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August 23, 2010

Date.....

**AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
REVITALIZE IOWA'S SOUND ECONOMY GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
THE A. H. BLANK PARK ZOO ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENT**

WHEREAS, phase one of the proposed Zoo expansion project proposed by the A. H. Blank Park Zoo Foundation includes a new African exhibit, a renovated Australian Walkabout, a new ticket plaza, new Discovery Center addition and interactive, educational components (Zoo Expansion Project"); and

WHEREAS, the A. H. Blank Park Zoo currently has 400,000 visitors a year and expects the number to reach 500,000 with the completion of the planned new African Exhibit, far exceeding the 100,000 capacity of the current entrance, making it inadequate to meet the Zoo's current and projected needs; and

WHEREAS, the A. H. Blank Park Zoo Foundation has proposed a new entrance to the Zoo via the A. H. Blank Park, with improvements including a new Hoofstock Exhibit in the Park, which will be free to the public, and an enhanced security barrier between the existing Fifth Judicial District Community Based Corrections facility and the A. H. Blank Park Zoo ("Zoo Entrance Improvements"); and

WHEREAS, the Zoo Entrance Improvements project meet the mission of the Zoo which is to inspire an appreciation of the natural world through conservation, education and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo Entrance Improvements project is both the first phase of the Zoo Expansion Projects and the beginning of the implementation of the SuperBlock Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa has allocated funds totaling \$1,000,000 to construct a security barrier between the existing Fifth Judicial District Community Based Corrections facility and the Zoo, which is part of the Zoo Entrance Improvements project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines desires to submit an application for a grant in the amount of 80% of the eligible cost of the Improvements project from the Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy Program to assist in the development of this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, that:

1. The Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) grant application for the above described A. H. Blank Park Zoo Entrance Improvements, on file in the City Clerk's Office, is hereby approved.
2. The City hereby endorses the Zoo Entrance Improvements project identified in the RISE grant application and all land for such roadway shall be dedicated for public use.
3. The City hereby acknowledges that it will assume responsibility for the roadway identified in the RISE application and will adequately maintain such roadway.
4. The City hereby certifies that an immediate, non-speculative opportunity exists for permanent job creation and RISE funding is essential to such job creation by development of the first phase of the Zoo Expansion Project, of which the Zoo Entrance Improvements is the first project. The City is currently negotiating with the A. H. Blank Park Zoo Foundation for development of such project.

★ **Roll Call Number**

Agenda Item Number

28

Date August 23, 2010


5. An immediate RISE program grant commitment is necessary for the Zoo Entrance Improvements project in order for construction to occur during the fall, winter and early spring months so that the project will be completed by the busiest warm weather months, which will allow construction to begin on the other projects in phase I and is likely to result in cost savings over construction bids resulting from a delay in construction. If such grant commitment is not immediately available to the City, delay in construction of the other components of phase I could result and increased construction costs are likely to result.

6. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to sign the RISE application and any necessary certification on behalf of the City for a grant in the amount of 80% of the cost of eligible improvements for the purpose of developing the A. H. Blank Park Zoo Entrance Improvements.

(Council Communication No. 10-_____)

Moved by _____ to adopt.

FORM APPROVED:


 Ann DiDonato
 Assistant City Attorney

| COUNCIL ACTION | YEAS | NAYS | PASS | ABSENT |
|----------------|------|------|----------|--------|
| COWNIE | | | | |
| COLEMAN | | | | |
| GRIESS | | | | |
| HENSLEY | | | | |
| MAHAFFEY | | | | |
| MEYER | | | | |
| MOORE | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |
| MOTION CARRIED | | | APPROVED | |

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.

_____ Mayor

_____ City Clerk

