

City of Charlevoix Donation Acceptance Policy

I. Introduction/Purpose

The City truly appreciates the generosity of donors who wish to make Charlevoix a finer community for all. The residents of the City of Charlevoix have a proven track record in not only volunteering for many community initiatives and serving on various boards but also making generous donations. These efforts further enhance our quality of life and contribute to making "Charlevoix the Beautiful" a truly unique and special community. These invaluable efforts often make the difference between a good community and a great community. Examples of past donations include art work, vehicles, benches, trees and other items. The current list of donated amenities that have been partially or fully funded by the generosity of an individual, organization, or foundation is a long one. Charlevoix and its residents are very fortunate. With the increased presence of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, future success may be promoted through collaboration with that organization, and City officials are therefore encouraged to maintain appropriate liaisons for such reasons.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines, standards and procedures for the acceptance of gifts to the City, including the installation, long-term maintenance and operation of donated elements to the City which will enhance the quality of life. The City of Charlevoix (hereinafter the "City") desires to encourage donations while at the same time considering aesthetic impacts and on-going maintenance and operational costs.

Acceptance Guidelines and Standards established by this policy will apply to all donations made after the effective date of this policy.

II. Guidelines

A. Gifts intended to either become incorporated into City parks as well as gifts of equipment, vehicles, boats or facilities intended to supplement those of the City often involve considerations of aesthetics, costs, and compatibility whose features shall be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Aesthetics- The City and Community have an interest in ensuring the best appearance and aesthetic quality of public lands and facilities. Donations and their recognition shall reflect the character and be consistent with the intended surroundings.
2. Requirement of Maintenance/Repair- Since donated elements and their associated recognition become City property, the Community has an interest in ensuring that all elements remain in good repair. In addition, the Community has an interest in ensuring that the short and long-term repair costs are reasonable and that repair parts and materials be readily

available. So too, elements must be of a quality to insure a long life, be resistant to weather, wear and tear, and acts of vandalism.

3. Requirement of Consistency with Current and Future Use- i.e. does the proposed donation substantially interfere with the intended current or future use of the land or facility where it is being proposed to be located?
4. Uniqueness of the Proposed Gift and Its Ability to Attract Visitors to the Community
5. Whether the Proposed Gift Requires Relocation, Removal or Installation of Other Equipment or Infrastructure to Accommodate the Donation
6. Absence of Substantial Impact on Public Health and Safety and/or Welfare
7. Costs Associated with the Proposed Gift- The City also has an interest in knowing in advance the full cost which may be associated with a gift, namely those which may relate to purchase, installation, maintenance and operation during the gift's expected life cycle. In the ordinary course the amount of the gift should be sufficient to cover all such expenses.
 - a. Neither purchase nor installation shall commence until the donor's gift has been completed and funds have been received by the City for such purposes.
 - b. As to gifts requiring on-going operation and maintenance, amounts which are estimated to exceed \$5,000 on an annual basis, the gift shall include an endowment sufficient to defray them, i.e. 20x the estimated amounts.
 - c. In rare and unusual circumstances where the City has determined that the value of the gift substantially exceeds the cost associated therewith, these requirements may be waived, but only after appropriate notice and public hearing.
8. Requirements for Memorial Plaques- To ensure uniformity of appearance and good taste, the language of such plaques shall also be approved by the City.

Donation acknowledgments and memorial plaques shall be made of bronze and be of the highest quality, life and durability. In cases where bronze plaques are not feasible, other alternative types may be considered.
9. Special Provisions Relating to City Parks- In cases of donations to City parks which may reasonably affect the park or its immediate surroundings,

the City Council shall hold a Public Hearing for such purpose to invite comment from the community with respect to impact on viewsheds, safety concerns, potential for noise generation, and compatibility with the aesthetic features of the park.

- B. Gifts made for programs, sponsorships, renovations, and projects of like nature may also benefit the City either directly or indirectly. However, in addition to considerations of timeliness, cost and suitability, there may also involve concerns related to the method of conveyance and adequacy of funding. The criteria outlined above (A. 1-9) shall then be applicable where appropriate. In general, categories of acceptable gifts are:

- ❖ Cash (and cash equivalents-checks, CDs, savings accounts)
- ❖ Marketable securities (publicly traded stocks, bonds, U.S. government securities)
- ❖ Tangible personal property
- ❖ Life insurance
- ❖ Real estate
- ❖ IRA rollovers
- ❖ Charitable Gift Annuities
- ❖ Charitable Remainder Trusts
- ❖ Charitable Annuity Trusts
- ❖ Charitable Lead Trusts
- ❖ Bequests

Council shall exercise caution as to gifts including conditions and carrying costs, and at all times shall ensure itself that the funds provided are sufficient to carry out the intention of the gift and that its purpose is a salutary one.

- C. These guidelines shall not be applicable to programs sponsored or approved by the City existing as of the date of this policy.

III. Installation

If the gift, including donor acknowledgements/memorial plaques, requires any type of installation, the installation shall take place through a contract between the City and a licensed contractor. The contract shall be drafted by the City and the terms and conditions of the contract shall be approved by municipal legal counsel. In certain instances, a performance bond may be required, costs of which shall be borne by the donor and considered as an additional expense under II A. 7. The installation shall be completed by a licensed contractor. The licensed contractor will assume all responsibility for construction or placement of the gift and shall hold the City harmless for any damages to City property or buildings resulting from the construction or placement of the gift to the extent authorized by law (note: MCL 691.991 may be applicable). If installation involves City Staff, the City may require reimbursement for personnel and equipment costs associated with installation. The installation will be scheduled at a time and date as determined by City Staff so as not to unnecessarily interfere with routine maintenance

activities and in a manner that minimizes impacts to the Community. City Staff shall oversee the installation process to ensure compliance with the proposal.

IV. Removal and/or Relocation

The City reserves the right to restore, relocate, remove or relinquish donations. This decision shall be made based upon the best interests of the City. This section applies to both existing and new donations.

V. Procedures for Making and Accepting Gifts

The City Council shall have the full and final authority to approve or deny all gift proposals. To promote an efficient review process, though, as well as to prevent disappointed expectations, prior to preparing a written proposal the donor or donor's representatives shall contact the City Manager's Office to discuss a proposed gift. Such pre-application meeting shall assist both the prospective donor and the City in determining whether a gift will meet the criteria contained in this policy. City Staff or City Council may request additional information including but not limited to scaled drawings, artist's renditions or other documents to better illustrate the exact nature of the donation. The City may choose to consult with other agencies or organizations in the review process. The City Council may also send any proposal to the appropriate board or committee for review with subsequent recommendation to City Council.

If a gift appears to be in accordance with this policy, the donor or donor's representative will then submit a written proposal and meet with City Staff members to determine the specific nature of the donation, proposed location, and yearly maintenance and operational costs for review and processing. The written proposal, including a Staff report, will be sent to City Council for its decision.

Because promptness is likely to be important to both the prospective donor and the City, each party shall be considerate in this regard at each stage of its dealings with one another.