

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: June 12, 2017
	Agenda Item No. 39 Roll Call No. <u>17-0990</u> Communication No. <u>17-458</u> Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Accepting proposal of RDG Planning & Design for the provision of professional consultant services for the development of a parks and recreation comprehensive plan and approving contract for same.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the proposal from RDG Planning and Design (RDG IA Inc. d/b/a RDG Planning & Design, Scott Crawford, Principal, 301 Grand Avenue, Iowa, 50309) and approving contract for the provision of the same to conduct a parks and recreation comprehensive plan for the City of Des Moines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$249,638

Funding Source: 2017-2018 CIP, Page Park Improvements – 11, Park Improvements, PK137, \$249,638 - G.O. Bonds Issued.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In order for the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department to continue to provide quality parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs, a renewed strategic vision for the future of the park and recreation system is necessary. To accomplish this, the Parks and Recreation Department is starting to move forward with the development of a new Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

This effort was one (1) of the key Parks and Recreation goals from PlanDSM and was prioritized within the City Council’s strategic GuideDSM initiatives.

The City of Des Moines’ park and open space is an outwardly visible reflection of the quality of life that is attracting people, businesses and major events to the City. Facilities like Gray’s Lake, the Pappajohn Sculpture Garden, Principal Riverwalk, Cownie Soccer Park, Union Park and the Bill Riley Trail are icons of Des Moines, with annual uses in the millions by residents and visitors alike. These landmarks are responsible for direct and indirect economic benefits to the City through increased property tax values, attracting sports, music and cultural events that bring visitors to the City and development that is sited near park and trail facilities.

The City’s park system is no accident -- it is the result of thoughtful planning articulating a shared vision of the City’s parks, trails and natural resources. This shared vision was last documented in 1995

in the comprehensive park plan known as *Parklands, A Celebration of Des Moines' Community Spirit (Parklands)*. This 20-year old document successfully guided the City's parks and recreation system through significant changes, contributing to Des Moines being recognized nationally as a special place to live, work, play and visit.

Since *Parklands* was adopted, there have been many changes in the City, which have included:

- A growing regional and City population
- A more diverse demographic within the City of Des Moines
- An enhanced need for paved walking and bicycling trails
- The expressed need for quality parks, recreation facilities and program services

The insight gained from *Parklands* brought to life key achievements, which no one can imagine Des Moines being without:

- Gray's Lake Park – For decades the City had nothing more than a beach concession and picnic area used by a few thousand people annually. Following the devastating floods of 1993, it was clear that potential existed for more. Guided by *Parklands*, land acquisition and redevelopment led to complete renovation and reopening of Des Moines' Gray's Lake Park in 2001. Gray's Lake is now an award winning public park, seeing over 1,000,000 users per year and named one (1) of the American Planning Association's Great Public Spaces in 2011: www.planning.org/greatplaces/spaces/2011/.
- Principal Riverwalk – Completed in 2014, the planning and execution of the Principal Riverwalk drew on many goals established by *Parklands*. This destination helps define downtown Des Moines and the East Village with a series of parks, trails and public facilities. The most memorable of these include 1.2 mile bike and pedestrian promenade connected to the City's trail system, two (2) signature bike and pedestrian bridges across the Des Moines River, an ice skating plaza, a riverfront amphitheater, a café with event space, multiple gardens and art installations all interwoven with vital flood protection.
- Des Moines Trail System – With its foundation outlined in *Parklands*, the City's trail system has developed into a model for the country for providing a connected system of trails, greenways and linear parks. Our 60 miles of paved off street trail system links most of the community together and connects to a larger system of nearly 650 miles of trail in Central Iowa, serving as an economic catalyst for Des Moines and Central Iowa. Des Moines was designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists due to its trail system and all the activities, events and rides planned on it each year.

In order to begin the process of creating the new Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, the Park and Recreation Department solicited proposals in April 2017 for a parks and recreation comprehensive plan, receiving six (6) proposals. The six (6) proposals received include:

- Proposal 1: Balmori and Associates (\$495,500)
- Proposal 2: Confluence (\$249,995)
- Proposal 3: Genus Landscape Architects (\$288,395)
- Proposal 4: Greenberg Farrow (\$139,000)
- Proposal 5: GreenPlay LLC (\$129,999)
- Proposal 6: RDG Planning and Design (\$249,638)

A selection committee made up of nine (9) people from the Parks and Recreation, Community Development, Economic Development, Finance and Engineering Departments scored the applications and have recommended that the proposal submitted by RDG Planning and Design be awarded the contract to complete the parks and recreation comprehensive plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

City Council adoption of park and recreation comprehensive plan upon completion.

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