



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

51

Date March 24, 2008

Motion to receive and file attached letters from the Cowles Foundation and Civic Center of Greater Des Moines regarding "revisioning" of Nollen Plaza through re-design and requesting City of Des Moines cooperation and assistance with the revisioning effort with in-kind services to facilitate, coordinate and manage the proposed charrette and conceptual design effort.

(Council Communication No. 08- 146)

Moved by _____ to receive and file the attached letter.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Ann DiDonato
Assistant City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
VLASSIS				
TOTAL				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

Mayor

City Clerk

GARDNER AND FLORENCE CALL COWLES FOUNDATION, INC.

715 LOCUST STREET
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

51

March 18, 2008

Mr. Rick Clark
City Manager
City of Des Moines
400 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Rick;

It is with great enthusiasm for Des Moines – past, present, and future – that the Cowles Foundation comes to you with our expression of interests in Nollen Plaza. The Cowles Foundation and its trustees played a key role in the visioning, design and building of Nollen Plaza and the Civic Center. Now, nearly thirty years after its creation, we recognize both a need and opportunity to enhance this important downtown space.

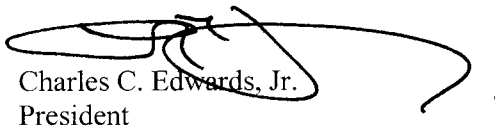
Nollen Plaza sits at the crossroads of many great downtown entertainment venues – the Science Center, Court Avenue, the Iowa Events Center, Gateway Park, the Riverwalk, East Village, and the Capitol Terraces. Nollen Plaza plays an important role in downtown Des Moines and, while it has several positive attributes, it is currently falling short of its potential.

Amidst the flurry of recent downtown investment and in response to the recently approved downtown plan, the Cowles Foundation proposes to co-sponsor a charette that re-envisions Nollen Plaza in the image of recently developed downtown urban parks (i.e.: Millennium Park in Chicago).

It is our intention that this process will produce a conceptual design that can be used for the purposes of fund-raising. The Civic Center Board of Trustees has graciously agreed to share in expenses necessary to bring world-class designers and an artist to town for the design charette. We ask that the City actively join in this collaboration through in-kind staff support of the public workshops and conceptual design effort.

The Cowles Foundation is committed to sponsor what we believe will be an exciting design process for the downtown Des Moines community. After completing the conceptual design and timed to best suit other downtown endeavors, we anticipate spearheading a fund-raising campaign to implement a revitalized Nollen Plaza. The Cowles Foundation is enthusiastic about this initiative and we look forward to contributing to the expanding momentum of downtown Des Moines.

Best Regards,



Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
President



221 Walnut

Des Moines, IA

50309-2104

515-246-2300

515-246-2305 FAX

www.civiccenter.org

March 17, 2008

Mr. Rick Clark
City Manager
City of Des Moines
400 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Rick:

As you are aware, the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines is in the final stages of wrapping up our \$7 million capital campaign, which was launched in 2006. During the planning phase for the capital campaign, the Civic Center concentrated on renovations to the Civic Center facility, and we have provided information to you on the status of those improvements. We are now pleased to begin the planning for revisions to Nollen Plaza.

In June 2006, I made a call on Charlie Edwards in his role as chair of the Gardner and Florence Call Cowles Foundation. Mr. Edwards and I discussed the capital campaign, and Mr. Edwards indicated that the Foundation may have interest in the planning for renovations to Nollen Plaza. Shortly after that meeting, we formed an ad hoc committee with Cal Lewis of Iowa State University and Jeff Fleming of the Des Moines Art Center. After a series of meetings, the group decided to propose a design charrette to develop conceptual designs for Nollen Plaza.

At the regular meeting of the Civic Center Board of Trustees on October 25, 2007, the ad hoc committee made a report to the Board to give a preliminary report on the planning, and the Board gave strong encouragement to the committee to continue its work. At its regular meeting on December 20, 2007, the Civic Center Board of Trustees voted to join the Cowles Foundation in funding the design charrette by providing up to \$25,000 toward the cost of the workshop.

The Civic Center is grateful to the Cowles Foundation for their support of this process, and we are looking forward to the continued cooperation and assistance from the City of Des Moines as we move toward the planning charrette in April, 2008.

Very truly yours,

Jeff Chelesvig
President & CEO

Copy to Doug Olson, Chair, Board of Trustees