



Agenda Item:

72

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 07/18/05
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 05-388
Roll Call No:

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

SUBJECT—

Uniform signage and trail communication media planning for Des Moines and central Iowa trails.

SYNOPSIS—

Authorization to allow the Parks and Recreation Director to execute an agreement with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) for the City's contribution for the signage and communication media planning being done as part of a regional planning effort to improve central Iowa trails.

FISCAL IMPACT—

Total project cost is estimated at \$60,000 with the City's contribution being \$24,000 from the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Fund: CP040 Org: PKS990000 Project: PKS045, Recreational Trails. The remaining costs are being paid by participating communities and counties based on a per capita basis.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

Currently most counties and cities in central Iowa have different signage schemes for their trail systems. As trails have become increasingly popular and more connected each year, trail advocates and staff from many central Iowa cities and counties have been pushing for uniform signage and communication media on all trails in central Iowa. This will help increase users and the experience that users have on trails in

central Iowa. The following series of uniform signs and communication media is needed on central Iowa trails: way-finding signs, trail name signs, interpretive signs, maps, kiosks, mile-markers, etc.

Because of this effort, 18 cities and counties have come together to support and pursue uniform signage and communication media for the Central Iowa Trail System. Included in this regional planning effort are Des Moines, Altoona, Ames, Ankeny, Carlisle, Clive, Indianola, Johnston, Pleasant Hill, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines, Windsor Heights, Polk County, Boone County, Dallas County, Story County and Warren County.

In early 2005, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Trails Roundtable formed a committee that issued a request for qualifications in order to hire a consultant that had considerable experience in trail signage and communication media. Four proposals were received and the committee recommended that the INHF serve as the project facilitator for the planning effort and hire Shive-Hattery to design the uniform signage and communication media for the Central Iowa Trail System. All the participating cities and counties have divided the total amount (on a per capita basis) of \$60,000 needed to hire Shive-Hattery. The City of Des Moines share of the project is not to exceed \$24,600.

It is anticipated that the planning process will be completed by the fall of 2005, and each participating community will be able to implement this uniform signage and communication media as budgets and funding allow. The Parks Department will begin requesting funds from the FY07 CIP budget to begin implementing the uniform signage and media communication plan on the City's trail system.