

ORDINANCE
OF THE
COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS

SUBMITTED BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPONSORED BY: TED BIONDO, GARY JURY

2014 CO 025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS, PLEDGING CERTAIN FUNDS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING, TOURISM, COMPETITIVENESS, JOB GROWTH AND FOR THE GENERAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE CITIZENS OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY AND SPECIFICALLY FOR INVESTMENT IN REGIONAL SPORTS, ARTS AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT OR TOURISM FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS SUCH AS THOSE RECOMMENDED IN THE ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT'S "RECLAIMING FIRST!" INITIATIVE TO ENHANCE AMATEUR SPORTS TOURNAMENT AND RECREATION VENUES WITHIN WINNEBAGO COUNTY

WHEREAS, our "Region," defined as Winnebago County, has been a leader in amateur sports tourism for over three decades providing amateur sporting facilities for hosting amateur sports tournaments; and

WHEREAS, sports, arts or other entertainment or tourism facilities and recreation tourism are an essential component of our Region's economy attracting tens-of-thousands of tourists to the Region each year; and

WHEREAS, an independent study commissioned by the Rockford Park District and the Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau found that tourism from the hosting of amateur sporting events has direct, positive impact on economic development and job creation/sustainability providing nearly \$15 million of income to the Region, \$1.85 million in tax revenue, and over 200 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the study identified a significant loss of sports tournament activity to competing communities which have invested in better, more modern, amateur sports facilities; and

WHEREAS, the study found that making the recommended investment in our amateur sports facilities will likely result in an annual increase of nearly \$16.5 million of new income to the Region from hosting amateur sports tournaments, as well as another \$1.9 million in tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the study found that making the recommended investment in our amateur sports facilities will result in the creation of up to 210 construction jobs and up to 225 new permanent jobs, and it will serve to prevent further losses within the Region's amateur sports tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the continued presence of well-equipped and maintained parks and recreational facilities throughout the County benefits the citizens of our Region and promotes the quality of life in Winnebago County as a whole.

WHEREAS, there are compelling government interests in improving the health, welfare and quality of life of the Region's citizens and in providing for economic development that supports local business and the creation of sustainable jobs; and


WHEREAS, the County of Winnebago supports the study's recommendation to invest in amateur sports facilities upgrades that will allow the Region to regain and maintain its competitive position in the amateur sports tournaments marketplace; and

WHEREAS, The County of Winnebago desires to provide direct financial support to the Reclaiming First! initiative which will be of economic benefit to the community and which provide for significant investment in facilities within the County.

NOW THEREFORE, be it Ordained by the County Board of the County of Winnebago, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance as if fully stated herein.

Section 2. The County approves the expenditure of the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) on November 1, 2014, and a like payment on November 1 for a period of 19 years thereafter (the "County Payment Promise"), to support the Reclaiming First! Initiative which payments are found to be of direct economic benefit to the County.

 Section 3. The County shall apply only Host Fees to the County Payment Promise. These payments shall be a third priority draw on the Host Fees after payments of funds for the BMO Harris Center and the Nicholas Conservatory. In the event that insufficient Host Fees, after the earlier priority payments above have been paid, are collected in any year to pay the County Payment Promise under this Agreement, the County's obligation for that year shall be reduced accordingly. Any such reduction in the County's obligation for any year shall be carried forward to the next succeeding year and paid from any surplus collection in Host Fees in excess of the County's obligation under this Agreement for that succeeding year. This process of carrying reductions forward shall be continued from year to year for the term of this Agreement until any reductions have been paid from surpluses. However, if there are not sufficient surpluses in the collection of Host Fees over the term of this Agreement to repay any reductions or shortfalls in payments, the County shall not be obligated to pay such reductions.

Section 4. All payments are to be made to the account established and administered by the Rockford Park District for the benefit of the Winnebago

County Regional Tourism Facility Board. The funds shall be used for the Sportscore II/Indoor Soccer Building expansion.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon signing.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Winnebago County Clerk shall provide a certified copy of this Ordinance upon its adoption to Rockford Park District.

(REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)

Respectfully submitted,
FINANCE COMMITTEE



JOHN F. SWEENEY



TED BIONDO, CHAIRMAN

GARY JURY

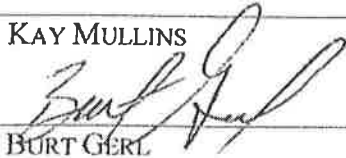


JOE HOFFMAN

KAY MULLINS



STEVE SCHULTZ



BURT GERL

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the County Board of the County of Winnebago, Illinois this 27th day of February 2014.



SCOTT H. CHRISTIANSEN
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY BOARD
OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS

ATTESTED BY:



MARGIE M. MULLINS
CLERK OF THE COUNTY BOARD
OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS