

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

98-404

SYNOPSIS —

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

SUBJECT:

BIRTHPLACE CABIN
APPLICATION FOR
GRANT FUNDS
– HISTORIC SITE
PRESERVATION
GRANT PROGRAM

In 1998, the Iowa General Assembly appropriated funds to the Department of Cultural Affairs for the creation of the Historic Site Preservation Program, for the restoration, preservation, and development of historical sites through the “ Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Program” . Projects funded by this program must promote an understanding of the record of human experience within the state. The minimum grant is \$40,000, and the grant requires a 1:1 cash match.

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

Staff has prepared a grant application for repair of the “ Birthplace Cabin” and interpretation of the Fort Des Moines #2 archaeological site. The project will cost \$80,000. The grant application is for \$40,000 and the Parks Department will provide the match of \$40,000.

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

FISCAL IMPACT –

If the grant is received and a contract is developed, the City will match \$40,000 of Parks funds for the repair of the Birthplace Cabin.

DONALD TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

RECOMMENDATION –

Approval of the grant application for submittal to the State Historical Society of Iowa.

BACKGROUND –

In 1993, a committee had been formed for the restoration of the birthplace cabin and interpretation of the site. Unfortunately, those plans were interrupted by the Flood of 1993. In 1996, the Polk County Historic Society approached the Council and asked for the Community Development Department and Plan

and Zoning Commission to develop a plan to stop the deterioration of the cabin and develop the site into an interpretive center celebrating Des Moines history. A task force of the Polk County Historic Society and Plan and Zoning Commission was established, but unfortunately no funds were identified for repair of the cabin or other interpretation. The grant and City funds would repair the damage to the log cabin, bring electricity to the site, and install some maps and signage that interpret the site of the founding of Des Moines.