

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:

03-389

AGENDA:

AUGUST 11, 2003

SUBJECT:

APPLICATIONS FOR
PRAIRIE MEADOWS
GRANTS

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 —

Approval to submit grant applications to Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino for financial support of the Greater Des Moines Softball Park construction and subsidy of senior golf fees. Encourage and support a Prairie Meadows grant application to be submitted by the City of Altoona in the amount of \$28,000 to provide funding for the planning and design of a uniform trail signage system in the Greater Des Moines area.

FISCAL IMPACT —

- A. Greater Des Moines Softball Park
Grant request in the amount of \$50,000 to support final construction elements at the Greater Des Moines Softball Park (CPO0404/PKS90000/PKS0912).
- B. Senior Golf Fee Subsidy
Grant request in the amount of \$35,500 to provide subsidy to reduce fees for senior golf rounds and badges (EN201/PKS010707).
- C. Uniform Trail Signage
Total project cost for planning and design only is estimated at \$40,000. The Prairie Meadows grant would provide 70 percent, or \$28,000, and 30 percent, or \$12,000, would be provided from each participating city in the Greater Des Moines area figured proportionately by population. If the grant is awarded, the cost share for the City is budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and is not expected to exceed \$8,000 (CP040/PKS990000/PKS045).

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

- A. Greater Des Moines Softball Park (North of Broadway on NE 46th)
The funds requested will support the installation of the field lighting. It is anticipated that the first games will be played in the spring of 2004.

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 funding sources from the 1990 bond referendum, the CIP, private contributions, player fees, and grants will be used to make the Greater Des Moines Softball Park a reality. Prairie Meadows has previously awarded a total of \$150,000 in awards in 1997, 1999, 2000, and 2002, to this project.

B. Senior Golf Fee Subsidy

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 healthy activity. Currently, the City golf courses provide approximately 20,000 rounds of golf for seniors.

Irrigation Fee: \$1 per round X 20,000 rounds =	\$20,000
Trail Fee: \$1 per round X 2,500 =	2,500
Senior badge subsidy based on the 1992 badge fee difference: \$100 per badge X 130 badges =	<u>13,000</u>
Total Request:	\$35,500

Prairie Meadows support for the Senior Golf Program has resulted in awards totaling \$115,000 from 1996 through 2002.

C. Uniform Trail Signage

Comprehensive trail signage within the City and surrounding communities is noticeably absent. Across the Greater Des Moines area, the trail signage that does exist is of varying design. This signage is inadequate for providing trail identification, location, directions, and information. A "uniform" signage system – one that standardizes each type of sign throughout the Metro area as to color, size, shape, lettering, symbols, materials, logos, etc. is highly desirable. A good uniform signage system is not only aesthetically pleasing but assists visitors to the metropolitan trail systems find their way (directional signage), direct proper behavior (rules and regulations), and inform trail users of other opportunities (facilities and programs).

Trail representatives from several cities in the Des Moines Metro area, including West Des Moines, Ankeny, Johnston, Altoona, Pleasant Hill, Windsor Heights, Waukee, and Polk County, have discussed the issue of uniform signage and agree that such a system would be beneficial for all resident or visitor/tourist trail users. Inquiry into the cost of planning and designing such a system has resulted in an estimate of approximately \$40,000 (which does not include final working documents or assistance with production). Much of this funding could be provided through trail granting sources, such as Prairie Meadows. It was unanimously decided at a recent meeting of several of these metro trail coordinators to request the City of Altoona be the lead agency in requesting a Prairie Meadows grant to help fund this initial effort. Although Prairie Meadows could fund 100 percent of the project, by agreeing to proportionately share 30 percent of the total cost, the potential to receive an award is increased

and each city becomes a bona fide partner in the venture.