

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**00-249**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

JUNE 5, 2000

**SUBJECT:**

FLEUR GATEWAY  
REQUEST FOR  
PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

RICHARD A. CLARK  
DEPUTY CITY  
MANAGER

The resolution on the June 5, 2000 Council agenda directs City staff to issue requests for landscape design and real estate development consultant services for the Fleur Drive corridor. The Fleur Gateway Development Corporation has recommended the use of consultant services to strengthen retail and commercial presence on Fleur Drive. It is anticipated the consultants will be selected within the next month, subject to approval of the contracts by the Council.

The roll call also creates a five-person steering committee to assist in the selection of consultants and provide on-going assistance as the consultants' work progresses. Council Member Christine Hensley and Plan and Zoning Commission Member Marilyn Staples are recommended as the City appointees. Mike Pesek, President of Farmland Insurance Companies, will serve as representative of the company. The remaining steering committee membership will be composed of two members of the Fleur Gateway Development Corporation.

Andrea Hauer (Office of Economic Development) and Sarah Willnerd (City Manager's Office) are working as staff for this project.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

It is anticipated that up to \$40-50,000 will be expended for professional services for this project. Farmland Insurance Companies, a division of Nationwide Insurance, is providing \$25,000 as a challenge grant. The City will provide up to \$25,000 and staff assistance. Other private donations are being solicited by the Fleur Gateway Development Corporation.

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

## **BACKGROUND -**

Last fall, over 250 people met to discuss the overall conditions of Fleur Drive at a one-day symposium. One major outcome from the symposium was the creation of the Fleur Gateway Development Corporation (FGDC) with property owners, tenants, and adjoining neighborhoods as its members.

The FGDC has worked to generate interest in revitalizing Fleur Drive as a commercial center. They are recommending that professional services be used to identify the issues that may be limiting commercial development and to provide suggestions on improving the overall appearance of the area.

The request for professional services has been reviewed and approved in draft form by the FGDC. The responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) are due June 30th. It is anticipated that Council will receive recommendations from the steering committee at its July 24th meeting.