

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	August 29, 2011
	Agenda Item No. 38 Roll Call No. [_____] Communication No. <u>11-560</u> Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Director of Park and Recreation, Judy A. Bradshaw, Chief of Police	

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of renewal and first amendment to the Evelyn K. Davis Park Grant agreement with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of a renewal and first amendment to the Evelyn K. Davis Park Grant agreement between the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines and the City to support the operational programming and security costs at Evelyn K. Davis Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Estimated revenue: approximately \$200,000 each year for the next 5 years

Funding Source: FY2012 Operating Budget, Davis Park, ET901 PKS981700, page 219.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In 2006 by Roll Call No. 06-1932, City Council approved acceptance of \$425,000 in private donations to help fund program, security and operations at Evelyn K. Davis Park. In 1996, City Council approved the creation of an Evelyn K. Davis fund account at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. This action is requesting the renewal of the 1996 agreement and the approval of the first amendment of the agreement to allow an estimated \$1,000,000 in additional donations and grants to continue to supplement funding for the programs and security at the park. These donations and grants are expected to be held by and managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

Programming and added security was begun in this park in 2007 through funding provided by a group of concerned citizens headed up by Bill Knapp. Also completed at this same time were infrastructure improvements that included amenities such as an additional open shelter with grills and picnic tables, walking path, playground equipment, enhanced lighting, additional restrooms and landscaping made possible through financial commitments and grant awards by the City, Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino, Polk County, the Vision Iowa CAT program and United Way.

The term of program and security funding expires in 2011 and funds will have been nearly depleted. Through the current plan, program funding will be re-established beginning in fall 2011 for a five-year

commitment with expanded security and recreational offerings through pledges by individuals, agency partners and grant funding. Funds will be held in and expenses paid through an account managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

The first program year consisted of only a summer module. In 2010, a fall after-school component was added and in 2011 a spring module was developed and many partnering agencies have been added along with longer hours of daily programming into the evening. The Police Department also added a Youth In Parks program component for adolescents ages 12-15. A new winter module will be added for winter 2011-12.

In spring, summer and fall, various area programming agencies (13 including ASAP-After School Arts Program, Des Moines Police and Park and Recreation Departments, Des Moines Public Schools, Urban Dreams, Character Counts in Iowa, CFUM-Children and Family Urban Ministries, MEEP–Multicultural Educational Exhibits Programs, LLYF, YMCA, Evelyn Davis Early Learning Academy, Habitat for Humanity and Mid City Connection) partner with the park in ways ranging from bringing their clientele to the programs to acting as lead host for special events or conducting activities in the park. Youth ages 5 through 16 are provided with structured, positive activities that will enrich their lives while at the same time enriching the community as a whole. Daily activities begin with daily self-worth affirmations and expectations and conclude with “Talk to Me” daily assessment/evaluation of their personal day’s experience. Outdoor literacy activities are provided by Des Moines’ adjacent Forest Avenue Library; summertime free lunches are provided 11:15–noon through Des Moines Public Schools for elementary school-age children, with evening meals provided along with activities in spring and fall. The Des Moines Park and Recreation Department provides staff to coordinate and expand the overall program and develop partnerships and activities.

These three seasonal modules are:

Spring ~ mid-April through the end of May and *Fall* ~ September through October
2:30–6:15 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; 1–7 p.m. Wednesdays

Summer ~ June through mid-August, 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays

This is a free weekday drop-in program, open to all elementary and latch-key children, particularly in the King Irving and adjacent Mondamin Presidential neighborhoods. No registration is required. The itinerary includes arts and crafts, National Junior Tennis League tennis lessons, field trips, fun fitness, boxing and fishing lessons and gardening and more, as listed previously. Character education is a part of the park experience, utilizing Character Counts as the character model.

