

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: HAYDEN PARK ARTWORK AGREEMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

The City's Public Art Commission (PAC) is charged to develop a public art plan and take steps to bring that plan to fruition. The PAC is also charged to develop educational and promotional projects for public artwork to be placed within City facilities and on its grounds. In support of these goals, the PAC periodically takes the lead in commissioning artwork for display in public spaces. Those proposals are presented to the City Council for budget authorization and project approval.

Over the last three years the PAC has pursued a project to incorporate significant sculptural artwork into Ada Hayden Heritage Park (AHHP). Responding to PAC requests, the City Council has approved a total of \$18,000 in local option funding over a three year period for this sculpture. The PAC has identified an artist, Patrick Dougherty, who is internationally recognized for his use of sticks and saplings, woven together, to create outdoor sculptures. (Further information on Mr. Dougherty's artwork can be found at <http://www.stickwork.net/>.) A \$1,000 deposit has been paid, and Mr. Dougherty has set aside the period of time between September 30 and October 20, 2008 to install this sculpture.

In June 2007 City staff and members of the Public Art Commission toured Hayden Park with Mr. Dougherty to assess if there were appropriate locations for one of his structures. Mr. Dougherty confirmed that AHHP has several viable locations for one of his pieces of art. Staff and Commission members were impressed with photographs and brochures of Mr. Dougherty's previous work and with the notion that one of these sculptures could be created in AHHP.

It is important to note that, due to the natural materials used in Mr. Dougherty's artwork, the life cycle of his work is approximately two to three years. Once the piece begins to decompose the structure will be removed by staff and the area will revert to its natural condition.

Due to the unique nature of this art and its proposed location at AHHP, the Public Art Commission approached the Parks and Recreation Commission in November with an overview of this proposal and a request to approve its installation at this site. PAC representatives explained the entire process of collecting and installing the sticks/saplings, showed pictures of Mr. Dougherty's work and the installation process, and requested that the Commission authorize a sculpture to be located at AHHP for approximately three to five years. The Commission then unanimously approved that action.

The following is a general outline of the steps and related timeframe to assure a successful

project and installation this year:

January	City Council approve artwork agreement with artist
Spring	Recruit ISU professors & students' commitments to project
Summer	Confirm site(s) to harvest sticks Recruit volunteer stick harvesters
September	Confirm hauling arrangements Harvest sticks
Sept. 30 to Oct. 20	Install sculpture (tentative dates)
Late October	Dedicate artwork

Based upon successful installations of Mr. Dougherty's artwork elsewhere, the PAC has indicated that this project should provide a great opportunity for a variety of Ames residents to collaborate in the creation of this artwork. That should include ISU students and faculty, neighbors of Hayden Park, and other community groups. This project will be heavily dependent on volunteer labor. The entire membership of the PAC is committed to being involved with this project to help it succeed. A significant amount of City staff time will also be involved to assist in transportation of the sticks, in on-site support, and in coordination with ISU and the artist.

Staff has negotiated an artwork agreement with Mr. Dougherty to confirm both parties' responsibilities in this project. The payment to the artist will be \$14,000, including the \$1,000 deposit already paid. The City will also pay for his transportation and living expenses while engaged on this project, which should cost no more than \$4,000. In addition, the project will involve costs for items such as scaffolding and professional photography; but it is the PAC's intent to gain funding from ISU to help with these out-of-pocket expenses.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Authorize an agreement between the City and Patrick Dougherty for creation of "Stickwork" artwork at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
2. Do not authorize an agreement for this artwork in Ada Hayden Heritage Park.

#### **MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The City Council has previously expressed its support for this artwork by appropriating \$18,000 in funding for this purpose. The Public Art Commission believes that the organic nature of this artwork will be well suited to Hayden Park and that the project will create a great deal of curiosity, interest and involvement among community members. Both the PAC and the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend approval of this project.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, authorizing an agreement with Patrick Dougherty for creation of artwork this fall at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.