

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: September 12, 2016
	Agenda Item No. 57 Roll Call No. [_____] Communication No. <u>16-491</u> Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approve a proposed addition to the Des Moines Art Center parking lot within Greenwood Park.

SYNOPSIS:

Staff recommends approval of a proposed addition to the parking lot at the Des Moines Art Center within Greenwood Park.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Des Moines Art Center, located in Greenwood Park on land allocated by the City of Des Moines for its use, is proposing to modify the entrance drive to the facility to create additional parking for its visitors. Currently the existing parking lot, which contains a total of 111 parking spaces, is often inadequate to accommodate visitors to a lecture, education program, film, or exhibition opening, forcing participants to park on 45th Street and sometimes Polk Boulevard.
- To help improve this situation as shown on the plan attached to the roll call, the Art Center would like to change the current parallel parking along the entrance driveway to drive-in parking. This renovation would add 10 additional parking spaces for an almost 10% increase in available parking. To accomplish this, the Art Center would not encroach on the front lawn to the north of the entrance drive in any way, but would instead cut off the ends of the two (2) existing islands along the south side of the entrance drive and slightly modify the curve of the drive to allow for 17-foot deep 90 degree parking and a 24-foot wide driveway. Only one (1) tree (Red Oak, 20 inches at breast height) would have to be removed to accomplish their proposed plan. The Art Center would be willing to plant additional trees in the park to mitigate the loss of the Red Oak.
- The Des Moines Art Center is located on parkland for which the Art Center Board of Trustees is granted the right to use for purposes of an art museum open to the public by ordinances enacted by the City Council beginning in 1940. Ordinance #4984, passed in 1948, increased the land granted for use to 5-acres and conditioned the use on the requirement that the Art Center Board of Trustee landscape or terrace the site to the satisfaction of the Park Board:
- “It is hereby understood and agreed that the Trustees are to grade to correspond with the grade of the property lying immediately adjacent thereto, matching the park walks and borderlines, and to maintain whatever portion of the park is granted to them under this ordinance, namely,

walks and drives; and the land acquired shall be landscaped or terraced to the satisfaction of the park board engineer.”

- Based on this ordinance, site plans which remove trees from this land grant to the Des Moines Art Center should be reviewed by, and receive the recommendation of, the Park and Recreation Board, with the recommendation being sent to the City Council for their ultimate review and approval of such site plans.
- At its August 23, 2016 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Board approved the proposed parking lot expansion at the Des Moines Art Center.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: August 23, 2016

Resolution Number: 16-064

Action: Motion by Davis for approval of the Des Moines Art Center parking lot expansion. Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: July 26, 2016

Resolution Number: 16-055

Action: Jeff Fleming, Art Center Director, remarked that the Art Center has experienced an issue of not enough parking in the lot. The Art Center is requesting that the parking lot and driveway be modified to increase parking by 10%. This will add safety and accessibility. One Red Oak tree will need to be removed but the proposal is to add two additional trees. Pugh asked if the additional parking would cover their needs. Fleming advised that it would not but would look at street parking. Motion by Facto to receive and file the Des Moines Art Center parking lot expansion request Second by Boesen Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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