



# City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

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TO: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager  
FROM: Plan Our Park  
DATE: March 14, 2016  
RE: Farmers' Market Pavilion Expansion

**Summary:** A team including city staff, The Farmers' Market, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance and Build Our Park will present a resolution for council's consideration that expresses city support for a USDA grant application that, if successful, will go toward construction of the Turner Pavilion expansion.

**Background:** The Park Task Force recommended that the park project overall be addressed in phases. Phase One would most appropriately be to construct an expansion to the Turner Pavilion. Whether or not the full park plan is realized, the Farmer's Market has outgrown the pavilion and an expansion is necessary to accommodate this very popular city activity.

**Key Issues:**

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers grant funding to go toward construction of farmers markets (\$100,000).
- Application for the USDA grant involves partnership between the city, the Farmers' Market, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance and Build Our Park, with the city submitting the grant.
- If successful, the USDA grant carries a matching component. Based on past fundraising success for Turner Pavilion (\$300,000 in 2009 with the city's share of approximately \$50,000), and the early response to Build Our Park fundraising, this match should be met with private funds.
- Blue Ridge Architects generously provided design services (at a value of \$10,000 to \$15,000).
- The USDA grant application is due in April.

RE:

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**Environmental Impact:**

**Fiscal Impact:**

**Prior Actions:** City Council accepted the downtown park plan — including the expansion of Turner Pavilion — and formed the Park Task Force. Harrisonburg City Parks & Recreation and The Planning Commission include the pavilion expansion as part of the downtown park plan in the recommended Capital Improvement Plan.

**Alternatives:** (a)  
(b); or  
(c) Do not adopt ordinance at this time

**Community Engagement:** The Farmers' Market enjoys terrific community support. The expansion of Turner Pavilion could increase community engagement by the market.

**Recommendation:** That City Council approve a resolution of support for the USDA grant application.

**Attachments:**

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*

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