

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: August 28, 2017
	Agenda Item No. 44A Roll Call No. <u>17-1490</u> Communication No. <u>17-612</u> Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of the Des Moines Winterset Memorial bid for monument repair services at the Woodland Cemetery.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommendation approval of Bid No. V18-010 from Des Moines Winterset Memorial to perform monument repair services at Woodland Cemetery in accordance with bid specifications, terms and conditions. Price per monument is \$155.00 with a quantity of 300 for a total of \$46,500.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$50,000; Revenue \$25,000 from Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines

Funding Source: 2017-2018 CIP, Page Park – 4, Cemetery Infrastructure Improvements. PK138, \$25,000 G.O. Bonds Issued, with a \$25,000 donation from the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- As a perpetual care cemetery, memorials (sometimes called headstones or footstones) adhere to requirements specified by the City that individuals or families are responsible for the care of the memorials. However, since most of the monuments are from the 1800 and early 1900’s, there are no known living individuals caring for the monuments. At the time the monuments were installed, few regulations were in place regarding the type and the installation methods. This has led to monuments that are leaning or fallen. Recognizing this is an obligation of the heirs and relatives of the deceased, the monuments have been left untouched. The disrepair negatively impacts the marketability of all City of Des Moines cemeteries.
- The donors of the pilot project felt Blocks 10 and 11 needed attention because they were close to the front entrance of the cemetery. The scope of work does not include monuments that have damage (chips, cracks, broken pieces, or faded lettering) or mausoleums.
- The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (with the support of several donors) has agreed to provide a sum of \$25,000 to pay for the leveling and resetting of 300 monuments in

Woodland Cemetery, Blocks 10 and 11 with the work to be completed by November 30, 2017, as a pilot project providing the City match the \$25,000 donation during FY 2018.

- Most monuments in the Woodland Cemetery are usually two (2) pieces (the base and the headstone). The pieces are joined together by a setting compound similar to window glazing putty. The compound is not designed to structurally support the monument but is meant to prevent moisture entry. The two (2) pieces for larger stones are set on top of a cement foundation. Gravity keeps the pieces together; however, various factors may contribute to the pieces coming apart. This results in the stone becoming unlevelled or tipping over. Most burials at the cemetery did not contain a burial vault and the result has impacted the foundation, base and headstone. Monuments set on a hilly terrain tend to be pushed downhill, slowly through the forces of soil erosion. Depending on their orientation to the hill, monuments tend to lean forward or backward, or side to side.
- Although it may appear simple to reset a monument, it's a difficult process due to not knowing what is underground until you begin the excavation process. Larger monuments need to be raised with proper tools and techniques. The work will also include cleaning the selected monuments.
- The pilot plan is a small scale preliminary project conducted to evaluate the feasibility, time, cost and adverse events in an attempt to predict and perform a full-scale project. The City and donors will evaluate the project by December 31, 2017, and determine the next steps.
- The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines donation requires a dollar for dollar match between Foundation and City funds in order for the City to receive the full \$25,000.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: July 10, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-1169](#)

Action: [Donation](#) Agreement with Greater Des Moines Community Foundation regarding resetting of monuments at Woodland Cemetery. ([Council Communication No. 17-523](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Administration Building, 400 E. Court Avenue Ste.116. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.