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## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: April 5, 2004

Communication

No.: 04-162

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call

No.:

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

### SUBJECT—

Amended 28E Agreement “Grounds Maintenance Alliance” Between City of Des Moines and the Board of Water Works Trustees of the City of Des Moines

### SYNOPSIS—

Authorize the signing of the first amendment to the Chapter 28E Agreement dated July 24, 2000 entitled “Grounds Maintenance Alliance” by and between the City of Des Moines and the Board of Water Works Trustees of the City of Des Moines. Effective April 1, 2004, the City shall assume the grounds maintenance services previously provided by Water Works.

### FISCAL IMPACT—

No additional operating funds requested. With the exception of mowing, City staff has been performing the bulk of horticultural work at Gray's Lake. It is estimated that the labor costs resulting from the additional mowing will range from \$1,300 - \$1,900 depending upon the growing season.

### RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

## **BACKGROUND—**

On July 24, 2000, the City and Water Works entered into a 28E Agreement entitled, “Grounds Maintenance Alliance.” According to Part II, Section 1, Subsection (a) Water Works assisted in the maintenance of the grounds at Gray’s Lake. This assistance occurred primarily in the form of mowing the non-native grass and wildflower areas located on the peninsula, in the southeast corner and along the western edge of the Park.

Specifically, Part II, Section 1, Subsection (a) states that “During the term hereof, Water Works shall provide the following services and materials:

(a) Gray’s Lake

- Provide mowing of all turf areas, trimming included.
- Provide weed pest control
- Provide pre-mowing litter removal
- Apply fertilizer to turf and flower beds
- Provide pruning of plant materials, with the exception of larger specimens.
- Maintain newly planted materials.
- Plant and maintain entrance flowerbed.
- Provide Water Works staff to assist in planning.
- Provide security support.”

The Fiscal Impact data was calculated in the following manner. One mowing cycle takes three to four hours. During a normal growing season, there are 24 to 26 mowing cycles in a year.

On December 12, 2003, by Roll Call No. 03-2834, the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa and the Board of Water Works Trustees of the City of Des Moines, Iowa entered into a 28E Agreement providing that Water Works undertake the operation and management of the Des Moines Botanical Center, including the adjacent grounds and parkland owned by the City of Des Moines for a six year term beginning January 5, 2004. Under the terms of the Botanical Center 28E Agreement, the parties agreed that the City would be responsible for the grounds maintenance at Gray’s Lake Park.

Because of the complexity of the horticultural systems within the Park, the Park and Recreation Department believes that it is in the best public interest to resume full responsibility for the grounds maintenance operations.