

MEMORANDUM NO. 17-059

**TO:** Recreation Committee  
**FROM:** Dean Bostrom, Executive Director  
Craig Talsma, Deputy Director/Director of Admin & Finance  
Michael R. Kies, Director of Recreation & Facilities  
**DATE:** May 2, 2017  
**RE:** Wings and Talons Agreement

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**Background:**

The Park District had been working with the Northern Illinois Raptors Center (NIRC) since May of 2009, in which Vogelei Park has been their home base. The group NIRC has disbanded and been taken over by Wings and Talons. There is a new main contact person along with a majority of the same people from NIRC continuing to care for the raptors.

The purpose of the Wings and Talons organization, (a 501c3), is “To provide for the raptors in their care and those that live in the wild, by means of education, stewardship and conservation and to connect with other similar organizations to share knowledge and work together for the common cause of raptor conservation.” Staff will continue to work with Wings and Talons to add opportunities for the community. Wings and Talons will continue to participate in HEParks special events and offer programs to our residents.

**Implications:**

The agreement with Wings and Talons emphasizes the importance of the recreational opportunities at Vogelei Park. Staff has added the requirement that Wings and Talons must conduct at least two programs per year that we can advertise in our guide in addition to having two camp visit opportunities during the summer. It will also require Wings and Talons to have at least four “open to the public” hours per week, where the mews will be open for residents and guests to view the birds. Wings and Talons will also have a designated contact person that will meet with Park District staff quarterly and/or as needed.

The term of the agreement shall be for one year with an automatic annual renewal unless either party provides at least 60 days written notice for cancellation prior to the renewal date.

They will continue to pay a licensee fee of \$100 per month to offset any costs the District may have (i.e. water).

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Recreation Committee recommend to the full Board approval of the attached agreement between Wings and Talons and the Park District.