



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

ACM: Christine Taylor, Assistant City Manager

DATE: April 1, 2025

SUBJECT

Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement between the City of Denton and the University of North Texas on behalf of its Department of Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement to offer a discounted membership option of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University of North Texas program to Denton Parks and Recreation rec pass holders 50 years and older, and to utilize space provided by City of Denton Recreation Centers; authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to perform all obligations of the City under the agreement and providing an effective date.

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Department (“PARD”) provides programs to meet a variety of community needs. Most of these programs are operated by PARD staff. To provide specialized services or programs, PARD will contract or partner with various individuals or entities who have expertise in the area that PARD staff would not be able to replicate.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of North Texas (“OLLI at UNT”) has a mission to provide an educational program that fosters intellectual stimulation and social engagement through an extensive array of learning opportunities curated by and for adults ages 50 and older. There are no prerequisites, mandatory assignments, or tests associated with the non-credit courses. Three semesters of courses and events are offered each year: spring, summer, and fall. Each semester, the curriculum is developed from proposals submitted to staff by active and retired faculty, area professionals, and passionate subject matter experts. OLLI at UNT is part of a national network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, which receives support from The Bernard Osher Foundation.

As adults age, staying healthy and living longer is valuable. Physical fitness and keeping the mind actively engaged is considered crucial to aging well. Mental clarity, memory retention, and overall brain health are just a few of the benefits that result from staying engaged through lifelong learning opportunities.

As collaborating staff reviewed the previous agreement, a few updates were suggested to include the University of North Texas Retiree Association (“UNTRA”), administered by the same OLLI at UNT personnel, to use the facility on occasion for association potlucks or celebrations. Many of our recreational participants are also retirees from the University of North Texas system. Because the university is a public entity, they are unable to sign our general rental agreement resulting in separate agreements that have to be reviewed by both agencies’ legal departments. Including UNTRA in this agreement will improve the quality of service and overall reservation efficiencies for both organizations.

To continue offering lifelong learning opportunities to adults 50 and older, PARD staff and OLLI at UNT staff would like to renew the previous agreement with minor updates for access to activities and programs to strengthen and sharpen the mind. The initial agreement was passed through Ordinance 22-601 on April 5, 2022. The following changes have been made:

- Updated agreement language to memorandum of understanding
- Updated agency names
- Updated OLLI at UNT membership benefits
- Minor language updates

OPTIONS

Approve or deny.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend approval of the ordinance as the agreement enables PARD to provide learning opportunities to the active adult (50+) community and offers the ability for the community of retirees to stay connected in Denton.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

On April 5, 2022, Council approved ordinance 22-601 for an agreement between PARD and OLLI at UNT.

FISCAL INFORMATION

This is a non-financial agreement between UNT and the City of Denton. OLLI at UNT is part of a national network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, which receives support from The Bernard Osher Foundation. The UNTRA is financially supported by the university and is also a dues-based membership.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

PARD is required to provide adequate classroom and meeting space at the recreation centers for the speakers and groups, and assist in mutually decided program promotion.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2- Ordinance

Exhibit 3- Agreement

Respectfully submitted:

Gary Packan, Parks and Recreation Director

Prepared by:

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