

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

98-276

SYNOPSIS —

AGENDA:

JUNE 22, 1998

Direct the City Manager to work with the Sherman Hills Association to work out the details of using Chamberlain Park replacement funds for lighting, garden, and playground improvements, and to refer the item to the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board for recommendation to City Council on July 13, 1998.

SUBJECT:

USING
CHAMBERLAIN
PARK
REPLACEMENT
FUNDS FOR
LIGHTING,
GARDEN, AND
PLAYGROUND
IMPROVEMENTS

FISCAL IMPACT –

\$250,000 of Park Capital Improvements Program (CIP) funds for development and cost savings of approximately \$50,000 per year for ongoing maintenance.

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

RECOMMENDATION –

Approval.

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND –

By Council Roll Call No. 95-1018, on March 20, 1995, the Council adopted the intent to sell Chamberlain Park (located at 19th and Ingersoll Avenue). At that time, the City committed to split the \$500,000 proceeds to build two replacement parks in Woodland Heights and Sherman Hill, respectively. Woodland Heights Park is under construction and the Sherman Hill Association has requested an alternative use of the \$250,000 available for a park in their neighborhood. In a letter to Mayor and Council dated June 16, 1998, Sonja Roberts, President of Sherman Hill Association, asks that the funds be used as follows:

- 1) Completion of the Historic Street Lighting project currently underway (\$164,000).

2) Development of formal Victorian gardens at Hoyt Sherman Place (\$66,000).

3) Enhancement of the T. Fred Henry Park located in the 600 Block of 20th Street (\$20,000).

Further, the Association indicates a future interest in building a park in their neighborhood. They indicate that they would like to use the “ accumulated overage (assessed operating funds for the historic street lighting) for that future park.” If the \$250,000 is used for this proposal, no CIP funds will be available for this new acquisition and construction. Initial Park and Recreation staff and Board members (not yet communicated to all) reaction is favorable to this proposal if no commitment to build a new park is part of the agreement. Operating Budget difficulties in maintaining current parks will make it difficult to add a new park to the system. This is one item that needs further discussion with the neighborhood.