


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	19-267	Meeting:	June 3, 2019
	Agenda Item:	38	Roll Call:	19-0900
	Submitted by:	Scott Sanders, City Manager		

AGENDA HEADING:

Amendment to A. H. Blank Park Zoo 28E Operational Agreement by and between the City of Des Moines and the Blank Park Zoo Foundation, Inc. (Foundation).

SYNOPSIS:

Amending the agreement between the City of Des Moines and the Foundation, such that the Foundation will pay 5% of its water usage to Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) beginning July 1, 2019, 10% beginning FY 2021, 15% beginning FY 2022, and 20% beginning FY 2023 and thereafter.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Potential fiscal impact of up to 95% of the Foundation's water bill in the FY 2020 decreasing to 80% in FY 2023. The annual cost of water is estimated at \$120,000 annually. Fiscal impact is dependent on negotiations between the City and DMWW.

Funding Source: General Fund if any funds are owed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Blank Park Zoo is an asset to the Greater Des Moines Area, providing a family-friendly recreational experience for citizens of Des Moines, the surrounding communities, and visitors. Examples of Blank Park Zoo's engagement with the community include:
 - Donating 40,000 child admission tickets to libraries around the state for kids that complete their summer reading goals.
 - Engaging over 1,000 youth from the Des Moines area with a free trip to the Blank Park Zoo through the "Zoo Days" program.
 - Donating over 700 family four (4) packs of tickets (2,800 tickets in total) each year to support area schools and non-profits.
 - Hosting special evening events for families with children that have terminal illnesses, special needs, or disabilities. In 2018, over 3,000 people attended these events.

- The Foundation is a non-profit entity in which all funds generated above operating expenses, including private sector contributions, go back into the Blank Park Zoo to improve exhibits, expand its program offerings, and enhance the Blank Park Zoo's infrastructure and improvements. During the 53 years of the Blank Park Zoo's existence, DMWW had not charged Blank Park Zoo for its water usage. After discussions with the City, the Foundation has agreed to begin paying a portion of its water use costs to DMWW in the following structure:
 - Pay 5% of water bill to DMWW beginning July 1, 2019 (FY 2020)
 - Pay 10% of water bill to DMWW for FY 2021
 - Pay 15% of water bill to DMWW for FY 2022
 - Pay 20% of water bill to DMWW for FY 2023 and thereafter
- The Foundation's payment to DMWW will be capped at 20% of their water usage. The City of Des Moines assumes responsibility for the remaining amount of the water bill, if any, and is pursuing an arrangement with DMWW to avoid any additional costs.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: April 25, 2011

Roll Call Number: 11-0712

Action: [Hearing](#) on Long-term Lease, Operation, Management, and Maintenance Agreement. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 11, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-0592](#), [11-0593](#), and [11-0594](#)

Action: On items regarding the Blank Park Zoo, (4-25-11): ([Council Communication No. 11-219](#))

- (A) [On](#) long-term lease agreement between the City and A.H. Blank Park Zoo Foundation, Inc. for operations, management and maintenance of the A.H. Blank Park Zoo. Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.
- (B) [On](#) vacation of A.H. Blank Park and A.H. Blank Park Zoo as parkland. Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.
- (C) [On](#) reallocation of certain unspent proceeds of the General Obligation Bonds-Taxable Series 2009G, General Obligation Bonds-Series 2010D, and General Obligation Bonds-Taxable Series, 2010E. ([Council Communication No. 11-223](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: January 25, 2011

Resolution Number: 11-007

Action: Approval of proposed development and long-term lease amendment, guiding principles.

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: November 23, 2010

Resolution Number: 10-097

Action: Received and filed proposed development and long-term lease amendment, guiding principles.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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