

  
Item Number: 3



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** April 23, 2024

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Fiscal Committee

**LIAISON:** Molly Clarin, Chief Financial Officer

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

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution accepting a \$1,050,000 grant award from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for the restoration and revitalization of a historic baseball field (Sullivan Field)**

Attached is a resolution accepting a \$1,050,000 grant award from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for the restoration and revitalization of a historic baseball field. The resolution also authorizes execution of a grant agreement through December 31, 2025.

Located on the west side of Grand Rapids, Valley Field became a City park in 1931 with an official dedication of the baseball field and grandstand in 1937. Many baseball leagues have played at Valley Field over the years and, to honor the local businessman, player, manager, and Detroit Tigers' baseball scout, Bob Sullivan, the park was renamed Sullivan Field in 1996.

In partnership with the non-profit group, Fans of Valley Field, the City is continuing on a rehabilitation and general aesthetic improvement project for Sullivan Field. The Project consultant, Integrated Architecture Corporation, has completed final concept plans for the site which include significant renovations to the park. The planned improvements will improve the quality of the baseball field and supporting amenities (dugouts, grandstand, bullpen, etc.); improve public opportunities for year-round activation, events, and use of the park beyond baseball; improve entrances, accessibility and visitor experience; and celebrate past players and the history of the park.

Since submission of the grant application, additional parks millage funding and Fans of Valley Field fundraising have been added to the total project sources. Parks millage funding now \$1,302,233. This additional funding includes the difference approved by City Commission on April 9, 2024, for unanticipated structural foundation issues. Fans of Valley Field fundraising is now over \$1,700,000 and represents continued leveraged

growth to support phase 1 and future phases of work at the facility. Total project funding with the MEDC grant is approximately \$4,000,000 for planned improvements.

Your FISCAL COMMITTEE recommends the adoption of the following resolution accepting a grant award with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and authorizing execution of an agreement for the restoration and revitalization of a historic baseball field (Sullivan Field).

RESOLVED:

1. That the City Commission authorizes acceptance of a \$1,050,000 grant award from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for the restoration and revitalization of a historic baseball field (Sullivan Field); and
2. That the agreement between the City and the MEDC is hereby approved; and
3. That the period of performance is through December 31, 2025; and
4. That upon approval as to form by the City Attorney, the Mayor is authorized to execute said agreement, related documents, and necessary modifications.

CORRECT IN FORM  
  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW