

DATE: November 3, 2025

TO: Gina Roberts, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: John E. Nelson
Chief Operations Officer

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of an Ordinance Amending the Annual Fee Ordinance.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections; Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: Based on the Annual Fee Ordinance approved by the Board on August 13, 2025, the fee for parking at Independence Grove on concert nights (after 4:30pm) in effect for the 2026 season is currently set at \$10.00 per car. At the current level (\$10), it is projected that total gross revenue will not exceed the total costs. This proposed amendment to the Annual Fee Ordinance will adjust the fee to \$15.00 per car. At that increased level, it is projected that the total gross revenue for the Concerts in the Plaza summer series will exceed the total costs.

BACKGROUND: The Annual Fee Ordinance is prepared in accordance with the District's Fee Guidelines. The Fee Guidelines indicate that District special events with an entertainment theme, such as the Concerts in the Plaza summer series at Independence Grove, are expected to recover 100% of the costs of putting on such events.

Based on the financial performance of these events over the past few years, staff previously recommended that the parking fee be set at \$20.00 per car when the proposed Annual Fee Ordinance for FY2026 was first presented in August. Following discussions of the proposed fee ordinance and amendments to the parking fee made at the August 4, 2025 Operations Committee and August 7, 2025 Finance Committee meetings, the Board formally approved the Annual Fee Ordinance with the parking fee set at \$10.00. At that same Board meeting, it was understood by the Board and directed by the President, that staff would bring back the parking fee for more extensive discussion, along with other alternatives to consider with respect to the parking fee.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Director of Finance, Director of Facilities, Manager of Board Operations and Corporate Counsel.

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL FEE ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the District assesses fees and charges to the users of District programs, services, facilities, and special use areas that provide benefits to a limited and identifiable group of users, which are in addition to those enjoyed by the general public; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2025, the District approved an Annual Fee Ordinance establishing fees that will take effect on January 1, 2026 (the “Annual Fee Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, it is in the District’s best interests to amend the Annual Fee Ordinance as set forth in this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois THAT:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are incorporated as a part of this Ordinance by this reference.

Section 2. Amendment of Annual Fee Ordinance. The Annual Fee Ordinance is hereby amended to change the Independence Grove Concert night parking fee from \$10.00 per vehicle to \$15.00 per vehicle as noted on Exhibit A attached hereto.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2025

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025

Jessica Vealitzek, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____

Exhibit A

(6) Independence Grove Fees

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
(A) Parking Fees Concert night (After 4:30 pm)	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00