



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

March 10, 2008

Agenda Item No. 69

Roll Call No. 08-

Communication No. 08-112

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

AGENDA HEADING:

Receive and file SuperBlock Master Plan and refer to various boards and City Manager for review and recommendation.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend receipt, filing, and referral of the conceptual SuperBlock Master Plan, including the unanimous recommendation for approval from the SuperBlock Steering Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Costs, funding sources, and a timeline for construction have not been determined at this time, but the total cost of full implementation could approach \$60 million. We expect a combination of funding sources will be required, including the Zoo Foundation, other private donations, and various governmental sources (Federal, State, County, and City). Project cost estimates will be reviewed and provided to Council with final recommendation. Costs incurred to date total \$29,000 for planning consultation.

Funding Source: for costs incurred to date, 2007-2008 CIP, G. O. Bonds from Neighborhood Park Improvements, CP040PKS990000, PKS137, page 13.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On August 6, 2007, by Roll Call No. 07-1559, City Council established a SuperBlock Technical Committee and Steering Committee. The objective of the SuperBlock Master Plan is to provide for the expansion of the Blank Park Zoo while considering the needs of other area attractions and facilities, including Fort Des Moines Park, A.H. Blank Golf Course, Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center, South Suburban YMCA, McCombs Middle School, Studebaker Elementary School, Southridge Mall, and other area businesses.

The adopted vision is to develop a plan that has consensus support of the stakeholders and uses the Zoo and other area attractions to stimulate economic and social growth in South Des Moines while developing a signature sustainable green project.

The SuperBlock Steering and Technical Committees have developed a conceptual Master Plan that fulfills the stated objective and vision. A joint Steering and Technical Committee meeting was held on February 27, 2008, during this meeting, attending Steering Committee members voted 14-0 in favor of

moving the conceptual SuperBlock Master Plan forward. During the next several weeks, the Plan will go before the Des Moines Public Schools School Board, Polk County Conservation Board, Polk County Board of Supervisors, Blank Park Zoo Foundation, the Plan and Zoning Commission, and Park and Recreation Board for approval.

Project costs incurred to date include \$24,040 to Genus Landscape Architects for consulting services and graphics; an additional \$1,960 to Genus Landscape Architects for a feasibility study for relocating 5 golf holes for Blank Golf Course; \$3,000 to Bassett Associates for a two-day design meeting for the Blank Park Zoo.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 7, 2008

Roll Call Number: [08-077](#)

Action: [Update](#) from the Super Block Master Plan Committee and request for extension of completion date to April 2008. Sponsor: Meyer. ([Council Communication No. 08-023](#)) Moved by Meyer to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 6, 2007

Roll Call Number: [07-1559](#)

Action: [Receive](#) and file planning [proposal](#) and authorize City Manager to initiate master planning process and convene the steering committee for the Southside SuperBlock Master Plan. Moved by Meyer to receive, file, and refer to the City Manager for action, as appropriate. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 24, 2007

Roll Call Number: [07-822](#)

Action: [Zoo](#) expansion and new County Park Land Transfer Agreement between the City of Des Moines, Polk County Conservation Board, Polk County, and Blank Park Zoo Foundation, Inc. ([Council Communication No. 07-246](#)) Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: March 12, 2007

Roll Call Number: [07-498](#)

Action: [Principles](#) of an Agreement between the Polk County Conservation Board, the Polk County Board of Supervisors and the Blank Park Zoo Foundation regarding expansion of the Blank Park Zoo, and authorizing City Manager to negotiate the agreement. Moved by Meyer to adopt; refer to the City Manager to review the conservation of the "Parade Grounds" and Fort Des Moines areas. Motion Carried 6-1.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): Park and Recreation Board

Date: February 26, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-024

Action: Receive and file the SuperBlock Master Plan

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of the conceptual SuperBlock Master Plan in April 2008 and subsequent actions necessary to implement the plan.

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