

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

02-417

AGENDA:

AUGUST 5, 2002

SUBJECT:

PRAIRIE MEADOWS
GRANT
APPLICATIONS FOR
PARK AND
RECREATION
PROGRAMS AND
FACILITIES

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS -

Authorize staff to submit three grant applications to the Prairie Meadows Race Track and Casino Community Betterment Awards for:

1. Funding to subsidize the irrigation fee, golf badges, and trail fees for senior citizens, and for the Summer Youth Golf Instruction Program.
2. Greater Des Moines Softball Park - construction of the concession/restroom facility.
3. James W. Cownie Soccer Park - premier field development.

FISCAL IMPACT -

	<u>Requested Grant Amount</u>
1. Senior Citizen Subsidy and Summer Youth Golf Instruction Program	\$ 32,000
2. Greater Des Moines Softball Park	75,000
3. James Cownie Soccer Park	250,000

RECOMMENDATION -

Recommend approval of the resolution authorizing submittal of three grant applications to Prairie Meadows Race Track and Casino Community Betterment Awards.

BACKGROUND -

1. Funding to Subsidize Senior Golf Fees and Summer Youth Golf Instruction Program

The funds requested allow the City to provide an additional subsidy to senior citizens to maintain the affordability of the municipal golf experience as a leisure and health activity. Currently, the City golf courses provide approximately 20,000 rounds of golf for seniors.

The Summer Youth Golf Instruction Program, reestablished in the summer of 2000, serves approximately 150 youths annually. This program teaches youths the skills and etiquette of the game of golf.

The grant funding would be allocated in priority order based on the funds received as indicated below.

Irrigation fee \$1 per round X 20,000 rounds =	\$20,000
Senior badge subsidy based on the 1992 badge fee Difference: \$50 per badge X 130 badges =	6,500
Trail Fee \$1 per round X 2,500 =	2,500
Summer Youth Golf (\$7,332 - \$4,332) =	<u>3,000</u>
Total Request:	\$32,000

Prairie Meadows support for the Senior Golf Program has resulted in awards totaling \$105,000 from 1996 through 2000.

2. Greater Des Moines Softball Park - Concession/Restroom Facility North of Broadway on NE 46th

The funds requested will construct the main concession/restroom facility. The total cost estimate for this project is \$2.9 million. In addition to the concession/restroom facility, construction will include site preparation, four irrigated and lighted fields, landscaping, internal roads, and parking. It is anticipated that the first games will be played in the fall of 2003.

Currently, the City provides league play to over 8,000 metro area residents by scheduling existing fields in neighborhood parks. Four of those fields will be returned to neighborhood use.

A combination of sources from the 1990 bond referendum, City of Des Moines' CIP program, private contributions, player fees, and grants will be used to fund the Greater Des Moines Softball Park. Prairie Meadows has previously awarded a total of \$130,000 in 1997,

1999, and 2000 to this project.

3. James W. Cownie Soccer Park - Premier Field Development

The funds requested will attribute title sponsorship of the premier field to Prairie Meadows. The premier field with lights, locker rooms, and seating for 1,000 spectators, will allow the City to host high school and college conference championships, college leagues, and regional and national tournaments.

The City of Des Moines has invested \$1.5 million toward the \$3.5 million facility. Funds from Polk County, the Greater Des Moines Junior Soccer League, and corporate and individual gifts secured by Jim Cownie, fundraising chairperson, allowed the City to open the 12-field complex in 1998.

Since opening in 1998, the James W. Cownie Soccer Park has served over 700,000 players. The 2003 Snicker U.S. Youth Soccer Regional Tournament, scheduled for June 21-25, 2003, is anticipated to draw 200 teams and 15,000 spectators. The Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau has estimated that the economic impact of this five-day event will generate over \$5 million to the local economy.
