

**RESOLUTION 060517-04
CITY OF WAITE PARK**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE BONDING FUNDS FOR AMPHITHEATER
PARK PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of Waite Park is a community of 7,500 located in Central Minnesota with a day-time population of over 20,000 given its large commercial and industrial employment. The community has a rich granite mining history with great proximity to Highway 23 and 15, Interstate 94, and CSAH 75 ; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waite Park is home to Stearns County Quarry Park Nature Preserve, a 600-acre park recognized by Travel Magazine for having one of the nation's best swimming holes! The site hosts over 125,000 visitors a year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waite Park acquired the former Transformer Quarry site that includes two old quarries and encompasses approximately 22 acres of natural woods and granite that is less than a ½ mile from Stearns County Quarry Park Nature Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waite Park partnered with St. Cloud State University and completed a Land Use Study. The Land Use Study looked at the future development of property throughout the community and also evaluated the economic market viability for uses in Waite Park taking into consideration the entire St. Cloud Metropolitan Region. The study also involved a community wide survey seeking input from both residents as well as visitors to Waite Park. As a result, the recommendation included making Waite Park a destination place for recreational amenities enhancing what already exists and adding additional features like the amphitheater; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waite Park completed a market study with Maxfield Research to determine whether an outdoor amphitheater in Waite Park would be viable and if so how large of a facility should be considered. As a result, the study concluded that there is a market for this type of outdoor recreational venue in the Central Minnesota area supporting a capacity of 4,000-5,000 seat venue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waite Park's old transformer quarry location has great proximity to major roadways given its close location to Highway #23, Interstate #94, and County Road #137. In addition to this, the site will be connected by two regional trail systems including the future Lake Wobegon and future Glacial Lake trail connections. It is also surrounded by future commercial and existing properties making the site a perfect outdoor entertainment venue; and

WHEREAS, the facility will host a variety of local and national acts drawing an estimated 60,000-80,000 visitors per year and creating a one of a kind venue in Central Minnesota while preserving the natural features of the site and showcasing the quarries in a unique way. The amphitheater site will create an economic draw to the region and will support local hotels, restaurants, shopping centers while also creating potential new locations as well; and


WHEREAS, the St. Cloud Area Cities have identified this regional project as a legislative priority for the area and have expressed their support for this bonding request. In addition, a committee has been formed of several Waite Park area residents and business members that are excited to be a part of moving this project forward; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the amphitheater project is approximately \$10 million with over \$5 million in local matching funds. The City intends to use sales tax funds and local business sponsors to assist with its local funding match; 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, and our limited financing options. The City of Waite Park is committed to moving forward and is committed to securing the local match with the assistance of bonding assistance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Waite Park hereby requests State Bonding in the amount of \$5 M for land acquisition, design, and construction of an outdoor amphitheater project to create an outdoor regional recreational facility that will be a one-of-a-kind destination place unique to Central Minnesota while also enhancing the economic vitality of the region.

Adopted by the City Council this 5th day of June 2017.


Shaunna Johnson
City Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer


Richard E. Miller
Mayor

ACTION ON THIS RESOLUTION:

Motion for adoption: Member Schulz

Seconded by: Member Theisen

Voted in favor of: Mayor Miller, Members Linquist, Schneider, Schulz, Theisen

Voted against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Resolution Adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Waite Park City Council at a duly authorized meeting held on 6/5/17.


Shaunna Johnson
City Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer