



## **Council Communication No. 97-298**

### **SYNOPSIS –**

Host a Midwest Watercross Tours National Jet Ski Race at Gray's Lake Park on July 5 and 6 1997, with approval of Facility Use Contract for this event.

### **FISCAL IMPACT –**

The economic impact to Des Moines is anticipated to be approximately \$500000. The Park and Recreation Department is guaranteed \$2,000 from the use of Gray's Lake Park.

### **RECOMMENDATION –**

**Approval to host event and of Facility Use Contract for this event.**

### **BACKGROUND –**

On July 13 and 14, 1996, the City of Des Moines provided Gray's Lake Park as a venue on the eight-city national Bud Jets Sports Tour. The Midwest Watercross Tour will include approximately 200 racers from several continents, and an estimated attendance of 8,000 spectators over the two-day racing period.

Midwest Watercross Tours has requested assistance from the City in waiving temporary concession fees, securing contacts for off-duty police officers, overnight security, ambulance service, parking locations, kybos, and trash removal at Midwest Watercross Tour's expense. The City will receive \$2,000 for the use of Gray's Lake Park. Midwest Watercross Tours will be charging for admissions, parking, concessions, and selling beer in a designated beer garden and VIP area. A contract which provides the specific duties and responsibilities of the City and Midwest Watercross Tours is on file in the City Clerk's Office. Council is being asked to approve this Facility Use Contract.

Midwest Watercross Tours' request includes exclusive rights to Gray's Lake Park from Friday, July 4, 1997, through Sunday, July 6, 1997, for practice and competition. IJSBA will also have access to the park from July 2, 1997 to July 8, 1997 for set-up and tear-down with the understanding that the park will be open for general recreational use with the exception of July 4 through July 6.

The national jet ski races provide for practice to begin on Friday, July 4, with expert qualifying

rounds and finals from 9 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, July 5, and professional races from 9 Am to 5 PM on Sunday, July 6.

On October 4, 1996, the Park and Recreation Department received written approval from the Department of Natural Resources to provide exclusive use of Gray's Lake Park to host the jet ski races.

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