



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date	May 4, 2009
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Agenda Item No.	32
Roll Call No.	<u>09-</u>
Communication No.	<u>09-270</u>
Submitted by:	Donald M. Tripp Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving a donation from the Meredith Corporation Foundation for improvements to the Meredith Trail.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to receive a donation of \$12,000 from the Meredith Corporation, Mell Meredith, Chairperson of the Meredith Corporation Foundation, 1716 Locust St., Des Moines, Iowa, 50309 to purchase materials and hire labor and consulting services for planting, watering, weeding and maintaining the right-of-way of a section of the Meredith Trail from approximately the southeast entrance to Gray's Lake Park eastward to Southwest 9th St. along Thomas Beck Road.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$12,000 (revenue)

Funding Source: The Meredith Corporation has placed \$12,000 in the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation's Gray's Lake Meredith Trail Fund from which a check for the same amount will be issued to the City of Des Moines to pay for materials, labor, and consulting services of a private landscaping contractor, Prairie Landscapes, 9188 NW Polk City Drive, Polk City, Iowa, 50226, Inger Lamb, owner. Prairie Landscape has been stipulated by Meredith Corporation and mutually agreed upon by the City to do the work as a condition of the donation. Prairie Landscape has performed other work for the City and is recognized as an expert in Iowa native species plantings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Meredith Corporation donated approximately \$2,000,000 to the City in March of 2005 toward the construction of the Meredith Trail and has since contributed funds and labor annually toward the plantings and maintenance of the right-of-way along the trail. One particular section of the trail's right-of-way between the southwest entrance to Gray's Lake and Southwest 9th St. along Thomas Beck Road requires significant maintenance and has additional planting opportunities. It is this area that the Meredith Corporation would like to focus its attention providing intensive maintenance to existing plants and increasing the overall number of native plant species.

To accomplish this goal, the City will use the Meredith donation to hire Inger Lamb, landscaper and owner of Prairie Landscapes. She will perform landscape maintenance and enhancements along the Meredith Trail. The services and enhancements include:

- Monitoring the native and invasive plant life along the trail
- Removal of invasive brush
- Working with additional City-recruited volunteers to aid in the removal of invasive plant material
- Filling in additional native grasses and wildflowers in the ornamental native planting beds along the trail's landscaped berm
- Spraying and weeding in and around the beds along the berm for non-native plants
- Seeding larger savanna areas on the trail's north side (fall)
- Developing interpretive programs (educational signage, walking tours, etc.)
- Communicating with City staff regarding additional work that needs to be accomplished that is best suited for City staff (mowing cycle, removal of brush and scrub trees, addressing vandalism, etc.)
- Identifying future needs and projects

Ms. Lamb will provide a monthly report of the work completed and a summary of her "to-do" list for the next month that will be shared with the City and the Meredith Foundation.

The project is to be completed by December 1, 2009, and the work will be supervised by Teva Dawson, Horticultural Inspector assigned to Gray's Lake Park.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: March 7, 2005

Roll Call Number: 05-609

Action: Intergovernmental 28E Agreement with Meredith Corporation Foundation for acceptance of a charitable gift to be used for improvements to American Discovery Trail Riverpoint Segment and Fleur Trail Connection. (Council Communication No. 05-119)
) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Nays: Brooks.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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