



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Council Session

## Item E-4

**Public Hearing on Acquisition of Real Estate Property Described as a Triangular Tract of Land Lying North of the Intersection of South Webb Road and U.S. Highway 281**

*Council action will take place under Consent Agenda item G-16.*

Staff Contact: Jerry Janulewicz

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Jerry Janulewicz, City Administrator

**Meeting:** December 8, 2020

**Subject:** Densel's Dream – Sculpture at U.S. Highway 281 and South Webb Road

**Presenter(s):** Jerry Janulewicz, City Administrator

## Background

The Grand Island Partnership for the Arts (GIPA) is seeking funding for the commission and installation of a sculpture to honor Densel Rasmussen to be located near the intersection of US Highway 281 and South Webb Road on land currently owned by the State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT). The land can be acquired by the City at no cost if used for highway beautification purposes. On October 8, 2019, the Grand Island City Council approved Resolution #2019-310 granting preliminary approval from the City Council for the City's acquisition the parcel of land, 0.373 acres in size, from the Nebraska Department of Transportation. When Resolution 2019-310 was adopted, it was believed the preliminary approval would provide support for GIPA's fundraising efforts. GIPA is now requesting that the City move forward with acquisition of the property so they can be assured of the property's availability. If transfer of the property is requested by the City, NDOT will convey the land to the City at no charge. If the sculpture project does not take place, the land will revert to NDOT unless another highway beautification project is approved by NDOT.

An image of the proposed sculpture, information from the artist, and a drawing of the site are attached. The proposed site is located immediately north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 281 and South Webb Road.

## Discussion

The proposed site is a portion of land acquired by the State of Nebraska for highway right-of-way within the City's municipal boundaries. As such, mowing is currently the responsibility of the city pursuant to an agreement with NDOT. GIPA anticipates the placement of the sculpture at this site will present no greater maintenance burden to the city than what is currently required, which is minimal mowing to road right-of-way standards.

When Resolution #2019-310 was adopted, the City Council was informed that a request for transfer of the site would take place when the following conditions occurred:

1. GIPA has secured sufficient funds in cash, grants, and pledges for all project expenses and an endowment fund for future expenses.
2. GIPA and City have executed an acceptable license agreement addressing site development, future maintenance, utilities, and related issues.

As noted above, GIPA is requesting that the City Council approve a Resolution for a request by the City to NDOT for transfer of this parcel. If a resolution is approved Administration will request a transfer of the property to the City. Approval of a license agreement for placement of the sculpture would not take place until an acceptable license agreement is negotiated with GIPA and there is sufficient assurance of funding for future project maintenance.

As this matter involves the acquisition of real estate, a public hearing on the matter is scheduled.

### **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

### **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the resolution.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to approve the resolution.

## **Mission Statement for Grand Island Partnership for the Arts**

The mission of the Grand Island Partnership for the Arts is to enhance the quality of life in our community, inspire a passion for the arts and elevate the economic vitality of Grand Island by facilitating the advancement of high quality public art accessible to all residents and visitors.

## **GRAND ISLAND PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ARTS (GIPA)**

Densel had a vision for a piece of property, currently owned by the State of Nebraska. It is triangular shaped and lies north of where Webb Road connects to Highway 281, just south of Home Federal, Snow's Floral and other businesses. Densel believed this would be an excellent place to feature some sort of art for those entering Grand Island from the south. He felt in its current state it was something of an eyesore and could be used in a far more creative way. Densel presented this idea in his acceptance speech after receiving the Man of the Year Award in 2006, hence our title: Densel's Dream.

The State of Nebraska was contacted in the fall of 2018 and the process begun to transfer ownership from the State to the City of Grand Island. The transfer is nearly complete so access to the ground should occur shortly. The City would then permit a sculpture, honoring Densel Rasmussen, to be installed.

Fundraising for Densel's Dream should begin soon. The cost of the project, including site work, lighting and low maintenance landscaping is estimated to be about \$520,000. We believe Densel's contributions to our community is worth every penny and more.

