

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

98-536

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

AGENDA:

DECEMBER 7, 1998

SYNOPSIS -

Propose Council action to accept ownership of the newly constructed Great Cats Exhibit from the Blank Park Zoo Foundation.

SUBJECT:

GREAT CATS EXHIBIT AT
THE BLANK PARK ZOO

FISCAL IMPACT -

The overall fiscal impact is revenue positive. Increased annual operating expenses are estimated to be \$68,000. Additional revenue is projected to average \$75,000 per year, derived from a \$.50 increase in admission fees.

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND RECREATION
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND -

On August 18, 1997, by Roll Call No. 97-2860, City Council approved a 28E Agreement with the Blank Park Zoo Foundation for the construction of the Great Cats Exhibit, a new facility for lions, tigers, and leopards at the Blank Park Zoo.

The Foundation successfully completed a \$5 million "A Zoo For All Seasons" capital campaign, to raise funds to construct the Great Cats Exhibit and the future Interpretive Center. The City contracted with Corell Contractors for \$268,000 to perform demolition of the old facility and site preparation. The Foundation contracted with the Hansen Company for \$1,050,000 to construct three exhibits and the management building. The City will add rock work enhancements, estimated to cost \$98,000, funded by Zoo CIP appropriations. The

total cost of all projects is approximately \$1,416,000.

The Great Cats exhibit will open to the public in May 1999.

This new state-of-the-art exhibit complex will result in increased Zoo attendance and associated revenue, and will greatly enhance the visitor's interpretation of the big cats.