



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 02/28/05
05-090

Communication No.:

Agenda Item Type: Resolution
No.:

Roll Call

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

SUBJECT—

28E Agreement between the City of Des Moines and the Meredith Corporation Foundation to make a charitable gift to the City of Des Moines to undertake a project to design, construct and complete, with its own private funds, certain improvements and additions to the American Discovery Trail Riverpoint segment and Fleur Trail Connection.

SYNOPSIS—

Approval of the 28E Agreement with the Meredith Corporation Foundation to make certain improvements to the American Discovery Trail section which connects the eastern edge of Gray's Lake Park to the southern end of the proposed Principal Riverwalk, including an additional loop which connects the Jackson Street and First Street bridges on the south side of the Raccoon River, and widening the trail connecting the western edge of Gray's Lake to the Martin Luther King Trail at 16th Street.

FISCAL IMPACT—

Fiscal Impact: up to \$2,000,000 donated capital expense.

The agreement calls for Meredith to construct a new south loop and make improvements to the existing trail and Fleur Trail Connection at their cost, with the exception that the City will pay for regulatory signage on all sections. The cost of this signage will be funded through existing trail funds. Further, the agreement calls for the City to provide minimum annual maintenance

expense to the trail. The overall annual maintenance expense of this trail is estimated to be \$51,000 (includes replacement costs of trail).

Further, this agreement calls for assistance with funding of maintenance of Gray's Lake Park and the Meredith Trail through the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation Gray's Lake Park and Meredith Trail Fund, in exchange for the Gray's Lake Park and Meredith Trail Advisory Committee being provided with the opportunity to comment on budgets and operation of both facilities.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The City is nearing completion of the American Discovery Trail, which will connect the east edge of Gray's Lake Park to the Principal Riverwalk. This project was funded by a combination of grant and City Capital funds. It is approximately 1.9 miles in length and includes a 12-foot wide trail and improvements to the Jackson Street bridge. A few months ago Meredith contacted the City and expressed an interest in providing significant upgrades to this basic trail construction, to the trail connection from the Kruidenier Trail north to ML King Park Trail at 16th Street, and to a new loop on the south side of the Raccoon River across from Principal Park and across the First Street Bridge. The upgrades include lights, security phones, a 9th Street overlook, benches and lights on the Jackson Street bridge, multi-use trail conversion of the First Street bridge, and widening of the Fleur Drive connection to ML King Parkway. Through a previous private construction agreement approved by Council on September 13, 2004 (Roll Call No. 04-1864), Meredith has already completed the lighting improvements along the Riverpoint Trail, as it was timely with construction of the trail.

A summary of the agreement follows

- Meredith will pay all costs of construction to a maximum of \$2,000,000. Any funds left from construction will be put into the Gray's Lake Park and Meredith Trail Fund.
- All Meredith Trail Plans and Specifications will be submitted to the City for review and approval.
- Meredith will execute the construction.
- Meredith will cooperate, as necessary, with the Army Corp of Engineers.
- The City will build the previously planned American Discovery Trail and Fleur Trail Connection.
- The City Engineer will provide construction inspection, as the City deems necessary on the Meredith construction.
- The City will provide annual maintenance of all improvements, as annually approved by the City Council.
- The City Council has authorized the closure of the First Street Bridge to vehicular traffic to change it to multi-use trail and emergency vehicle use.

- The City will construct the 12-foot wide Fleur Trail Connection.
- Upon satisfactory completion of the trail, it will be named the Meredith Trail.
- If a future trail's connection is built along Market Street to the Science Center, the City agrees to negotiate with Meredith regarding the opportunity for naming rights to this connection.
- The City shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Gray's Lake Park and Meredith Trail Advisory Committee of the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation. This agreement provides for ongoing input of this group on operations and budgets for Gray's Lake Park and the Meredith Trail and requires that at least one City Council member, or his or her designee, will be a member of the Committee's board. This agreement is described in Exhibit E.
- The agreement shall be in full force for 20 years.