



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
**PARKS &
RECREATION**

BRIAN MANCINI, DIRECTOR
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OFFICE (540) 433-2474 • FAX (540) 433-9169

TO: Ande Banks, City Manager

FROM: Brian Mancini, Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: 2/8/24

RE: Legacy Donation from the Swim for Sadie Memorial Fund, managed by the Deeble family, to the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department

Summary: On October 25th, 2022, Sadie Deeble passed away at the age of 13 years old. Sadie was an avid swimmer and spent a lot of her childhood at Westover Pool for various aquatic activities. Some of those activities included swimming on the VAST year-round swim team, swimming in the Valley Swim league, and recreationally for fun. Although she swam competitively, the primary reason she loved going to Westover Pool was to be with her friends on the pool deck. Sadie and her father always wanted to find a way to start a Swim by Second Program in the area, and this donation of \$50,000 is a perfect way for her to give back to a community, and an amenity, that meant so much to her. Providing access to free swim lessons for community residents that will teach a potentially life saving skill is invaluable. This will be a great program for city residents.

Background:

The City Council adopted the Donation Policy on July 26, 2022. The Donation Policy requires for any legacy amenity donations, defined as those donations of \$10,000 or more in value, to be detailed in a Report to Council prior to acceptance. The purpose of the Report to Council is to ensure that the potential benefits and consequences of accepting the gift are fully considered.

Key Issues:

City staff has evaluated the donation offer from the Swim for Sadie Memorial Fund and would be very excited to put the funds to use as soon as possible. Staff recommends approval of the donation. The Parks and Recreation Department will develop a robust Swim by Second Program through our aquatics division which will distribute free swim lessons for city residents in HCPS grades K-2. We will also be able to fund and strengthen our Youth Tryathlon with more community involvement, making it a much more exciting event for participants. Signage will be created that will memorialize the Swim by Second Program and will include the number of participants served through this donation in Sadie's name. There are no drawbacks to the donation that will start, and bolster, both programs mentioned above.

Environmental Impact:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Prior Actions:



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N/A

Alternatives:

(a) Accept the donation; or decline the donation

Community Engagement:

n/a

Recommendation:

Staff recommends acceptance of the donation.

Attachments:

1. Donation Letter from the Deeble Family

Review:

City Manager's Office