

Meeting Agendas/Info

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

01-513

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

Approve changing the Glendale Cemetery boundaries South of Franklin Avenue and East of 55th Street, excluding private residential property, in order to allow recreational use and development.

OCTOBER 8, 2001

SUBJECT:

FISCAL IMPACT -

CONVERSION OF
CEMETERY
PROPERTY TO
PARK USAGE

\$50,000 in public improvements related to the construction of Polk County's NW Community Center. Additional revenue to be determined based on additional design and usage.

TYPE:

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

BACKGROUND -

SUBMITTED BY:

This change in use was prompted by a request of the City to consider leasing Franklin Field to Polk County to build a community center which will primarily serve senior citizens. In receiving this proposal, it was discovered that the area currently used as a park (Franklin Field) is legally part of Glendale Cemetery.

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

The above referenced area is currently identified as a part of Glendale Cemetery. In approving this change of boundaries, the City would allow recreational uses to occur until such time as the land is needed for interment burials, with the exception of the development site of Polk County's NW Community Center, which will have a 65-year lease.

Through staff research, the City has enough designated land for burials for the next 65 years. With the addition of the mausoleum/columbarium, this land use is expected to extend even further into the future. When it is determined that the recreational use

area is needed for Cemetery purposes, the land would be restored for burial purposes.

On September 25, 2001, the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board recommended approval of the resolution to allow recreational development and use to occur in the designated area.

A presentation was made to the Park and Recreation Board's Citizen Cemetery Advisory Committee on Wednesday, September 12, 2001. Committee members were supportive of the development of the NW Community Center and expressed support for the potential of additional recreational development. However, the committee members expressed concerns about additional recreational development within the current cemetery boundaries. Committee members requested public meetings to be held when design plans were finalized for recreational uses.

Upon completion of the NW Community Center, staff will complete a comprehensive site design for the identified area. Extensive landscaping will occur if the designated area is used for recreational purposes to minimize the impact of cemetery patrons. This development process will also include an extensive public input process.
