

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: September 23, 2013
	Agenda Item No. 25 Roll Call No. <u>13-1487</u> Communication No. <u>13-478</u> Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval 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 Columbus Park playground.

SYNOPSIS:

Approving a Donation and Construction Agreement between Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, Inc. (d/b/a Rebuilding Together), an Iowa non-profit corporation, Kimberly Hansen, Executive Director, 1111 9th Street, Suite 265, Des Moines, Iowa and the City of Des Moines in order to construct a new playground at Columbus Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Estimated value of the donation is \$50,000. The estimated cost of the City’s contribution is \$8,000 for Engineering Department’s survey, site plan, and review of construction; Park and Recreation Department’s purchase of engineered-wood-fiber safety surfacing and grass seed.

Funding Source: FY 2014 CIP, G.O. Bonds from Neighborhood Park Improvements, CP040PKS990000, PKS 137, Page 15 -- \$5,000. FY 2014 Operating Budget, GE001 PKS070400, page 172 -- \$3,000.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Columbus Park playground is a project of Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, with volunteer work completed by Meredith Corporation employees. Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines is an affiliate of Rebuilding Together, Inc., a national non-profit organization dedicated principally to helping low-income homeowners, through home renovation and repair. The mission statement of Rebuilding Together is to preserve and revitalize houses and communities, assuring that qualified homeowners, particularly those who are elderly and disabled, and families with children, live in warmth, safety, and independence.

The Columbus Park playground will include multiple climbing elements and slides with Meredith Corporation’s choice of a ship theme. This unit was also shown to and approved by the McKinley/ Columbus Neighborhood Association at its September 3, 2013 meeting. The playground is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and was reviewed by the Access Advisory Board on August 21, 2013.

To partner in this effort, the Park and Recreation Department has agreed to remove old play equipment in the park and provide the required engineered-wood-fiber safety surfacing. The City Engineering Department surveyed the area and created the site plan. When construction is complete, Engineering will review and accept the construction, and the Park and Recreation Department will seed any disturbed areas.

Rebuilding Together also approached Polk County to help with the playground project; they will provide site preparation and the concrete curbing to encircle the playground and create a more complete finished product. The partners' preparation work began in September and the volunteer work day for Meredith Corporation employees is October 3, 2013, with a rain date of October 4, 2013.

The Columbus Park playground project is part of a larger Rebuilding Together community effort by Meredith Corporation volunteer staff on October 3, 2013. Volunteers will also be:

- Repainting the Columbus Park picnic gazebo and adding some landscaping to the park;
- Working to improve five (5) homes in the Columbus/McKinley neighborhood, including: making minor repairs to roofs and exteriors, painting, landscaping, and building a wheelchair ramp; and
- Working with the Bellizzi MacRae American Legion Post at 1813 SE 1st Street, to make improvements to their facility.

In October 2012, Meredith Corporation completed a Columbus Park Rebuilding Together project that included an accessible sidewalk between the tennis and basketball courts, installation of shade structures, benches, and landscaping at the bocce ball courts, and installation and landscaping around a new park identification sign. At the same time, the Park and Recreation and Public Works Departments collaborated on reconstruction of the open-space athletic field.

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.

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