


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number: 25-162	Meeting: April 21, 2025
	Agenda Item: 39	Roll Call: 25-0592
	Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director	

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution approving payment of \$76,866.35 of donated funds for plant material and installation from Quality Cut Lawn Care LLC for Fleur Drive Medians Phase Three Landscape Installation Project.

SYNOPSIS:

The City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department is requesting an increase of \$76,866.35 to the purchase order issued for Phase Three - Landscape Installation for the Fleur Drive Medians to Quality Cut Lawn Care LLC. The requested amount includes \$49,101.54 for additional plant material installed in Medians 7 through 17 as part of Phase Three, and \$27,764.81 for plant material used to replace plants which did not survive the establishment period but were past the warrantee period in the two (2) previous phases, Medians 1 through 6 of the project. The added work supports the completion and closeout of this multi-phase project, incorporating final design recommendations from landscape consultant Hoerr Schaudt, with a focus on improving plant resiliency, sustainability, and traffic visibility. All additional project costs are reimbursed through donor funds provided by the Ruan Family Foundation, with no additional impact to the City's General Fund.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$76,866.35

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), PK195 Fleur Drive Medians, Page 92, Being: Private Contributions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Fleur Drive Medians project began in 2004 as a public-private initiative led by civic leaders and supported through private contributions, including substantial donations from the Ruan Family Foundation.
- The vision, developed by landscape architect Doug Hoerr, called for a unified, ornamental planting scheme to enhance this key Des Moines corridor. In 2020, a renewed planning effort was launched to modernize the design. Led by Hoerr Schaudt and a committee including civic leaders and staff from the City Manager's Office, Engineering, Parks and Recreation, and Des Moines Water Works, this effort prioritized a naturalized design, sustainable plantings, and a new maintenance model tailored to the corridor's environmental challenges.

- Hoerr Schaudt, was hired with private funding and completed a comprehensive analysis that included topography, microclimates, common flooding areas, site lines, accident data and weed and soil problems.
- The landscape median project involved removing the existing plant material and soil from each median, installing sub-drains, installing an amended soil mixture, installing irrigation, and installing new plant material and mulch. The City was responsible for plant and soil removal, sub-drains, and irrigation. Grants along with private donations, paid for the soil, plant material, installation and mulch.
- Phase One (Medians 1-3) was completed in 2021 and Phase Two (Medians 4-6) in 2023.
- The final Phase Three (Medians 7-17) landscape installation was awarded to Quality Cut Lawn Care LLC on March 18, 2024, in the amount of \$247,710.95, which was also funded by a generous donation from the Ruan Family Foundation.
- An assessment of Phases One and Two by the design team identified recommendations and adjustments to the existing plantings to support continual improvement and ensure alignment with the original design parameters and project vision. These findings informed revisions to the Phase Three planting plan, with the goal of enhancing traffic visibility and improving plant survivability within the median environment.
- Quality Cut Lawn Care LLC, already mobilized on-site, was positioned to support the most efficient and cost-effective implementation. The contractor sourced and installed updated plant material recommended by the design team across the entire median corridor, completing the project ahead of schedule and approximately \$70,000 under the original funding estimate and donation generously provided by the Ruan Family Foundation.
- As outlined under the existing 28E Agreement, Des Moines Water Works will continue to manage ongoing maintenance, and future plant replacements, ensuring long-term sustainability and appearance.
- Parks and Recreation will continue to coordinate closely with Water Works to ensure consistent maintenance practices and support plant health across all medians.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: March 18, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-0433](#)

Action: [Purchase](#) from Quality Cut Lawn Care LLC (Steve Darcy, President) of landscape installation for Fleur Drive Medians Phase Three Renovation project for use by the Parks and Recreation Department, \$247,710.95. (252 potential bidders, seven [7] bids received). ([Council Communication No. 24-104](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Mandelbaum. Motion Carried 6-0.

Date: June 26, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0927](#)

Action: [Purchase](#) from Sehic G&S, LLC (Bajro Sehic, Owner) of landscape installation for Fleur Drive Medians Phase Two renovation project for use by the Parks and Recreation Department, \$119,503. (209 potential bidders, one [1] bid received). ([Council Communication No. 23-319](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

Date: December 21, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-2122](#), [20-2123](#)

Action: (A) [Fleur](#) Drive Medians Landscape Replacement Fund. Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. ([Council Communication No .20-560](#))

(B) [Fleur](#) Drive Medians Landscape Replacement Fund Management. Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. ([Council Communication No .20-560](#))

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Des Moines Water Works will continue to provide ongoing maintenance and care for the Fleur Drive medians as outlined in the existing 28E Agreement with the City of Des Moines.

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