

Memorandum M18-015

To: Buildings & Grounds Committee
From: Dean R. Bostrom, Executive Director
Dustin Hugen, Director of Parks and Facilities Services
RE: Girl Scout Project – My Little Free Library
Date: 2/7/2018

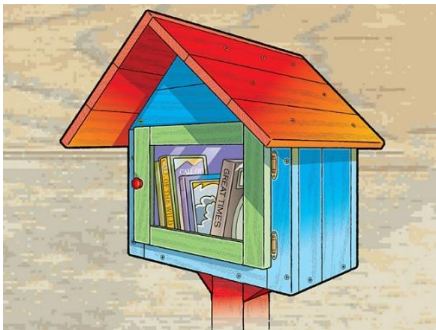
Background

In November 2017, staff was approached by Sarah Johnson, leader of Saint Hubert Girl Scout Troop #40348. The troop is looking to add value to the Hoffman Estates Park District and would like to build and monitor a “Little Free Library” at the Sycamore Park playground area. The Girls Scouts’ decision to do this project goes beyond fulfilling their Girl Scout needs; they all wanted to be able to give back to the community by providing access to books 24/7. Little Free Libraries can be valuable assets that provide residents easy access to books and making reading a part of people’s everyday routines. They want to encourage people to read and help kids grow up to be thoughtful, engaged citizens like many Girl Scouts are. Little Free Libraries makes it easy and fun to get books by bringing books to people’s front yards, walking (or dog-walking) routes, neighborhood playgrounds, and parks.

Implications

Girl Scout Troop #40348 will be building a “Little Free Library” with funds raised by the Girl Scout Troop. The plans for the structure were pulled from:

http://boyslife.org/hobbies_projects/projects/146078/how-to-build-a-little-free-library/amp/



The structure is 1 ½ by 2 feet and sits on a five foot post that is buried two feet in the ground, leaving the door to the books at 36 inches. The books for the Little Free Library are going to come from a book drive held by the Girl Scout troop at a local church and through Girl Scout services. Members of the troop will monitor the condition and contents once a month and keep it adequately stocked with child friendly books.

Recommendation

Staff is recommending to the board approval to place the Little Free Library at Sycamore Park. Staff is aware that content of the library will need to be checked more than once a month. It will be checked during park inspections along with normal routine park stops. The agreement between HE Parks and Girl Scout Troop #40348 regarding structural and content upkeep of the Little Free Library will be renewed on a yearly basis.