

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: January 9, 2012
	Agenda Item No. 23 Roll Call No. <u>12-0041</u> Communication No. <u>12-013</u> Submitted by: Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approve grant requests to Polk County Housing Trust Fund (\$5,000) and Downtown Community Alliance (\$5,000) by the Neighborhood Development Division for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program neighborhood planning efforts.

SYNOPSIS:

The City of Des Moines Neighborhood Development/Planning Division has recently selected eight neighborhoods to work with on neighborhood planning efforts over the next three years. The planning staff is seeking new and innovative strategies on how to strengthen the neighborhood planning process by broadening participation and reaching populations that typically don't participate in the planning process. After a significant amount of research on tools that are available, planning staff has identified a web based tool called MindMixer that would be a very effective and inclusive tool to help facilitate the planning process. This action authorizes requests to the Polk County Housing Trust Fund and to the Downtown Community Alliance for grant funds to subscribe to MindMixer for two years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$20,000

Funding Source: Polk County Housing Trust Fund: \$5,000; Downtown Community Alliance: \$5,000; CDD Community Development Block Grant—2006 King Irving (2006018): \$10,000.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines has worked with individual neighborhoods on revitalization strategies through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and neighborhood planning process for over 20 years. Recognized Neighborhoods work alongside City of Des Moines Planning staff to identify neighborhood concerns and develop strategies to address those concerns. In order to utilize staff time effectively while maximizing input, planning staff would like to pursue a subscription to MindMixer to help facilitate the planning process in the eight neighborhoods that were recently selected for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

MindMixer is essentially a virtual town hall service dedicated to municipal and government projects. MindMixer is a website that can host several different forums or discussion on several different topics or questions. This tool will allow planning staff to reach a wider range of citizens within the neighborhoods in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program in an efficient and effective manner. Planning staff is

confident that this tool will generate a broader audience and create more effective community participation, leading to measurable results and invaluable insights for community leaders and elected officials. Planning staff is confident that adding MindMixer to the City's neighborhood planning processes will enhance the citizen experience, broaden the reach of participants, and allow citizens true freedom to infuse their own creative ideas into the process.

More information on MindMixer can be found at their website <http://www.mindmixer.com>. MindMixer's website offers detailed information on the services it provides as well as links to other municipalities and jurisdictions that have utilized this tool in seeking citizen input and idea generation.

The \$20,000 two year subscription fee includes a custom website, site hosting and site administration, customer service, detailed project reporting, text and idea hotline integration, and many other benefits. This action authorizes requests to the Polk County Housing Trust Fund and to the Downtown Community Alliance for grant funds to subscribe to MindMixer for two years.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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