



**MEMORANDUM**

Community Services Department

**DATE:** September 12, 2018

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Greg Milano, Recreation Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Agreement

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Forward a recommendation to the City Council authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City of Mountain View and the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm.

**BACKGROUND**

Since 1994, the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm (FODHF) have provided financial and volunteer support to the operation of Deer Hollow Farm and its environmental education program provided through the City of Mountain View in collaboration with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the County of Santa Clara.

Deer Hollow Farm provides two major program elements. The school year program provides over 5,000 elementary school students hands-on educational experiences with farm animals, the wilderness preserve, and Ohlone Native American history annually. During the summer, the unique summer camp program serves over 350 youth and teen participants each year. In addition to elements of the school year program, day campers assist with farm chores, play heritage games, listen to stories, take nature hikes and engage in arts-and-crafts. Older participants camp overnight at the Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve and gain a new appreciation for the outdoors. Each summer session is one week long.

FODHF provide financial support by funding projects at Deer Hollow Farm that meet the mutual goals of the nonprofit and the City's environmental education program. The new agreement will continue the current process that the City may request funds raised by FODHF for specific projects and materials. This past year FODHF have funded a number of projects including purchase of Ohlone Village storage containers, garage remodel including new storage equipment, painting of the sheep/pig barn and

servicing of the portable restroom in the Ohlone Village. The total cost of these projects was over \$27,000.

FODHF also provide scholarship support for the school year classes. Last school year 98 classes received scholarship funding which supported 2,304 individual students to attend a class at the Farm. FODHF supported these students by providing a total of \$14,150 in scholarship funds. Scholarships are available to classes or schools that have at least 20 percent of the students participating in the federal lunch program.

FODHF also provides direct funding to the City for the operation of the Farm. Over the last three years, an average of \$23,500 has been provided to the City to offset ongoing expenses at the Farm. This funding allows City to continue operations at an overall lower cost due to the ongoing support of the FODHF.

The new agreement will again formalize support by the FODHF through December 31, 2023. No significant changes are being suggested to the agreement as both the FODHF and City continue to work collaboratively to ensure Deer Hollow Farm continues to meet the needs of the community.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The agreement will provide financial support to the City for projects benefiting Deer Hollow Farm and programs offered at the farm.

**PUBLIC NOTICING** – Friends of Deer Hollow Farm and Agenda posting.

GM/4/CSD  
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