

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI REGARDING THE NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM AND THE MISSOURI MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM.

WHEREAS, Independence is known as the “Queen City of the Trails” and was the chief jumping off point for the Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails until the transcontinental railroad was completed across the United States in 1869, which effectively ended the use of the trails for westward migration and trade; and,

WHEREAS, the history and impact of the railroad on the City of Independence, the State of Missouri and the United States is part of the overall story of westward migration, and information and exhibits about the ‘trails to rails’ development has not had opportunity to be displayed in the current National Frontier Trails Museum due to limited space for telling that portion of history; and,

WHEREAS, the Kansas City area is one of the nation's main rail hubs, ranking as the second largest rail transportation center in the nation, ranking second in annual freight tonnage and ranking as the second-busiest in freight rail traffic. Missouri’s rail system moves the equivalent of more than 21 million truckloads per year, and,

WHEREAS, the Missouri Model Railroad Museum, Inc., a Missouri non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation has approached the City of Independence seeking a long-term space for a model railroad and train museum; and,

WHEREAS, the Missouri Model Railroad Museum, Inc.’s mission is to educate the public as to the history and significance of railroading in Missouri and all across America through themed and time-lined operating model railroad layouts and the preservation and display of railroad artifacts and memorabilia; and,

WHEREAS, the City has contracted with PGAV Architects to conduct a Tourism Master Plan and a National Frontier Trails Museum Master Plan which is consistent with the 2023 City of Independence Action Plan goal of a Well-Planned City to focus emphasis on museum exhibits and visitor experience; and,

WHEREAS, the National Frontier Trails Museum is undersized, outdated and needs substantial upgrades to the museum exhibits in order to better tell the story of westward migration, and PGAV Architects concur that relocation to a new facility is a viable option; and,

WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department seeks to identify and capture funding to continue and expand services and programs for a Financially Sustainable Organization as stated in the 2023 City of Independence Action Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the City and the Missouri Model Railroad Museum, Inc. desire to enter into an Agreement for the re-use of the facility located at 318 W Pacific Ave., the current location of the National Frontier Trails Museum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council supports moving the current National Frontier Trails Museum exhibits to a temporary prominent and visible space and operating a “Pop-Up” National Frontier Trails Museum while exploring options for a new and improved National Frontier Trails Museum.

SECTION 2. That the City Council supports entering into an Agreement with the Missouri Model Railroad Museum, Inc. for the re-use of the facility at 318 W Pacific in order to create a Missouri Model Railroad Museum.

SECTION 3. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an Agreement for and on behalf of the City, with the Missouri Model Railroad Museum, Inc. in order to provide for a new tourism attraction within the City of Independence.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023 BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED - FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager