

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: May 8, 2017
	Agenda Item No. 46 Roll Call No. <u>17-781</u> Communication No. <u>17-400</u> Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of Donation and Naming Agreement with Employers Mutual Casual Company for funding and naming a new overlook at MacRae Park.

SYNOPSIS:

The Employers Mutual Casual Company (Mick Lovell, Executive Vice President, 717 Mulberry Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309), has committed a charitable contribution in the amount of \$250,000 towards the construction and naming of a new overlook feature in MacRae Park, to be known as the EMC Overlook.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$250,000.00

Funding Source: \$250,000 donation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- For the past several years the Parks and Recreation Department has been working to improve MacRae Park. To date, the park has been connected to the Meredith Trail with a small trail connection crossing Thomas Beck Road, invasive species removal has been undertaken in the historic oak woodland and the historic shelter house at the southwest corner is currently under renovation.
- The next proposed project for the park is an improvement to the overlook of downtown from the north edge of the park. This location has had one (1) of the best views of the City since its founding in the 1850's and has been popular prior to the land being preserved for the park.
- Because of the popularity of the overlook, a small group of interested citizens began to work with City Councilmembers Joe Gatto and Christine Hensley along with Parks and Recreation staff to prepare concepts for a new overlook and fundraise for its construction.
- The following conceptual design for the overlook was donated by Mike Simonson:



- It is estimated that the total cost for design and construction of the overlook will be \$1,000,000. The Employers Mutual Casual Company (EMC) has agreed to be the lead donor for the project with a \$250,000 donation in exchange for naming the overlook the EMC Overlook. To date, \$688,000 has been raised for the project through grants, pledges and private donations for the project, with additional outstanding fundraising occurring until the project bid date. The remaining portion of the project will be covered through the City's Capital Improvement Budget.
- It is anticipated that construction of the project will begin as early as Spring of 2018 upon approval of the design and bid of the project by the City Council.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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