

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-419
AUGUST 18, 1997 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
NEW GREAT CATS EXHIBIT AT BLANK PARK ZOO	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	DONALD M. TRIPP PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

SYNOPSIS —

Authorize the construction of a new Great Cats Exhibit through the approval of a 28E Agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT —

A fee increase of \$.50 per admission will be required prior to opening this new exhibit. At current attendance levels, an increase in admission fees of \$.50 will offset projected additional operating expenses. (Adults from \$3.75 to \$4.25 and children from \$2.25 to \$2.75.)

	<u>FY</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>FY</u> <u>2000</u>	<u>FY</u> <u>2001</u>	<u>FY</u> <u>2002</u>
Additional Revenue	\$ 77,987	\$ 77,987	\$ 77,987	\$ 77,987
Additional Expenses	<u>73,669</u>	<u>46,468</u>	<u>48,226</u>	<u>50,989</u>
Net Revenue	\$ 4,318	\$ 31,519	\$ 29,761	\$ 26,998

Excess revenues will be reserved to offset future operating and capital expenses.

Expenses do not include General Fund annual debt service on bonds issued for Zoo CIP.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval of the Great Cats Exhibit 28E Agreement with Blank Park Zoo Foundation.

BACKGROUND —

The existing exhibit for lions and tigers, built prior to remodeling the Zoo in 1986, is outdated, does not meet current Zoo animal management standards, and is an American Zoological Association (AZA) accreditation deficiency. The exhibits are subject to flooding due to poor drainage. The new exhibit complex, which will replace the existing exhibits, consists of a greatly improved management building and more realistic habitats for three species of large exotic cats. It features year-round outdoor and indoor viewing through glass and colorful interpretive graphics. The project consists of demolition of existing structures and site preparation under City contract, and construction of a new building and exhibits under Foundation contract. Construction is scheduled to begin October 1, 1997, with an opening of the new exhibit on July 1, 1998.

This gift is the first project requested for gift acceptance, as part of the Blank Park Zoo Foundation's recent capital campaign. This campaign has raised a total of \$4.6 million in private funds to date.

Within the next few months, a separate 28E Agreement related to an additional gift will be brought to City Council.

Construction funding is available. City CIP appropriations of \$200,000 have been approved for FY1997-98, and the Foundation has \$1,000,000 in capital campaign funds to complete the project. Projected new revenues are expected to exceed new expenses related to this exhibit.