

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date</b>	August 24, 2009
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 42 <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>09-</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>09-591</u> <b>Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp</b> <span style="padding-left: 100px;"><b>Park and Recreation Director</b></span>	

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Authorizing the execution of a Donation and Construction Agreement between Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, Inc. D/B/A Rebuilding Together and the City of Des Moines Regarding Ashfield Park Playground.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend authorizing the execution of a Donation and Construction Agreement between Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, Inc. d/b/a Rebuilding Together, an Iowa non-profit corporation, Kimberly Hansen, Interim Executive Director, 1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 265, Des Moines, Iowa 50314 and the City of Des Moines in order to construct a new playground at Ashfield Park.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: Estimated value of City’s contribution is \$5,000 for survey, site plan, equipment removal, engineering review of construction, and seeding. The estimated value of the gift is \$50,000.

Funding Source:

2009-2010 CIP, G.O. Bonds from Neighborhood Park Improvements, CP040PKS990000, PKS 137, page 15. -- \$5,000

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Ashfield Park playground is a project of Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, with volunteers from Meredith Corporation. Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines is an affiliate of Rebuilding Together, Inc., a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping low-income homeowners, through home renovation and repair. The mission statement of Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines is to preserve and revitalize houses and communities, assuring that low-income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly and disabled and families with children live in warmth, safety, and independence.

The project at Ashfield Park is part of a larger Rebuilding Together community effort. Volunteers will also be:

- Working to improve energy efficiency in more than 50 homes in the Capitol East neighborhood including making minor repairs, installing energy efficient fixtures, sealing up doors and windows, and providing information to homeowners on energy efficiency practices;

- Planting trees within the Capitol East neighborhood in partnership with Trees Forever and Public Works;
- Improving landscaping at two community sites currently maintained by the Capitol East Neighborhood Organization (E 18<sup>th</sup> and Grand, and E 15<sup>th</sup> and Walnut); and
- Working with several non-profit organizations to make improvements to their facilities.

The Rebuilding Together project coordinator presented three different play structures to the Capitol East Neighborhood Organization at their monthly meeting on July 8, 2009. All of the options had multiple climbing elements and slides. All ages of residents were encouraged to vote for their favorite of these three GameTime play structure options. The structure chosen by an overwhelming majority was the “Bound Around,” with three slides and nine climbing features including a rock wall.

The playground is ADA compliant and was reviewed by the Access Advisory Board on August 19, 2009.

Rebuilding Together approached Polk County to help with the playground installation, and the County agreed to provide the curbing to encircle the playground and create a more complete finished product.

To partner in this effort, the City Parks and Recreation Department has agreed to remove old play equipment including a slide, climber, and tether ball pole. The City has also completed a survey and site plan for the new play equipment. Once the construction is complete, the Engineering Department will review and accept the construction and the Park and Recreation Department will seed any disturbed areas.

Preparation work for this project will begin in September. The volunteer work day for Meredith Corporation is October 8, 2009, with a rain date of October 9<sup>th</sup>. The neighborhood has agreed to help with backfilling the playground with engineered wood fiber chips after the new play equipment is installed.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Maintenance of the playground improvements in a safe and functional condition.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk’s Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk’s Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk’s Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday’s Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk’s Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).