ITEM 64

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

03-034

AGENDA:

JANUARY 27, 2003

SUBJECT:

EMERGENCY
HISTORIC
RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM GRANT
TO CONDUCT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION ON
THE SCIENCE
CENTER OF IOWA
SITE

TYPE:

RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

RICHARD CLARK DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA

SYNOPSIS —

Approval of \$4,000 Emergency Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) Grant agreement with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to conduct archaeological work on the site of the Science Center of Iowa.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The City will provide a \$5,000 match for this work. The Polk County Historic Society has contributed an additional \$1,000.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval/acceptance of grant.

BACKGROUND —

On July 8, 2002, by Roll Call No. 02-1697, the City Council approved a contract with the State Historic Society of Iowa for an Iowa Community Cultural Grant for \$25,000 to conduct archaeological testing and excavation on the site of the new Science Center of Iowa. The Science Center parcel is located in an area determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a significant archaeological site. There are no federal funds in the construction of the Science Center of Iowa or in acquisition of the site, so the City was not required to conduct archaeological research.

The firm of Great Lakes Archaeological Resources (Jennifer Harvey, Milwaukee, Wisconsin) was hired for \$42,000 to conduct the excavation with the City removing the black top, and providing a backhoe and backhoe operator for the excavation.

During the last ten days of fieldwork, the archaeologists uncovered three features that deserved additional excavation. These features included a sandstone foundation, well or cistern, and a privy. Each feature contained artifacts dating from approximately the 1850s until 1900. After consultation with the State Historic Society and the archaeologists, it was decided that the City would provide an additional \$5,000 for the work, knowing that this was not adequate for total excavation and lab work. The City Council approved this contract with Great Lakes by Roll Call No. 02-2826 on December 2, 2002. The staff requested that the State Historic Society attempt to find an additional \$5,000 for additional work.

The Director of the State Historical Society notified City staff on December 10,

2002, that the City could receive an additional \$4,000 through the emergency HRDP program for additional work to complete excavation on the three features.
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