Student Government Resolution 116.040
A Resolution Supporting a Half-Cent Sales Tax for the City of Kirksville
Sponsored by Kyra Cooper, External Affairs Chair; Emily Davenport and Ali Nick Hawach, External Affairs committee members

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long term best interest of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- In 2017, it was brought to the attention of Student Government that the city of Kirksville had an upcoming vote to approve a sales tax of an additional one-half of one percent to fund parks and recreation; and
- The current sales tax for the city of Kirksville is 7.85%. If approved, the sales tax would be 8.35%[1]; and
- Per Ashley Young, Kirksville's Assistant City Manager, implementing the half cent tax would put Kirksville's sales tax on an equitable level with cities of comparable size in the region; and
- This proposed tax would generate $1.2 million in revenue and would sunset in 15 years with the option to renew[2]; and
- The 2017 budget for the Kirksville Parks and Recreation Department is $660,893. Of this, $362,771 is spent on personnel costs and $238,112 is spent on operating expenses. As a result, only about $60,000 is available for capital improvements[3]; and
- The revenue from the sales tax would go toward "addressing park master plans, major maintenance, park tree plans, a new Aquatic Center, and hike/bike trail master plans[4]"; and
- The Kirksville City Council members agreed by a vote of 5-0 to place the tax proposal on the

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[1] Brown, D. (2016, November 14). City council pushes forward on parks and rec sales tax proposal. *Kirksville Daily Express.* Retrieved from: www.kirksvilledailyexpress.com
[2] Brown, D. (2017, February 13). Parks and rec sales tax could help Kirksville Police Department. *Kirksville Daily Express.* Retrieved from: www.kirksvilledailyexpress.com
[3] Brown, D. (2016, November 14). City council pushes forward on parks and rec sales tax proposal. *Kirksville Daily Express.* Retrieved from: www.kirksvilledailyexpress.com
[4] Brown, D. (2017, January 18). City council places parks and rec sales tax measure on April ballot. *Kirksville Daily Express.* Retrieved from: www.kirksvilledailyexpress.com

ballot for the upcoming April 4th, 2017 election;[5] and

- Students at Truman State University utilize parks and recreation in the city of Kirksville and would be enriched by improvements; and
- Truman State University is part of the larger Kirksville community, and therefore benefits from enhancement; and
- Student Government's role on campus provides a unique position to support and bolster Kirksville parks and recreation through commentary on this tax.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Supports the Kirksville ballot measure to increase the sales tax by one-half of one percent to benefit Kirksville parks and recreation.
- Encourages Truman State University eligible students to vote in the upcoming April 4th, 2017 election on the respective measure.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to each current member of the Truman State University Board of Governors; President, Susan Thomas; Interim Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, Richard Coughlin; Vice President of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; University Archives; Truman Media Network; Kirksville Daily Express; People for Better Parks, Zac Burden and Liz Jorn; Kirksville Assistant City Manager, Ashley Young; A.T. Still Director of the Thompson Campus Center, Dan Martin; Truman Director of Public Relations, Heidi Templeton; Interim Executive Director, YMCA, Kristen Rouner; Communiversity Garden; and the Environmental Campus Organization.

Approved by: Unanimous Consent 3/26/2017

President of the Student Association, JJ Dorrell

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[5] Ibid.