



Council
Communication
Office of the City Manager

Date	April 9, 2007
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Agenda Item No.	33
Roll Call No.	<u>07-</u>
Communication No.	<u>07-200</u>
Submitted by:	Donald M. Tripp, Parks and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of Donation Agreement with Ball Construction Services, LLC for Nicole Morrissey Memorial Fountain at James W. Cownie Soccer Park.

SYNOPSIS:

To approve the donated installation of a decorative fountain in memory of Nicole Morrissey at the James W. Cownie Soccer Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:

Costs to the City include approximately \$100 in permit fees for electric and water hook-ups.

Family and friends of the Morrissey family as well as Ball Construction Services, L.L.C. have donated \$60,000 (fountain and installation services).

Funding Source: 2007-2008 Recommended Operating Budget, GE001 PKS100400 – Athletics and Sports Tourism, page 233

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On March 27, 2007, the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board approved the recommendation from staff to approve the Nicole Morrissey Fountain donation and recognition at the James W. Cownie Soccer Park.

The Nicole Morrissey Victory Corner is a tribute to an inspirational 10-year-old girl who was exceptional in many ways. “Nicole’s Corner” will consist of a custom designed “Victory Fountain” made of soccer balls and a plaque delivering Nicole’s message: “You got to just keep going, and be strong...” In addition, there will be benches and a professionally designed landscaping area. “Nicole’s Corner” will be located just outside the entrance of “Coach” Cownie Stadium.

The Victory Fountain will be a focal point of the “Coach” Cownie Stadium, which has over 100,000 visitors annually. Once established, the City will maintain the fountain. Coins tossed into the fountain will be collected and deposited into the Nicole Morrissey Campership Endowment Fund. This fund will benefit The Heart Connection Children’s Cancer Center Programs, thus helping to ensure that children with cancer and their siblings will be able to attend a special week of camp.

Nicole's story is inspirational. She had a prosthetic leg due to cancer, yet still excelled in soccer. She scored her final goal at the Iowa Soccer Association's American Cup at the Cownie Soccer Park. In addition to excelling in sports, she lived her life focusing on family and friends, teaching all who knew her lessons in life well beyond her short 10 years. Her family continues to be involved with youth soccer in the Des Moines area. The impact of "Nicole's Corner" will go beyond the initial work. It will provide an avenue for ongoing giving to children with cancer through proceeds from the Victory Fountain and allow her story to encourage and inspire people of all ages for years to come.

Nicole was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, congenital fibro sarcoma, at the age of six. Following the amputation of her leg, she courageously faced many obstacles; she endured endless tests, hospital stays, school absences, radiation, and many bouts of chemotherapy with its accompanying hair loss. She learned to walk, run, ride a bike, and even play soccer with her prosthesis.

A ten-minute video was shared at Nicole's memorial service and at one point in the video, she was being interviewed for a radio broadcast and was asked: "How are things going now? Are you feeling all right?" Nicole answered, "Yes. I'm playing soccer." The interviewer said, "You are? I'm so proud of you! Did you score?" Nicole answered, "No not yet, but I know I'm going to!" And she did.

Family and friends of the Morrissey family have contributed to this project and Ball Construction Services, L.L.C has donated installation services. Once accepted by the City, the City will maintain the fountain and adjacent landscape areas; the maintenance is not expected to increase annual operating expenses.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: February 27, 2007

Roll Call Number:

Action: Received and filed Nicole Morrissey Memorial Fountain donation at James W. Cownie Soccer Park.

Date: March 27, 2007

Roll Call Number:

Action: Approval of donation agreement of decorative fountain in memory of Nicole Morrissey at the James W. Cownie Soccer Park.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE