

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM AMES FOUNDATION TO ADJUST FUNDING FOR TREE PLANTING ON CITY PROPERTY**

**BACKGROUND:**

In March 2015, following the successful tree planting effort related to the City of Ames Sesquicentennial, the City Council entered into a partnership with The Ames Foundation (TAF) to organize tree planting efforts in the community. A memorandum of agreement was signed with TAF, which extends into 2019. This agreement indicates that TAF would raise private funds, the City would contribute its funds as a match, and TAF and City staff would organize tree planting events in the community. The City reaps the benefit of having volunteer labor organized by TAF to plant the trees, thereby allowing the savings to go towards the purchase of additional trees.

Each calendar year, TAF raises funds for the following year's spring and fall tree plantings. TAF already has funds in hand for its portion of this fall's tree planting. TAF is also active in raising private funds for the Miracle League Field and Inclusive Playground project. In May, the City Council referred a letter from TAF, indicating that TAF would like to allocate funds raised at its November fundraiser to the Miracle League Field and Inclusive Playground project, instead of using those funds for the calendar year 2018 tree plantings.

Therefore, TAF has requested that the City pay for the entire cost of the spring and fall 2018 tree plantings. The total tree planting cost each year is approximately \$20,000 to \$24,000. The City has budgeted \$225,650 in FY 2017/18 for its Emerald Ash Borer response, which includes tree planting projects. **Assuming the plantings in the future are of similar cost, the City would absorb approximately an additional \$6,000 in costs for financing half of this fall's tree planting and 100% of the spring 2018 planting.** During preparation of the budget, the City Council would then need to allocate additional funds in its FY 2018/19 budget to fund the entire fall 2018 planting and half of the spring 2019 planting.

<u>Planting</u>	<u>Original</u>		<u>Proposed</u>	
	<u>City Share</u>	<u>TAF Share</u>	<u>City Share</u>	<u>TAF Share</u>
Fall 2017	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Spring 2018	6,000	6,000	12,000	0
Fall 2018*	6,000	6,000	12,000	0
Spring 2019*	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000

*\*subject to budget approval by City Council*

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Authorize staff to split fall 2017 tree planting costs with the Ames Foundation and to finance the entire spring 2018 tree planting effort with City funds.
2. Authorize staff to split fall 2017 tree planting costs with the Ames Foundation and to finance the entire spring 2018 planting, but to reduce the scale of the spring 2018 planting.
3. Do not modify the tree planting arrangement with the Ames Foundation.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The partnership with the Ames Foundation to accomplish the tree plantings has been successful in the past several years. The Ames Foundation's fundraising and organizational efforts have helped the City to plant a significantly greater number of trees than could be planted if the City had to pay for contract labor costs. The Miracle League Field and Inclusive Playground project is similarly a worthwhile cause that will benefit the community. The Ames Foundation's fundraising efforts for this project will be critical to its success.

Due to receiving bids for contract work in the EAB program that were under the estimated cost, sufficient funds exist in the City's EAB budget for the City to finance the entire tree planting in spring 2018. Through the FY 2018/19 budget process, the City Council may authorize staff to finance the entire fall 2018 tree planting as requested by The Ames Foundation as well.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing staff to split fall 2017 tree planting costs with the Ames Foundation and to finance the entire spring 2018 tree planting effort with City funds. **The extra cost to the City related to this request is a total of \$12,000 over two fiscal years.**

**In addition, it should be noted that the Ames Foundation will continue to provide volunteer coordination for the 2018 tree plantings even though they are not going to contribute funding for them.**

## Ames Foundation Contribution to the Miracle Field/Inclusive Playground Project

Steve Schainker

to:

Diane R Voss

05/22/2017 04:05 PM

Hide Details

From: Steve Schainker/COA

To: Diane R Voss/COA@COA

Diane:

Here is a letter for the Council's non-agenda packet.

Steve



**Steven L. Schainker**  
City Manager

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-----Forwarded by Steve Schainker/COA on 05/22/2017 04:04PM -----

To: Steve Schainker <[sschainker@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:sschainker@city.ames.ia.us)>

From: Sheila Lundt <[sheilaklundt@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaklundt@gmail.com)>

Date: 05/19/2017 05:25PM

Subject: Ames Foundation Contribution to the Miracle Field/Inclusive Playground Project

Mayor and Members of the City Council:

The Ames Foundation is pleased to partner with the City of Ames in an effort to construct a Miracle Field and Inclusive Playground at Inis Grove Park. Our Foundation Board has undertaken a review of our goals for the next two years and our commitment to managing the construction of this facility. We are beginning the process of securing a construction manager, developing appropriate contract documents and identifying the necessary insurance coverages.

As we move forward in the fund raising for the project, the board has discussed the possibility of donating proceeds from our November 3 Deuces Wild fundraiser to the project. The Foundation has been using a portion of the funds raised in that annual event to help cover the cost of the trees that we are planting pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement between the City and The Foundation for the community tree planting project. At the current time, the City and The Foundation are each paying for half of the cost of the trees. Approximately 150 to 200 trees are being planted each year. In 2016, 153 trees were planted. On April 22, 123 trees were planted in an area from 13th Street to 30th Street, Duff to Grand. The total cost for that planting was \$16,709 and was split between the City and Foundation. We currently have the funds in hand for the fall 2017 planting.

The Foundation would request that the City Council consider covering the cost of the two plantings for 2018 so that The Foundation could consider putting the majority of the funds raised during our November Deuces Wild event toward the Miracle Field project. We could jointly establish the number of trees to be planted and the cost before next spring's and fall's plantings in 2018.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sheila Lundt  
Past President  
The Ames Foundation