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|  <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p> | Date: August 26, 2013 |
| | Agenda Item No. 31 Roll Call No. <u>13-1338</u> Communication No. <u>13-441</u> Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director |

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving donation agreement with Susan Muelhaupt and Des Moines Park and Recreation Foundation for Greenwood Park Wading Pool Shelter and naming the shelter the Jay Spence Shelter House.

SYNOPSIS:

Approving donation agreement and recommendation from the Park and Recreation Board on the naming of the wading pool shelter at Greenwood Park, 4500 Grand Avenue, the Jay Spence Shelter House.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

At the May 20, 2013 City Council meeting, Council Member Hensley asked the Council to receive, file and refer to the City Manager a letter from Des Moines citizen Susan Muelhaupt requesting consideration of the naming of the shelter adjacent to the wading pool in Greenwood Park for her son, Jay Spence. On June 25, 2013, the Park and Recreation Board received and filed the staff findings regarding the proposed naming and approved setting date of hearing for the board’s July meeting. At the scheduled July 31, 2013 meeting, the Park and Recreation Board voted unanimously to recommend City Council approve the designation of the wading pool shelter at Greenwood Park as the Jay Spence Shelter House.

The shelter was originally constructed as a Works Progress Administration project in the late 1930’s and consists of restrooms, storage rooms, and an open air portion that provides cover over several picnic tables. The majority of City park shelter renters prefer to reserve enclosed shelters, which have limited availability due to high demand and short supply. Recently, staff developed a conceptual plan to combine Greenwood Park wading pool shelter’s picnic space with the facility’s storage rooms, to create an expanded, enclosed shelter similar in size to those at Union Park, which have a capacity of 50 people. Staff has sought donations for the renovation, which has not proceeded due to a lack of adequate funding.

In December 2012, Susan Muelhaupt spoke to Park and Recreation Director Ben Page about her desire to make a significant financial gift toward a project in Greenwood Park in memory of her deceased son. He suggested the donation be used to move the shelter project forward and in support of that suggestion, she subsequently presented a \$50,000 donation to the Friends of Des Moines Parks and

Recreation, with the stipulation that it be used to help underwrite the cost of renovating this Greenwood Park shelter.

In response to Susan Muelhaupt's request to City Council to consider naming the Greenwood facility the Jay Spence Shelter, staff has moved forward with research into the naming requirements and the background of this request. Jay Spence played in his neighborhood's Greenwood Park during his childhood and was educated in Des Moines Public Schools. Jay Spence later moved to Los Angeles, where he became a successful professional photographer; he passed away 10 years ago.

Susan Muelhaupt's donation equates to approximately 20-25% of the estimated \$225,000 construction cost of the Greenwood Park wading pool shelter renovation project, for which the remaining funds are budgeted in the Park and Recreation Department's Capital Improvement Program. The donation has moved the project forward from the conceptual stage and staff is currently working with the City's Engineering Department on design drawings in anticipation of a Fall 2013 construction start and completion in 2014.

The City's policy does allow for naming requests of facilities related to significant donations of funds and Park and Recreation staff agrees that naming the shelter in honor of Susan Muelhaupt's deceased son complies with that policy. The policy does require a naming agreement be entered into between the City and donor or entity providing the donation prior to or upon approval of the naming request.

Susan Muelhaupt is a past member of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board and was one of the founders of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Foundation. She currently serves as a board member of the foundation, dba Friends of Des Moines Parks and Recreation.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 20, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-0822](#)

Action: [From](#) Council Member Christine Hensley to speak regarding the naming of Greenwood Park Wading Pool Shelter. Moved by Hensley to refer to City Manager and Parks and Recreation Department to start the renaming process. City Manager to review the criteria for renaming. Motion carried 7-0.

Date: May 4, 2009

Roll Call Number: [09-801](#)

Action: [Adoption](#) of a policy for naming/renaming of streets, facilities, park facilities and park land in the City of Des Moines. Moved by Coleman to adopt the policy as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: July 31, 2013

Resolution Number: 13-054

Action: Hold public hearing and approve a recommendation that City Council name the wading pool shelter at Greenwood Park, 4500 Grand Avenue, the Jay Spence Shelter House.

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: June 25, 2013

Roll Call Number: 13-048

Action: Receive and file staff findings and approve setting date of hearing on naming of the wading pool shelter at Greenwood Park, 4500 Grand Avenue, the Jay Spence Shelter House.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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