



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 06/20/05
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 05-346
Roll Call No.:

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

SUBJECT—

Authority to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for use of the Science Center of Iowa building in Greenwood Park and authorize a representative committee to evaluate proposals.

SYNOPSIS—

Since 1977, the Science Center of Iowa (SCI) has operated a science center facility in Greenwood/Ashworth Park. SCI recently opened their new location in the 400 Block of Martin Luther King Junior Parkway. SCI intends to vacate the Greenwood/Ashworth facility effective September 15, 2005. City staff has developed and issue an RFP to determine future usage of the building.

FISCAL IMPACT—

\$5,000 expense for Conditional Assessment. Estimated \$1,750 expense for an asbestos, lead and other materials assessment.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

Since 1977, the Science Center of Iowa (SCI) has operated a science center facility in Greenwood/Ashworth Park. The structure was built on City-owned property pursuant to a science and industry grant whereby the City of Des Moines provided SCI the land for the facility as long as it was used as a science center. SCI has been largely responsible for all maintenance and other expenses relating to the facility. Recently the SCI opened their new location in the 400 Block of Martin Luther King Junior Parkway. SCI intends to vacate the Greenwood/Ashworth facility effective September 15, 2005.

This Council action will authorize the issuance of a formal Request for Proposal, and the selection of a representative committee to assist City staff in the evaluation of submitted proposals for the disposition and end use of the building.

Factors expected to be considered in determining appropriate end use include (1) fiscal viability to make the necessary repairs to the building and provide for its upkeep, (2) use of the building is complementary to the park and provides a benefit to the park, and (3) neighborhood issues and concerns.