

ITEM #: 15
DATE: 01-24-23
DEPT: P & R

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: WELLMARK GRANT APPLICATION FOR EMMA MCCARTHY LEE PICKLEBALL COURTS AND INIS GROVE TENNIS COURT RESURFACING PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

The Wellmark Foundation is accepting applications for a Built Environment Match Grant (MATCH) that can be pursued to help fund the Emma McCarthy Lee Park pickleball court project and Inis Grove Park tennis court resurfacing project.

MATCH specifically supports infrastructure and man-made systems, such as community design, parks, trails, and other amenities that make it easy to engage in active living that is likely to increase physical activity for all age groups. MATCH grant funding is made available to 501(c)(3) organizations or governmental entities within the states of Iowa or South Dakota, and funding is restricted to these states. In 2022, approximately \$2.4 million of MATCH grants were awarded.

MATCH requests up to \$100,000 are permissible. Applicants are required to have a dollar-for-dollar match requirement, with at least one-half of that amount in cash. Existing capital funds budgeted for each project are available for the match requirement.

Funds received from the grant would be utilized to ensure adequate funding in order to complete each project to its entirety and include amenities such as, but not limited to, LED lighting, windscreens, and new net posts.

The application is due February 15, 2023. Staff is working with representatives from the Ames Pickleball Club on the application. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by May 31, 2023, and grant dollars would be distributed in September 2023. Grantees would have until December 31, 2025, to complete projects and use The Wellmark Foundation grant dollars.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve a resolution authorizing the submittal of The Wellmark Foundation Built Environment Match Grant application for the Emma McCarthy Lee Pickleball Court project and Inis Grove tennis court resurfacing project in the amount of \$100,000.
2. Do not submit The Wellmark Foundation Built Environment Match Grant application.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Uncertainties in the construction market, rising cost estimates, and an unsuccessful initial request for bids for the Emma McCarthy Lee pickleball project has raised questions as to whether enough funding will be available to complete the project as desired. Due to these funding concerns, any opportunity to secure additional funding should be pursued. The project could also be enhanced with the Wellmark funds by adding components (LED lighting, windscreens, etc.) that are currently not included in the project.

The City Council is only being asked to approve submitting a MATCH grant application at this time and will have an opportunity at a future meeting to accept or deny a grant award if the City receives an award. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1.