

## **COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: IMPROVING ELECTRICAL ACCESS IN BANDSHELL PARK**

**BACKGROUND:**

There currently are ten electrical outlets available for use at events in Bandshell Park. Two are on the exterior of the Bandshell and the remaining outlets are on a pedestal near the southwest corner of the park. The consolidation of these outlets into one location makes access to electricity difficult for larger events. Recently, the number and size of events in Bandshell Park has grown. Many of these events have required the use of electricity for food vending, games, exhibits, and other activities. Representatives of the Main Street Cultural District asked that the City investigate added outlets.

In early spring of this year, staff solicited proposals from local electricians for the installation of three additional hinge-covered, pedestal-mounted outlet boxes to be placed on the west side of the park. Each outlet box is spaced approximately fifty feet apart and contains two outlets on separate circuits. Two proposals were received, with the low quote in the amount of \$4,600.24 from Nelson Electric.

Staff approached the Ames Foundation for assistance with this project. The Foundation has recently approved a \$2,300 grant to help cover the cost of this project. The remaining \$2,300.24 would come from the City Council's Contingency Account or from balances in Local Option Sales Tax or Hotel/Motel Tax Funds. It is estimated that upon approval, work could commence immediately and be completed by the beginning of July. The City will invoice the Foundation for its portion of the project once work is completed.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the installation of additional outlets and allocate \$2,300.24 from the Contingency Account to be used in conjunction with the Ames Foundation grant for the project.
2. Do not approve the project.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is expected that electrical access will continue to be an important feature of Bandshell Park. Delaying this project until it can be funded through the normal budgeting process may increase the cost.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the allocation of funds from the Contingency Account for one half the cost of the installation of additional electrical outlets in Bandshell Park.