

CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION
OF THE
COUNCIL

No.2026-09

WHEREAS, the Carousel, established at Easton's Beach in 1952, was a beloved Newport institution that brought joy to the children and families of Aquidneck Island and all who have visited Newport; and

WHEREAS, over the years, weather and climate changes took a toll on the Carousel and the Easton's Beach structure that housed it, leading to the disassembly and removal of the Carousel and the demolition of the structure in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2024-100, approved by Newport's City Council on 25 September 2024, instructed the City Manager's office to undertake the following activities:

- 1) Obtain and develop cost estimates for the cost of restoration of the Carousel horses and related elements and accessories, as well as a cost estimate for the design and construction of a new structure to house the Carousel;
- 2) Identify for Council consideration up to three potential locations within the City for relocation of the Carousel, it being understood that such locations may include public or private property (in the latter instance, with the understanding that such land would be available for purchase or donation), that such location be readily accessible to the public with necessary parking availability, and that the location provide for year-round usage (as opposed to a summer-only operation);
- 3) Identify appropriate legal mechanisms by which private charitable funding for this activity may be undertaken;
- 4) Make such other recommendations to the Council as may be appropriate to facilitate the prompt reopening of this historic Newport treasure; and

WHEREAS, in January 2025, the City Administration asked the Tree and Open Space Commission to evaluate and recommend a new location; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2025, the Commission held public meetings and workshops to discuss potential locations for the Carousel, considering factors such as safety, adequate lighting, accessibility for the community and visitors, onsite recreation staff, space for small events, restrooms, and integration into existing park and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the Carousel is currently disassembled and stored at an annual cost of \$48,000.00, and the Commission has estimated that restoring the Carousel will cost between \$400,000-\$500,000.00; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Newport's City Council directs the City Manager to:

- 1) Obtain and develop a cost estimate for the design and construction of a new structure to house the Carousel at the Newport Skatepark;
- 2) Identify legal mechanisms for securing private charitable funding for this project.

STEPHANIE SMYTH
CHARLES M. HOLDER, JR.

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
JANURAY 14, 2026


Laura C. Swistak, CMC
City Clerk