



Agenda Item:

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## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 4/05/04

Communication

No.: 04-164

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call

No.:

Submitted by: Richard Clark, Deputy City Manager

### SUBJECT—

Alteration to Local Landmark: Woodland Cemetery Entrance Arch

### SYNOPSIS—

This action would receive the affirmative recommendation of the Landmark Review Board, and approve the application by the City of Des Moines to erect a new metal scrolled and shaped archway attached to the tops of existing granite pylons over the southwest entrance gates to Woodland Cemetery.

### FISCAL IMPACT—

None, the arch is a private donation.

### RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

### BACKGROUND—

At its meeting of March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Landmark Review Board reviewed the proposed entry arch at the entrance of Woodland Cemetery, a local landmark. (See attached Landmarks Review Board Recommendation for minutes of discussion). The Board recommended approval of the arch design as submitted by a vote of 12-0. Upon approval of the City Council, the applicant will receive a certificate of appropriateness for the proposed arch.

The Landmark Review Board was created to consider the nomination of landmarks and landmark sites and the alterations of landmarks and landmark sites located outside locally

designated historic districts. By ordinance, the Landmark Review Board reports and recommends to the City Council for final approval to grant a certificate of appropriateness to the applicant.

**Landmarks Review Board  
Recommendation  
Tuesday, March 16, 2004**

**Item. Woodland Cemetery (20-2004-4.01)**

**Application from City of Des Moines Park and Recreation Department** to add a new metal scrolled and shaped archway attached to the tops of existing granite pylons over the southwest entrance gates.

SUPPORT: Don McLaughlin, Park Development Manager; Richard Brown, Park and Recreation Department

Wilcox gave an overview report of the application and a short summary of the staff recommendations with background of the cemetery history.

Morgan asked if there had been any discussion about what the changes might be based on staff recommendation to simplify the design of the arch.

Wilcox stated staff had suggested eliminating some of the detail, particularly on the outsides of the arch.

Lawson asked why simplifying it would be better?

Wilcox referenced the Secretary's Standard recommending that when an addition is made it should not attempt to mimic the old, but rather be timeless, compatible in material, mass and scale. The cemetery is a Victorian era design. The entryway also had a later addition of a different design era, more arts and crafts movement. Staff feels the proportions and the massing were appropriate.

Morgan questioned whether it should reflect Victorian or Art Nouveau since the cemetery is Victorian and the pillars are more Art Nouveau. Fitzpatrick stated she likes the fact that the arch would reflect both periods apparent in the cemetery design and the pillars.

Lawson questioned approving any changes based on the fact the Board would not be able to see what was proposed.

Sloan felt the Board should convey to Council the Board's thought that they like what they see and, if there are to be changes, the new design or image must be brought back to the Board for review.

McLaughlin stated they are very pleased with Jeff Mills' design. Local historian Gerald LeBlanc is also pleased but feels it would be fine if some of the design elements need to be removed.

Motion by Lawson to approve the design of the arch as presented. Second by Jeffrey Morgan.

VOTE: A vote of 12-0 was registered as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Allen	X			
Blackburn	X			
Christensen	X			
Clark	X			
Dahlquist	X			
Estes				X
Fitzpatrick	X			
Garner	X			
Holderness				X
James	X			
Lahay				X
Lawson	X			
Morgan	X			
Reavely				X
Shaw				X
Sloan	X			
Stamps				X
Wittmack	X			