

2016 RES-492
AUTHORIZING A LEASE AND FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE FRIENDS OF
SCHUMACHER FARM, INC.

Schumacher Farm County Park is a 117 acre outdoor museum representing local farm life during the 1920's and 1930's. The Park includes a 10 acre prairie restoration, hiking trails and picnic areas. Programming and museum development are sponsored by the Friends of Schumacher Farm, Inc. Examples of Friends activities include heirloom gardening, educational field trips and classes, prairie tours, farm machinery restoration, building restoration, and special public events reminiscent of historical rural culture.

The Friends of Schumacher desire to turn an existing barn (known as the "red barn") at the Park in the Center for Rural History. The Center will provide public restrooms and office, meeting, museum, and gathering space to support indoor educational programs. The Center will create an opportunity to return the existing farm house at the Park to a working museum. Currently, the farm house is used for meeting and office space and can not fully function as a working museum.

Funding support of \$400,000 for the Center for Rural History is available in the County Budget. The Friends of Schumacher Farm, Inc. will be responsible for construction costs above the \$400,000 as well as costs associated with fully finishing the interior (such as furniture, some fixtures, etc). The roles and responsibilities of the County and the Friends of Schumacher, Inc. in regards to funding construction of the Center are outlined in a funding agreement. Once the Center is constructed, the Friends will lease the structure and surrounding property from the County and will be responsible for daily maintenance, programming and use. Additionally, the lease includes provisions for the Friends to construct a farm machinery museum in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Dane does hereby approve and authorize a funding agreement and lease with the Friends of Schumacher Farm, Inc.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Executive and County Clerk be authorized to sign the funding agreement and lease.