

CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION

:

03-090

**AGENDA:**

FEBRUARY 24,  
2003

**SUBJECT:**

WATER FEATURE  
AT ASHBY PARK

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD M. TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

JEB E. BREWER,  
P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

**ITEM 6A**

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

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**SYNOPSIS —**

Approve bid letting for construction of the Ashby Park Water Feature including wading pool and associated equipment, mechanical and restroom facility remodel, parking lot, sidewalk and contract administration as proposed in the approved Parks Wading Pool Master Plan.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

\$475,000 (estimated total project) for mechanical building/restroom remodel, wading pool and equipment, parking lot, sidewalk, and contract administration. Funding for this project is budgeted and available from the FY03 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Accounts CPO40PKS990000PKS034 (Wading Pool Improvements) and CP040PKS990000PKS153 (Swimming Pool and Aquatic Improvements), and CP040PKS990000PKS010 (Road, Parking Lot Sidewalk, and Drainage Improvements). Elements of the project are intentionally funded in the various existing accounts of the CIP for accounting purposes at the recommendation of the Finance Department.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND —**

In June of 1999, the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board established the Citizen Advisory Wading Pool Committee to study and analyze the existing opportunities and constraints of the City of Des Moines' wading pools. On October 24, 2000, after several public meetings, the Park and Recreation Board received and filed the Committee's recommendations. On November 6, 2000, by Roll Call No. 00-4235, the Des Moines City Council received and filed the same recommendations.

One of the wading pool sites that were recommended to continue and be renovated was Ashby Park. A novelty design, essentially a figure eight with a traditional pool and an added area with water spray fountains, is planned for the site (see Exhibit A attached to the Roll Call). In addition to

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION**

03-090

FEBRUARY 24,  
2003

PAGE TWO

the new wading pool, the Committee recommended building a new parking lot within the park to replace the existing on-street parking lot. It was felt that the new parking lot would be much safer, especially with an anticipated increase in use of the new wading pool. Subsequent to the Council's receipt of the committee's recommendations, several citizens from the Ashby neighborhood expressed concerns with regard to the proposed parking lot. On June 5, 2002, a public meeting was held at Ashby Park for the purpose of hearing staff alternatives for constructing the new parking lot, and to listen to concerns and recommendations from neighbors and other citizens on the improvement. In attendance at this meeting were City Councilmen Tom Vlassis and Chris Coleman, several Park and Recreation Board members, approximately 100 citizens, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and City staff.

Following much discussion, Ashby Park neighbors desired to retain the proposed wading pool, but locate the new parking lot outside the park. A sidewalk north of the park down the west side of 38<sup>th</sup> Street was also highly desirable to better access the park. Staff agreed to review all comments and find a solution agreeable to the opinion expressed by the majority. However, it was noted that the construction of the wading pool would go forward for bid approval at the July 8, 2002 Council meeting. Staff would present a final design solution for the parking lot at a future public meeting, and once approved by the Park and Recreation Board, seek separate bid approval from the City Council.

By June 17, 2002, staff had revised the parking lot/sidewalk design, reviewed it with Councilmen Vlassis and Coleman, and invited attendees at the June 5, 2002 meeting to a public discussion of the project at the June 25, 2002 Park and Recreation Board meeting. At that meeting, staff received Board approval for the revised design. Because final drawings had to be prepared, and a request made to the Board of Adjustment for a variance on the parking lot setback, the construction bid could not be combined with the wading pool bid set for July 8, 2002.

On July 8, 2002, the City Council approved sending the wading pool out for bid. On July 23, 2002, only one bid was received. It was also considerably higher than the City Engineer's estimate. The bid was therefore rejected, and after further review, a decision was made by the City Engineer to re-bid the project during a more favorable bid climate, in this case, late winter/early spring of 2003. It was decided also that the pool, parking lot and sidewalk should all be combined in the future bid letting. The resulting City Engineer's estimate for the total project was \$475,000.

