

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **MIRACLE PARK UPDATE AND FUNDING REQUEST**

BACKGROUND:

In October 2016, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended and City Council approved Inis Grove Park as the location for a Miracle League Field and All Inclusive Playground. Council also allocated \$50,000 from the Park Development Fund to design these amenities. Since that time, multiple actions have taken place and are detailed below:

Naming Rights

Council approved in 2017 minimum dollar amounts for the naming of the Miracle League Field (\$150,000) and Inclusive Playground (\$200,000). This gave the Miracle Park Steering Committee direction as it began fundraising efforts.

Miracle Park Design

Snyder & Associates was selected to design the Miracle Park (field and playground) and plans and specifications were completed in 2017. This plan was presented to the City's development Review Committee for approval which occurred in 2018. The cost estimate for construction is \$2,000,000.

Fundraising

The Miracle Park Steering Committee, comprised of area professionals and residents, kicked off a fundraising campaign in September 2017. Harrison and Brittany Barnes pledged \$300,000 for the playground and Ames Rotary pledged \$300,000 for the Miracle Field in exchange for naming rights. To date, over \$1.5 million has been raised. It is estimated that approximately \$300,000 of in-kind donations will be obtained for this project. That leaves approximately \$200,000 yet to be raised.

Ames Foundation

The Foundation agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for this project, assist with fundraising, and oversee construction. An agreement between the City and the Foundation was approved by Council in 2018. The agreement details the responsibilities for each entity and gives the Foundation the right to construct the Miracle Park on City property. Once construction is complete, the Foundation will transfer ownership of the Miracle Park to the City. Harold Pike Construction (HPC) has been secured by the Foundation to serve as the General Contractor for this project.

Construction Timeline

HPC is anticipating construction to begin in May 2019 and be complete in October 2019. To prepare for construction, several trees, as identified in the plans, will be removed this coming winter. In addition, the playground adjacent Walnut Shelter will be removed no later than April 2019.

DONOR/SENSORY PLAZA:

A conceptual idea for a Donor/Sensory Plaza (DSP) was included in the plans, however, the development of construction documents was not included in the original contract with Snyder & Associates. Below is the DSP concept:



Now that fundraising is nearing completion and construction is scheduled to begin, construction documents for the DSP need to be completed. Snyder & Associates have quoted \$12,500 to complete construction documents. The Steering Committee is requesting that the City continue its commitment to fund the design of the project by approving additional funds for the DSP.

Funding is available from the following sources:

Funding Source	Amount
Ada Hayden Heritage Park Parking Lot (project savings)	\$ 5,467
Greenbriar Park Improvements (project savings)	\$ 1,173
Miracle Field & Playground Design (project savings)	\$ 1,000
Park Development Fund balance	\$ 4,860
Total	\$ 12,500

As of June 30, 2018, the Park Development Fund had a balance of \$2,596,785. Of that amount, \$1,852,140 is the Winakor Donation and \$744,645 is Park Development funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the reallocation of funds (\$7,640) from the aforementioned completed CIP projects, as well as \$4,860 from the Park Development Fund to complete construction documents for the Miracle Park Donor/Sensory Plaza.
2. Do not approve the reallocation of funds (\$7,640) from the aforementioned completed CIP projects, as well as \$4,860 from the Park Development Fund to complete construction documents for the Miracle Park Donor/Sensory Plaza.
3. Refer back to staff.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This is a very worthwhile project with significant support within the community. With fundraising nearing completion, the last design component needed is for the Donor/Sensory Plaza. Many donors have contributed financially to ensure this project becomes a reality and it is appropriate to recognize them. In addition, the plaza will contain sensory components that will appeal to park users. The necessary funds have been identified as described above. Therefore, the City Manager recommends City Council approve Alternative #1 as stated above.