

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2012/13 NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT

BACKGROUND:

The City Council annually appropriates Local Option Sales Tax funds to finance the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). As listed in the Capital Improvements Plan, \$50,000 is approved for neighborhood programs, with \$25,000 earmarked for the NIP and the remaining \$25,000 allocated for a broader array of neighborhood projects to be determined by the City Council.

The NIP has the following two main goals:

- To strengthen a neighborhood's appearance with the addition of permanent physical improvements, and
- To promote a greater sense of community through resident participation in a neighborhood project.

Each project application is rated on the following 100-point system, and a project must achieve at least 50 points to be considered for funding:

Resident Involvement (30 points maximum):*

...the number of residents donating their time and/or labor to accomplish the project

...the number of residents donating funds to the project

*10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-50 people; 30 points over 50 people

Project Impact (30 points maximum):**

...the number of residents who will be positively affected by the improvement

**10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-100 people; 30 points over 100 people

Safety (10 points maximum):

...enhancement of safety in the neighborhood

Public Space (10 points maximum):

...promotion of social interaction by utilizing public space

Improved Housing (10 points maximum)

Environment (10 points maximum):
...support for the environment

A grant application for FY 2012/13 has been received. It was scored by the review panel and received more than enough points to be recommended for approval by the City Council. This project is as follows:

Neighborhood residents living near Moore Park on Beach Avenue are proposing to improve the playground equipment at the Park. Part of the project will include a memorial to Eli Horn, a resident of the neighborhood who passed away at the age of seven earlier this year. The improvements will include repainting existing equipment and a new play structure. Thirty-seven neighborhood families will contribute to this project in the form of cash donations and/or volunteer work.

The Parks and Recreation Department had planned to make playground improvements to this Park and had allocated \$10,000 from its budget for that purpose. That funding will be added to the donations received to bring this project to fruition. Also, members of Iowa State University fraternities and sororities have committed to assisting the neighborhood residents with updating and installing the play equipment.

The requested City NIP funding for this project is \$5,000. The applicants will provide cash in the amount of \$6,180 and in-kind labor in the amount of \$2,250, which totals a neighborhood match valued at \$8,430.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can approve the expenditure of \$5,000 to fund a NIP grant for the Moore Park Neighborhood to improve the playground equipment at Moore Park.
2. The City Council can decline to fund this project at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Supporting projects that strengthen neighborhoods is in keeping with one of the City Council's goals, and funding to accomplish this purpose is available in the 2012/13 NIP budget.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, thereby approving a Neighborhood Improvement Program grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the Moore Park Neighborhood to be used along with budgeted monies from the Parks and Recreation Department to improve playground equipment at the Park.