

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	May 5, 2014
	Agenda Item No.	30
	Roll Call No.	<u>14-0704</u>
	Communication No.	<u>14-211</u>
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving donation agreement between Rotary Club of Des Moines A.M. Foundation (Rotary) and the City of Des Moines for a new playground being planned for a location immediately north of the Iowa Women of Achievement Bridge, on the west side of the Des Moines River, and naming the playground the Rotary Riverwalk Park.

SYNOPSIS:

Approval of a donation agreement between Rotary and the City of Des Moines for a new playground being planned for a location immediately north of the Iowa Women of Achievement Bridge, a.k.a. Center Street Bridge, on the west side of the Des Moines River, including naming the facility the Rotary Riverwalk Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: The estimated value of this donation is \$500,000, which is the expense to construct the new playground and other site amenities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

At the November 4, 2013 City Council meeting, by Roll Call No. 13-1743, Council Member Hensley asked the Council to receive, file and refer to the City Manager a letter from Rotary requesting consideration of the naming of a new playground now in the planning stage for a location immediately north of the Center Street Bridge, on the west side of the Des Moines River, the Rotary Riverwalk Park. Over the course of the past eight (8) years, fund raising efforts of six (6) central Iowa Rotary Clubs - Rotary Club of Des Moines A.M., Rotary Club of Des Moines, Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines, Rotary Club of West Polk County, Rotary Club of West Des Moines, and Rotary Club of Waukee – have resulted in donations in excess of \$500,000 to construct this new playground.

In 2003, the Principal Financial Group announced that it would be building a river walk as a gift to the City of Des Moines in celebration of its 125th anniversary. On October 7, 2013, a grand opening event took place in celebration of the completion of numerous facilities that had been built as components of the Principal Riverwalk, which now allows visitors to walk, run, bike, ice skate and enjoy other leisure activities in a beautiful and natural outdoor setting along the banks of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers in downtown Des Moines.

When the Principal Financial Group announced its plans to donate time, resources, and funds to construct the Principal Riverwalk, the central Iowa Rotary clubs began plans to develop a playground component. Although it took longer than initially planned, the Rotary clubs have now completed their fund raising efforts and are ready to move forward with their intention to build a custom-designed playground featuring a larger-than-life-sized fishing pole and bobber. The design includes swings, which will hang from the “pole,” and a rubberized play surface that will be installed around the “bobber,” allowing children to climb and play on the facility, which also incorporates seating, landscaping, and signage.

Along with committing to fully fund the construction of the new playground, Rotary has requested that the new facility be named Rotary Riverwalk Park. In follow-up to Rotary’s request to City Council, staff has proceeded with completion of the City’s naming requirements of research into the background of such a request.

Rotary International is a volunteer organization of 1.2 million business and professional leaders united worldwide to provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace. Founded in Chicago in 1905 as the world’s first volunteer service organization, Rotary quickly expanded around the globe. Today, club members meet to plan service projects, discuss community and international issues, and enjoy fellowship.

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 playground in recognition of the financial contribution of the central Iowa Rotary Clubs complies with that policy. The Park and Recreation Board held a public hearing on the proposed naming, followed by action to approve a recommendation of this proposal to City Council. Staff is recommending that the new playground be constructed immediately north of the Iowa Women of Achievement Bridge on the west side of the Des Moines River and be named Rotary Riverwalk Park.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 4, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-1743](#)

Action: [Letter](#) from Rotary Club of Des Moines A.M. Foundation regarding naming of proposed new playground to be built by the Rotary Club along the Principal Riverwalk to be named “Rotary Riverwalk Park.” Moved by Hensley to receive and file such proposal and refer to the City Manager and Park and Recreation Board for review and recommendation. Motion Carried 6-0.

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: December 16, 2013

Resolution Number: 13-099

Action: Hold public hearing and approve the naming of a new playground being planned for a location immediately north of the Iowa Women of Achievement Bridge, on the west side of the Des Moines River, the Rotary Riverwalk Park. Motion by Koenig-VandeHaar to approve the naming of the Rotary Riverwalk Park, second by Scavo. Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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