



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 4/05/04

Communication

No.: 04-160

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call

No.:

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

SUBJECT—

Addendum to 28E Agreement for Development of Brody Community School Park

SYNOPSIS—

This action would approve an Addendum to the 28E Agreement between Des Moines Public Schools and the City of Des Moines on the construction, maintenance, and operation of Brody Community School Park.

FISCAL IMPACT—

\$282,000 is the amount of currently adopted City funds. The City has previously sold bonds and \$282,000 is available in FY04 in the City's Capital Improvement Program, Account CP40PKS990000PKS133, for design and construction. Development will consist of all elements of the master plan that can be constructed with available funds. The Brody School Park Steering Committee assisted staff in ranking the park elements in order of importance (see Exhibit A of the Addendum).

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The origin of the existing 28E Agreement and the proposed Addendum between the Des Moines Public Schools and the City of Des Moines is a plan that was completed and adopted by the Park and Recreation Board in 1998. The Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Parks Plan was completed in conjunction with the neighborhood; it was initiated through a City Council authorized contract with Dunbar/Jones Partnership. The Plan included many recommendations to improve the park and recreational opportunities in this neighborhood. One of the plan recommendations was to “work out a joint use agreement with the school district to use Brody Middle School grounds as a neighborhood park...”

The first public meeting on developing Brody Middle School as a community school park was held in April 2000 and allowed neighbors to give their ideas and concerns for the park. On February 12, 2001, by Roll Call No. 01-44, the City Council authorized the execution of the City of Des Moines and Des Moines Independent Community School District Brody Middle School 28E Agreement providing for shared use of an area of the Brody School grounds as a park, establishing a steering committee to establish a master plan for the park and create a priority list of improvements to the park (“the 28E Agreement”). Once the master plan was approved, the School District and City would negotiate (an Addendum) to the 28E agreement that identified sources of construction funding and maintenance responsibilities for the new park.

The Steering Committee was formed and several meetings were held. Eventually a master plan was created, and on August 12, 2002, the Brody School Park Steering Committee unanimously approved the proposed park plan.

On September 26, 2002, a final public meeting was held to share the proposed master plan with the neighborhood. The recommended site improvements and related facilities included:

- Basketball courts
- Educational area with sitting wall providing an outdoor classroom for teachers
- Portable soccer goals and softball backstops allowing more flexibility of open space
- Fitness stations
- Playground equipment with sand fill and curb containment
- An architecturally enhanced shelter with benches
- Park restroom facility incorporated within existing Brody Middle School building
- Skate Park area
- Removal of existing tennis courts and construction of new tennis courts
- Walking trail with sitting areas
- Automatic gates at both SW 23rd Street and east side of building
- Bus drop-off/pick-up lane along Park Avenue
- Widening of entry road off SW 23rd Street
- Widening of entry road off Park Avenue allowing for additional parent drop-off/pick-up lane
- Expansion and resurfacing of back parking lot

On February 18, 2003, and March 12, 2003, the citizen boards of the Des Moines Public School System and the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department respectively approved the Brody Community School Park Master Plan.

On April 21, 2003, by Roll Call No. 03-888, the plan was received and filed by the Des Moines City Council, and staff was directed to engage in developing an Addendum to the existing 28E Agreement that would provide for the construction, maintenance and operation of the park. The attached Addendum has been finalized by staff and is hereby submitted to the City Council for its approval.