



**Board Members**  
Duane Larson, President/Treasurer  
Kevin Bittner, Secretary  
Mark Kuzma  
Mark Riverblood  
Al Pearson  
Bill Erhart  
Mary Jo Olson  
Heidi Chiodo  
Tim Hoffman, Heart Safe  
Gary Levine †, Founder

May 1, 2017

Honorable Mayor Strommen & City Council Members  
City of Ramsey  
7550 Sunwood Drive NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303

RE: Management and Administration of the Draw Summer Concert Series

Dear Mayor Strommen & City Council Members:

On behalf of the Board of the *City of Ramsey Foundation*, I am respectfully requesting that the City of Ramsey and its staff assume full responsibility for the management and administration of The Draw Summer Concert Series held annually at The Draw Park & Amphitheater.

For a bit of history, the *City of Ramsey Foundation* was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2006. As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the *City of Ramsey Foundation* was “formed to support economic development as well as other activities to support and improve the general welfare of the City of Ramsey and its citizens”. One of the initial projects supported by the *Foundation* was the establishment of the community gardens.

The second major project initiated and supported by the *Foundation* was the Summer Event Series at The Draw Park, beginning in 2011. Since its humble beginnings, The Draw Summer Event Series now hosts twelve weekly concerts, beginning in mid-June until the end of August, with total attendance in 2016 of over 4,600 people. The budget for the performers in 2011 was \$4,450 and has grown annually as efforts have been made to improve the quality of the performances. The budget for performers in 2016 was \$14,850. To raise funds for these concerts, the members of the *Foundation* board have solicited sponsorships from local businesses, corporations, the Lions Club and more recently the City and the City EDA. We also host the pancake breakfast at the Happy Days festival and for the past three years, have been soliciting contributions for raffle prizes during the concerts.

The current challenge facing the *City of Ramsey Foundation* is sustaining the management and administration, including the all-important funding, necessary for The Draw Summer Event Series. The membership of our board is declining. Recruiting and sustaining board membership is an on-going challenge, all while trying to oversee an ever-growing events budget that is required to host quality events for the citizens and interested City partners. Since the inception of The Draw Summer Event Series, the City has provided essential administrative and management support through the Parks Superintendent and summer intern. Now that The Draw Summer Event Series has been established as a successful program that provides a highly-appreciated “quality of life” benefit to the community, we believe that transferring full responsibility of the series to the City and its staff is vital for its on-going success.

Again, we respectfully request your consideration of this request and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Duane Larson, President  
*City of Ramsey Foundation*