

RESOLUTION NO. 23-177

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TITLE TO THE WESTERN HISTORIC TRAIL CENTER PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE TRANSFER.

WHEREAS; In the late 1980's the Council Bluffs community sought financial assistance from the federal government for the acquisition and development of what came to be known as the Western Historical Trail Center. In 1989 Congress passed a Public Law 101 – 191 (S. 338) for the purpose of developing a trails interpretation center in Council Bluffs, Iowa; and

WHEREAS; Through this Public Law the Secretary of the Interior was authorized with the assistance of local entities to plan, acquire land, design and construct an interpretation center using federal funds but only if matched 2 for 1 with non-federal funds services, materials or land; and

WHEREAS; Once complete the site (Exhibit A) was deeded to The State Historical Society of Iowa, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Because of the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, contributions to the project in the deed that transferred the property to The State Historical Society, the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was granted the right to occupy approximately 80 acres of the property for use as a sports complex; and

WHEREAS; After several years of operating the Western Historic Trail Center the State determined that it was no longer interested in maintaining and operating the Center, the National Park Service no longer considered the Center as anything special, and could identify a number of facilities that duplicate its attributes within the region; and

WHEREAS; The city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, has expressed its interests to both the state and federal government that it would be interested in accepting title to the site so long as some of the restrictions on the property could be removed to allow for a reasonable use of the land; and

WHEREAS; The state and Federal governments have negotiated a document entitled, RELINQUISHMENT AND RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST AND EXTINGUISHMENT OF DEED RESTRICTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES (attached hereto as Exhibit B). This document provides that the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, could utilize the site for public recreational, educational or similar purposes; and

WHEREAS; It is the opinion of this City Council that it would be in the best interest of the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, to accept title to the site so long as it may be utilized for the above stated purposes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA**

That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary to complete the transfer of the Western Historic Trail Center property to the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for the use of public recreational, educational or similar purposes.

ADOPTED
AND
APPROVED

June 12, 2023.

MATTHEW J. WALSH

Mayor

Attest:

JODI QUAKENBUSH

City Clerk