


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	20-560	Meeting:	December 21, 2020
	Agenda Item:	38	Roll Call:	20-2121
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving entering into an agreement with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (Foundation) for partial private funding of the Fleur Drive Medians Landscape Replacement.

SYNOPSIS:

- A. Recommend approval of a Community Betterment Fiscal Sponsorship Fund Agreement with the Foundation (Kristine M. Knous, President, 1915 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309) for establishment of a fund for donations for the Fleur Drive Medians Landscape Replacement.
- B. Recommend approval of an agreement with the Foundation (Kristine M. Knous, President, 1915 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309) regarding administration and disbursement of the charitable contributions for the benefit of the citizens of the City of Des Moines for the replacement of the Fleur Drive Medians landscaping.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,150,000 in City funding and an estimated \$500,000 in private contributions from the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines

Funding Source: N/A. These agreements are for managing private donations for the project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The reason for the “two (2) document” approach, which was required by the Foundation, is first the Foundation establishes a charitable fund with approval by the City, then there is a separate agreement with the City outlining their rights and responsibilities.
- A 4-year project to improve the Fleur Drive medians began in 2004. Doug Hoerr, a landscape architect from Chicago, was hired to develop a planting plan for the corridor and the \$2 million project was funded mostly by private donations. The plan involved a consistent design of ornamental grasses, roses and perennial in all medians with annuals planted in the end caps that changed by the seasons. A 28E Agreement was completed with Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) and the City of Des Moines for the Parks and Recreation Department to purchase and grow all the plant material and DMWW staff to plant and maintain the medians.

- The current reconstruction of Fleur Drive provided an opportunity to redesign and refresh the median landscapes. A committee formed to work on a new design and included civic leaders John and Janis Ruan, Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy, City Council Member Josh Mandelbaum, staff from the City Manager's office, Engineering and Parks and Recreation, and DMWW staff. Doug Hoerr, now Hoerr Schaudt, was hired with private funding to complete a comprehensive analysis of the Fleur Drive streetscape. The emphasis for the plan was to change the plant palette with more resilient and sustainable plants and have a new maintenance approach for the medians.
- Hoerr Schaudt completed a comprehensive analysis that included typography, microclimates, common flooding areas, site lines, accident data and weed and soil problems. The proposed planting plan addresses the challenges specific to each median and is a more organic overall form and arrangement of plants that will be more forgiving and sustainable. This naturalized design will allow for greater flexibility in that if a species does not do well in a median, the other species will fill in the gaps.
- The project will involve removing the existing plant material and soil from each median, installing sub-drains, installing an amended soil mixture, installing irrigation, and installing new plant material and mulch. The City will be responsible for the plant and soil removal, sub-drains, and irrigation. Grants along with private donations will pay for the soil, plant material, installation and mulch.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated actions include:

- Finalize the CIP funding for the project subject to City Council approval of the FY2022 Capital Improvement Program budget;
- Competitively bid the Fleur Drive Medians Landscape Replacement project including replacement plants, new soil and mulch through the city procurement process using private funds; and
- Ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designated lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also, partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.