



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**02-364**

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

**AGENDA:**

JULY 8, 2002

**SYNOPSIS -**

Approval of low bid from Hooyer Construction, Inc., (Curt Hooyer, President, P.O. Box 687, Pella, Iowa 50219) for the restoration of the Fort Des Moines Cabin near Sec Taylor Stadium.

**SUBJECT:**

RECONSTRUCTION  
BID FOR FORT DES  
MOINES CABIN

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

\$47,290 (bid). Funds have been budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), CP040PKS990000PKS157. The proposed total estimated cost for Cabin Restoration (\$47,290 actual), site work (\$100,000) and interpretation (\$75,000) is \$222, 290. All funds beyond the restoration (\$47,290) are to be raised through private contributions.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD M. TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

JEB BREWER, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

**BACKGROUND -**

On June 3, 2002, by Roll Call No. 02-1353, the City Council approved the receiving of bids (June 25, 2002) and set a date of hearing (July 8, 2002) for the restoration of the Fort Des Moines Cabin near Sec Taylor Stadium (see Exhibit A). The 1864 vintage Iowa log cabin, while not original to the site, represents the style of the first cabin built in 1843 at the confluence of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers, a site that was to develop into the present day City of Des Moines. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance a historically and culturally significant symbol - the Fort Des Moines cabin and its grounds. Restoration of the cabin is important for preserving and retelling the story of how the City of Des Moines began. Des Moines is one of the few cities where the birthplace site is still owned by the City and has remained free of commercial development.

Restoration is a first step in the future development of the Fort Des Moines Cabin. Once the building's infrastructure is restored using City funds, private funding is planned for developing the site around the cabin and improving its interior for historical interpretation. The Polk County Historical Society (PCHS) has agreed to lead the fundraising effort to obtain the necessary funds for Phase II (site development) and Phase III (interpretation) - see Exhibit B. Several local organizations have already pledged support to the Polk County Historical Society.

Attachments

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