

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

02-351

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

AGENDA:

JULY 8, 2002

SUBJECT:

IOWA COMMUNITY
CULTURAL GRANT
TO ASSIST IN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TESTING ON THE
NEW SCIENCE
CENTER OF IOWA
SITE

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

RICHARD CLARK
DEPUTY CITY
MANAGER

SYNOPSIS -

Approval of \$25,000 Iowa Community Cultural Grant (ICCG) from the State of Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to conduct archaeological testing and fieldwork at the proposed new Science Center of Iowa site (400 Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Parkway) and to authorize the negotiation and execution of professional services with Great Lakes Archeological Research Center, Inc. (Dr. David Overstreet, Milwaukee, WI) to undertake the testing and fieldwork.

FISCAL IMPACT -

The State of Iowa's \$25,000 grant will be matched with up to \$25,000 in funding and in-kind contributions from the City. The Science Center of Iowa will be providing additional assistance with geo-tech borings in conjunction with its site work. The source of the City's funding will be Capital Improvement Program (CIP) dollars allocated for Court Avenue Redevelopment.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval/acceptance of state grant and proceed with hiring an archaeological firm.

BACKGROUND -

On March 18, 2002, the City approved conveyance of this site located at 400 MLK Parkway, to the Science Center of Iowa for construction of a new facility.

It is believed this site has high potential for building and artifact remains from the original fort due to minimal disturbance of the soil. In September 2002, the City hired an archaeologist to excavate property adjacent to the site portions that would be displaced by the construction of utility lines and storm sewers. Those excavations

confirmed this site had potential to yield significant information about the original Fort Des Moines.

At the March 18, 2002 City Council meeting, Jack Porter, representing the State Historical Society of Iowa, requested the City Council consider additional archaeological work on this site even though it is not required by funding or permits.

The City submitted a grant application to the State of Iowa in late March 2002 for the 'salvage' archaeological work; on June 29th, the City received notice it received the maximum \$25,000 grant which requires a minimum cash and 'in-kind' contribution of \$25,000.

In accepting this grant, the City is then responsible for obtaining the necessary professional services for the archaeological research. Time is of the essence to conduct on-site excavation and related fieldwork before the start of winter weather and the Spring 2003 start of construction.

Due to previous site work in the immediate area of the proposed new Science Center and a general ability to undertake the appropriate work within the budget scope and time limitations, a preliminary estimate of about \$45,000 for a first phase of archaeological work for the site was obtained from the Great Lakes Archeological Research Center, Inc. (Dr. David Overstreet and Ms. Jennifer Harvey, Milwaukee, WI).

Upon execution of the agreement with the state, the City Manager or his designee is then authorized to negotiate a contract for professional services with Great Lakes Archeological Research Center Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 and subject to Legal Department approval. The City Manager is then authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

History of Archaeology in the Court Avenue Area

In the late 1980s, the area around the original Fort Des Moines was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a significant archaeological site known as 13PK61. The City has conducted archeological research due to the construction of the MLK Parkway, Vine Street Lofts, and Federal Building Parking Ramp. These projects received federal funding or a federal permit that required compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Science Center site is a potential "hot spot" that may provide information on the former fort operations as well as prior inhabitants

of the area. To date, 13PK61 has yielded prehistoric deposits associated with a Native American campsite occupied by two different cultural groups:

-- The Woodland cultures occupied the area between AD 300-1100; and

-- The Oneota established a more substantial village between AD 1150-1300.

Intact archeological remains associated with Fort Des Moines were discovered at several locations within the MLK Parkway. Fort-related discoveries include brick piers or footings for barracks buildings, a trash dump, and a privy pit. Artifacts include uniform buttons, tobacco pipes, broken dishes, and food remains. The most interesting discovery was a fireplace from one of the barracks buildings used for enlisted infantry.
