



Agenda Item:

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## **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

### **City Manager's Office**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agenda Date: 11/22/04  
04-598

Communication No.:

Agenda Item Type: Resolution  
No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer  
Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

#### **SUBJECT—**

Approval of long-term operation and maintenance agreement and associated property transaction costs for construction of “Des Moines Welcomes You” brick structure and landscaping at Highway 65/69 and Bloomfield Road as provided by the South Side Revitalization Partnership.

#### **SYNOPSIS—**

The South Side Revitalization Partnership requested permission to place a “Des Moines Welcomes You” brick structure and landscaping at the March 22, 2004, City Council meeting. On April 19, 2004, City Council gave preliminary approval for the construction pending a private construction contract, authorized staff to negotiate long-term operation and maintenance, and authorized transfer of the property from IDOT.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT—**

Future maintenance responsibilities will be included in future Park and Recreation Department operating budgets. Estimated City of Des Moines costs are \$860/year. Lighting costs are minimal and will be paid from the Traffic and Transportation Division operating budget.

#### **RECOMMENDATION—**

Approval

## **BACKGROUND—**

The South Side Revitalization Partnership has requested permission to construct a “Des Moines Welcomes You” monument sign, three flagpoles and landscaping at Highway 65/69 and Bloomfield Road. Iowa Department of Transportation currently owns the land, but is willing to transfer the property to the City of Des Moines.

A private construction contract has been provided that covers the proposed construction. The project will be constructed with largely volunteer labor and donated materials. As provided in the April 19, 2004, Roll Call No. 04-843, City inspection and administrative fees have been waived. The City will also pay the recording fees to transfer the property from IDOT.

Long-term maintenance and operation has been negotiated as follows:

- Earl May will maintain the landscaping for 2 years, including: mulching, weeding, watering and fertilizing.
- Electricity for lighting of flagpoles will be provided from nearby traffic signals and paid by the Engineering Department Traffic & Transportation Division.
- Polk County has committed to mowing and trimming through 2005.
- Park and Recreation Department will provide a City flag for the initial construction, replace light bulbs and maintain lighting, raise/lower flags as appropriate, replace flags as needed, provide mowing, trimming and maintain landscaping beginning in 2006, and be responsible for future repair and upkeep of the sign.