



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

September 22, 2008

Agenda Item No.

51B

Roll Call No.

08

Communication No. 08563

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp

Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of a license agreement with Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., D/B/A The Des Moines Art Center (DMAC) for temporary installation and maintenance of the sculpture entitled “Thinker on a Rock,” by Barry Flanagan, in the park located between 10th and 15th Streets, and Locust Street and Grand Avenue in what is generally known as “Western Gateway Park” (WGP).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of an agreement to authorize temporary placement of the “Thinker on a Rock” sculpture, by Barry Flanagan, in the 1200 block of Locust, south of the Pappajohn Higher Education Center in WGP. The sculpture is one among the collection of art being donated to DMAC by John and Mary Pappajohn, for installation in the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park presently under development between 13th and 15th Streets and Locust Street and Grand Avenue in WGP. The art piece will be permanently relocated to the sculpture park of WGP in 2009, upon the completion of the renovations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: The City will split any costs of delivery and installation that are incurred with DMAC, with a maximum payment by the City of up to \$1,000.

Funding Source: Costs incurred will come from existing funds in the operating budget for the Park and Recreation Department.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In January 2007, John and Mary Pappajohn announced the donation of several works of sculpture art by world-renowned artists to the Des Moines Art Center for placement in what has since been designed and named the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park, in Western Gateway Park. The donation of this collection of art for the benefit of the citizens of Des Moines and the general public has afforded the City the opportunity to create one of the most significant sculpture parks in the United States.

The original donation included sixteen pieces of art. However, in December 2007, Mr. Pappajohn purchased and proposed to donate a seventeenth piece, Jaume Plensa’s “Nomade,” which was temporarily installed at this same proposed WGP location. The artwork had previously been committed for temporary placement at Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan prior to purchase by the Pappajohns. It was removed from WGP, for shipment to Michigan, in August 2008 for fulfillment of that commitment; it will return to WGP for permanent placement in the sculpture park in

spring 2009. The public has enjoyed and appreciated the temporary placement of the Plensa sculpture and its presence will be missed, therefore, the Flanagan artwork (a photo of this work of art is attached to this roll call) has been proposed for a replacement at the temporary site.

The DMAC will make arrangements for the de-installation, transportation and re-setting of the sculpture from its present location on the Pappajohns' property in Des Moines, Iowa to WGP. Any costs incurred by DMAC will be underwritten with funds which have been donated by several corporations and individuals for the purpose of installation and maintenance of the entire collection of the works of art into the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park. Those funds are held by the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation. No incremental cost to the City will be associated with basic maintenance around the structure during the temporary installation.

Thinker on the Rock is approximately ten feet in height and six feet in diameter. It is cast in bronze with a dark patina. Installation will be completed within a 1-2 day timeframe, with the use of a crane situated on the street surface adjacent to the proposed location.

DMAC director, Jeff Fleming, has contacted and gained approval of the Public Art Foundation Chairperson, Pamela Bass Bookey, for the temporary installation of Thinker on the Rock at this location.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 17, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-2427

Action: License Agreement with Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc. d/b/a The Des Moines Art Center for installation and maintenance of a sculpture entitled Nomade at "Western Gateway Park". (Council Communication No. 07-736) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.

Date: November 5, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-2154

Action: Professional Services Agreement with Agrest and Gandelsonas Architects, LLP for schematic design of the Pappajohn Sculpture Garden at Western Gateway Park, not to exceed \$132,750. (Council Communication No. 07-671)

) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: February 26, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-389

Action: Intergovernmental 28E Operating Agreement with Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., d/b/a Des Moines Art Center for "Western Gateway" Sculpture Park (Council Communication No. 07-119) Moved by Hensley to continue to 3-26-07 at 5:00 P.M.; refer to City Manager to report on process for recommendations that come before the Council. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: February 20, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-019

Action: Park and Recreation Board approved the Art Center Agreement for Western Gateway Park Sculpture Garden. Motion carried. 8-0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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