

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION  
AUGUST 17, 2021 AGENDA**

<p><b>Subject:</b></p> <p>Authorization to apply to the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism’s Outdoor Recreation Grants Program for 2021 Grant Funding for the Little Rock Zoo</p> <p><b>Submitted By:</b></p> <p>Little Rock Zoo</p>	<p><b>Action Required:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ordinance √ <b>Resolution</b></p>	<p><b>Approved By:</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
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<p><b>SYNOPSIS</b></p>	<p>A resolution to authorize the City Manager to apply for a grant from the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism to construct a permanent shade structure at the Little Rock Zoo’s Civitan Amphitheater.</p>
<p><b>FISCAL IMPACT</b></p>	<p>The City will provide \$224,000.00 as the “dollar-for-dollar” match for the grant from the Arkansas State Parks Grant - Zoo Account No. 108659-S65G012, which will need to be appropriated for FY 2022.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p>	<p>Approval of the resolution.</p>
<p><b>BACKGROUND</b></p>	<p>The Little Rock Zoo is seeking support to install a permanent roof/shade structure at the Little Rock Zoo's Civitan Amphitheater. The Civitan Amphitheater is an open air venue where wildlife shows and other programs take place. Based on community outreach, it is clear that guests choose to not fully take advantage of amphitheater programming as much as they would like due to weather concerns, including heat and rain. The Zoo conducted three (3) polls with nearly 400 responses, asking "Would you be more likely to attend shows at the amphitheater if there was a permanent shade structure to provide shade and protect from rain?" In total, 342 respondents, or 89%, chose “yes.”</p>

**BACKGROUND  
CONTINUED**

With 89% of guests expressing willingness to participate in additional programming, this project will directly contribute to increased guest use and engagement on a year-round basis.

If the grant is awarded, the City will be required to maintain the space as recreation space in perpetuity, remain open and available at all reasonable times of the day and year, and ensure future utility lines are underground. The Little Rock Zoo meets these conditions as a component of its 2017 Outdoor Recreation Grant Award and will continue to do so.