Additional 2011 park activities have included:

- Mix Up The Fun - a series of three day-long Park and Recreation special events, activities include pony rides, bike and car art, talent show and sanctioned boxing exhibitions
- Weekly reading program and story time provided by Forest Avenue Library staff
- Shooting Stars Basketball League sponsored by Parks and Recreation and the Police Activities League - June through August, 4–8 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Free Flicks outdoor movie nights at the park – July and August
- National Night Out neighborhood celebration in conjunction with the Police and Park and Recreation Departments and five area neighborhood associations: King Irving, Mondamin Presidential, River Bend, Cheatom and Chautauqua.
- April birthday party celebration commemorating Evelyn K. Davis’ birth 90 years ago, attended by the Governor and Lt. Governor

Additional Community Programming in the Park:

- Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods - hosted Safe Summer Kick Off - May
- Juneteenth Celebration – 1,000 approximate annual attendance
- King Irving Neighborhood Association: annual Pancake Breakfast in the Park the last Saturday in May; and a Cultural Fair in October
- Central Soccer Program (sponsored by Walnut Creek Community Church as an outreach program): Thursday practices and Saturday games weekly May through early July; 42 teams representing over 500 youth players and approximately 150 adult coaches, volunteers, and spectators weekly
- Tackle Football League (sponsored by East High School coaches as a feeder program): Monday through Friday practices and Saturday games weekly August through October
- Dream Center organization weekly neighborhood and park cleanup; twice-monthly free food distribution at the park
- Public events through rentals of park shelters
- Additional Summer Camp Programs, for which much of the activity is focused at Evelyn Davis Park, are offered to youth by:
 - Children & Family Urban Ministries
 - YMCA
 - Urban Dreams with the Boys & Girls Club

Average daily attendance at the past year's drop-in programs have been: fall 2010 – 45; spring 2011 - 51; June and July 2011 - 280. An average of 60 children was served lunchtime meals. The three Mix up the Fun days of events have been equally successful with over 150 pony rides provided each of the days.

Des Moines Parks and Recreation and the Forest Avenue Branch of the Des Moines Public Libraries are collaborating to add a winter season program for three age groups of children from 6 to 16 years of age beginning winter 2011-12. Parks and Recreation will provide contracted recreational leadership for Saturday activities in a large meeting room of the library November through February from 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and will encourage parental/adult participation for the program, which will include art, music, social, recreational and field trip activities along with lunch/snacks. Programming will be provided free of charge to participants however monthly registration will be required as this will be a structured youth program.

The Police and Parks and Recreation Departments also added a Youth In Parks program component for adolescents ages 12-15. It begins summer weekdays at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast followed by a community service project such as a park clean up or working in community gardens. After the included lunch the youth are treated to a fun/learning activity such as Adventureland, Iowa State University, or the Blank Park Zoo. Transportation is provided to participants, if needed.

Personal safety and crime in the area and the park have been a great concern, not only for residents and the city's Police, Parks and Recreation, Public Library and Community Development Departments, but also for philanthropic supporters and neighboring institutions such as Drake University, Des Moines Area Community College, and Mercy Medical Center Des Moines. The security component of the project pays for an increased police security presence through the contracting of off-duty city police officers who patrol the park and King Irving Neighborhood with greater frequency and numbers than is typical throughout the city. The officers maintain the patrol in the park Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 4:00 p.m. until the park closes at sundown during the spring, summer and fall months. Officers maintain their presence in cars, on horseback and on bicycles. The overall number and specific days of security remain somewhat flexible and are committed based on observations of the Watch Commanders from day to day.

The overriding goals of programming are to push out unwelcome activities, reduce crime and provide an increased sense of safety and a family-friendly atmosphere for residents and visitors in this park that lies in the heart of the capital city. Enhanced park programming activity is a major deterrent to negative congregating of youth and crime that oftentimes accompanies it. At the same time, the programming component of this project provides increased physical fitness and activity, community attachment, civic engagement and identity development among at-risk youth of the King Irving and Mondamin-Residential Neighborhoods. An added goal of the winter program is to increase adult and youth usage of the library; many participants of the other three seasonal modules indicate they do not frequently use the library.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 25, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-1931

Action: (A) [Authorization](#) to submit Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Grant Application and to re-appropriate \$50,000 of FY 2006-07 Park and Recreation Department CIP Budget. Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 6-0.

Roll Call Number: [06-1932](#)

Action: B) [Acceptance](#) of donations to fund the improvements. ([Council Communication No. 06-623](#)) Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 6-0.

Date: February 19, 1996

Roll Call Number: 96-626

Action: Acceptance of Greater Des Moines Foundation grant, \$25,000, for structures and supervised recreational activities in Evelyn K. Davis Park. (Council Communication No. 96-064) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.

Date: June 28, 1993

Roll Call Number: 93-2535

Action: Motion to dedicate the park at 16th and Forest Avenue as Evelyn K. Davis Park on July 5th, 1993. (Council Communication No. 93-271) Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion carried 6-0, one absent.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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