FROM:** David Marquardt, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Parks & Recreation

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Congregation Emanuel d/b/a Temple Emanuel GR for installation and operation of an irrigation system at a portion of Oakhill Cemetery**

The attached resolution authorizes execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Congregation Emanuel d/b/a Temple Emanuel GR (the Congregation) for the installation and operation of an irrigation system at a portion of Oakhill Cemetery. The portions of cemetery included in this agreement are owned by the Congregation. The Congregation purchased a portion of Block 7 at Oakhill Cemetery and paid to the City's Perpetual Care Fund on July 19, 1928. The Congregation also purchased a portion of Block 11 at Oakhill Cemetery on May 23, 1966. In addition to these areas purchased from the City in 1928 and 1966, the Congregation held ownership in this area of Oakhill Cemetery before the City took ownership of Oakhill Cemetery from a private entity.

Over the decades, the feasibility of providing watering as part of perpetual care has become increasingly impractical and unfeasible due to the obsolescence of the current irrigation system. The Congregation and the City would like to work together to install and maintain an irrigation system in the Congregation's portion of Oakhill Cemetery. As part of the Memorandum of Understanding the Congregation will install, at the Congregation's expense, an irrigation system that will cover its portions of the cemetery and be responsible for all maintenance and repair to the irrigation system, including winterization and the cost of water usage.

The City will install the water lines and water meters necessary to connect the irrigation systems, be responsible for inspecting the installation, and allow the Congregation to connect to an available electrical supply. The City will pay for the electrical usage. The City and the Congregation will meet annually at the beginning of the calendar year to

approve the intended watering schedule, when the irrigation system will be turned on and off, and identify any planned maintenance activities.

Your COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE recommends the adoption of the following resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Congregation Emanuel d/b/a Temple Emanuel GR for installation and operation of an irrigation system at a portion of Oakhill Cemetery.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Congregation Emanuel d/b/a Temple Emanuel GR is hereby approved; and
2. That the Mayor is authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the City in a form to be approved by the City Attorney.

**CORRECT IN FORM**  
  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW**