



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 01/10/05
No.: 05-009
Agenda Item Type: Resolution
No.:

Communication

Roll Call

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

SUBJECT—

Greenhouse Space Lease

SYNOPSIS—

As construction of the proposed greenhouses will not be completed until August 2005, the Park and Recreation Department proposes to lease a minimum of 4,000 square feet of greenhouse space at 1444 Washington Ave., Des Moines in order to save stock plants formally housed in the Botanical Center, store tropical plants used in outdoor floral displays in Downtown, propagate plants for Spring usage and begin to grow Fall and Winter plants like chrysanthemums and poinsettias.

As part of this lease agreement, the City will be allowed to use any greenhouse space not being utilized by the landlord. A total of approximately 18,000 square feet will be available for use by the City when not being used by the landlord.

FISCAL IMPACT—

\$6,000 lease cost plus a portion of the gas utility costs based on utilization. The gas utility cost is estimated at \$5,000. The lease rate for this property has been determined to be consistent with fair market value for this use. Funds will be provided from the adopted operating budget for Horticultural Maintenance, GE001 PKS070400.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

As a part of the Agreement between the City of Des Moines and the Des Moines Water Works, the City agreed to vacate the greenhouses at the Des Moines Botanical Center effective July 1, 2004. As construction of the proposed greenhouses will not be completed until August 31, 2005, the Park and Recreation Department proposes to lease a minimum of 4,000 square feet of greenhouse space in Des Moines in order to save stock plants formally housed in the Botanical Center, store tropical plants used in outdoor floral displays in Downtown, propagate plants for Spring usage and begin to grow Fall and Winter plants like chrysanthemums and poinsettias for use in late 2005.

The City is currently storing winter stock plants in the leased greenhouse and the current lease agreement needs to be renewed for the City to continue occupancy.

Construction of the new City greenhouses has been delayed; however, the City continues to have commitments to supply the plant material for the neighborhood groups, downtown City streetscapes including Locust Street and the newly constructed Fleur Drive planters.

Because this space is only suitable to grow a portion of the plant material required for use this coming Spring, we will be purchasing those plants that we cannot grow.