



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

October 9, 2006

Agenda Item No. 40

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-647

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

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving purchase of nine bicycle racks to be installed and maintained by the Downtown Community Alliance (DCA) in the Liberty Building Parking Garage to allow for public use of covered bicycle parking downtown.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to purchase nine bicycle racks to provide covered parking for those who commute to downtown Des Moines on a bicycle. The City will gift the bike racks to the Downtown Community Alliance (DCA). DCA will be responsible for installing and maintaining the bike racks for 20 years. Covered space for the racks has been located in the Liberty Building Parking Garage. The owners, Nelson Development (Mike Nelson, Co-Manager; Jake Christensen, Co-Manager, 4183 NW Urbandale Drive, Urbandale, IA 50322), have agreed to allow DCA to place the bicycle racks, free of charge, in a small area of their ramp that is unusable for auto parking.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$2,000.

Source: The estimated cost for the nine racks is \$4,000. The City will pay the total cost of the bicycle racks up front and be reimbursed by the DCA in the amount of \$2,000. Funding is available in Fiscal Year 2006-07 CIP Budget, Page Parks Improvements-21, Recreation Trails, CP040, PKS990000, PKS045.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City maintains an extensive system of multi-use trails and bicycle routes and encourages the use of bicycles as an alternate means of transportation. More people have been bicycling as a viable option for commuting because of this extensive system of trails and bicycle facilities. Bike to Work Week, an annual bicycle festival, is held every May, and this year over 800 people signed up to bicycle to work at least once that week. Also, bicycle racks were added to all regular and express MTA buses in October 2005. The most recent numbers available from MTA showed over 1,800 boardings with bicycles that month (July 2006). These numbers have increased each month that the racks have been on the buses. Despite increased bicycle usage, there remain very few options for safe parking for bicycles.

Currently there is no free covered bike parking provided in downtown Des Moines. This action approves purchasing, at a total cost of \$4,000, nine bike racks that can park 18 bicycles. The DCA has offered to partner with the City by contributing \$2,000 toward the purchase of the racks. The City intends to gift the bike racks to the Downtown Community Alliance (DCA) under the condition that DCA installs the racks

in a covered area that is available to the public for a period of 20 years. Nelson Development has already stepped forward to provide a covered space in the new Liberty Building Parking Garage (418 6th Street). Nelson Development has offered to DCA a 20' by 20' space in the south east corner of the parking garage that can be used for free bicycle parking for 20 years. If for any reason Nelson Development no longer provides this space, DCA is responsible for placing the bike racks elsewhere in the downtown area for the remainder of the 20 year period.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE