

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

02-151

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

AGENDA:

SYNOPSIS -

MARCH 18, 2002

The cemeteries plan to provide space for cremains in a niche tower beginning July 1, 2002. Approval of the proposed fee schedule is requested.

SUBJECT:

FISCAL IMPACT -

CEMETERY NICHE
TOWER PROPOSED
FEES

Projection of \$100,000 in revenue in Fiscal Year 2002-2003.

TYPE:

RECOMMENDATION -

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

Staff recommends approval of the proposed fees for the right of interment package in the niche towers.

BACKGROUND -

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

The trend both nationwide and in Polk County reflects a marked increase in the number of people who select cremation as opposed to in ground burial. A market feasibility study done in 1998 recommended that the City invest in columbarium and mausoleum facilities. Construction has been delayed due to the cost of building a large structure. At this time, there is no mausoleum space or columbarium space available in any City cemetery. Given the aforementioned national and local trends, the lack of columbarium space in particular has a negative impact both in terms of service provided to the citizens of Des Moines and on total revenue in the cemeteries. The proposed niche method will cost \$9,983 and provide space for 72 interments.

At their February 13, 2002 meeting, the Cemetery Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that the first niche tower be constructed at Site 1 (see map attached to the roll call) in Glendale Cemetery with a target completion date of July 1, 2002. Similarly, the

Committee endorsed the following fee schedule:

Niche Space Package:	
1.	Space
2.	Cremain Container
3.	Plaque (Installed)
4.	Opening & Closing Fee
Resident Fee:	\$1,250
Non-Resident Fee:	\$1,500

The full Park Board unanimously approved the Cemetery Committee's recommendation at their March 26, 2002 meeting.

The below listed cost comparison of other niches available locally, re-enforces the value of the proposed package:

1. Highland Memory Garden: \$1,007/niche. Includes opening and closing costs and the plaque, but does not include the container.
2. Sunset/Chapel Hill: \$2,200/niche. Includes only the plaque. Does not include either opening and closing costs or the container.
3. Resthaven Cemetery: \$1,235 - \$3,985/niche depending upon level. Does not include opening or closing costs, plaque, or container.

The cost of construction of the 72-unit niche tower is estimated at \$9,983. Depending upon the resident/non-resident mix, projected revenue from the niche tower would range from \$90,000 - \$108,000.