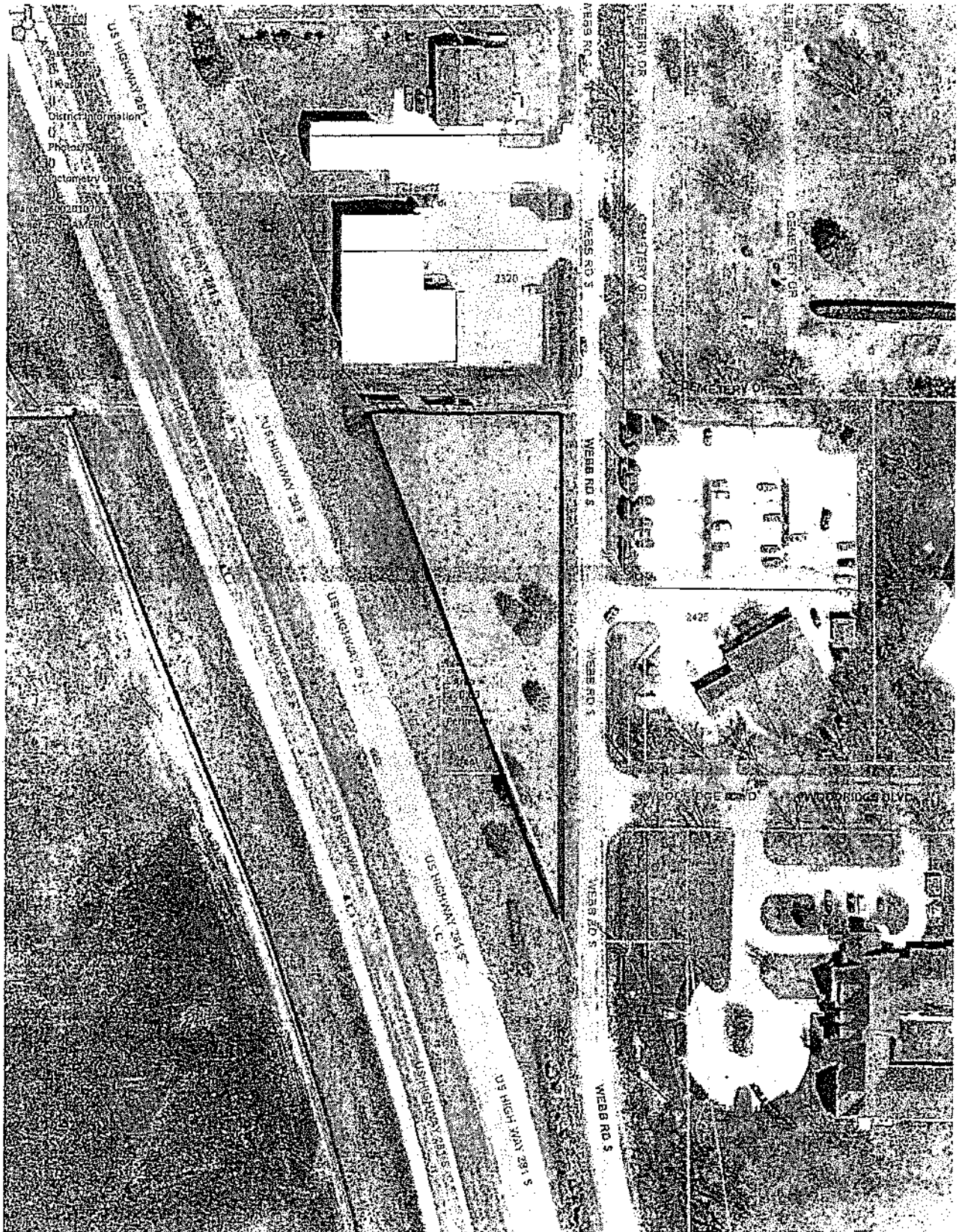
The Piece will be lit at night with LEDs and is a combination of materials: aluminum, stainless steel and acrylic. Maintenance should be minimal to lessen the burden on City Crews.

This sculpture will enhance our city's entrance, increase our public art offerings and honor our own Densel Rasmussen.









City of Grand Island, NE

<https://grandislandne.map.becherc.net/>

8/28/2018

# Information about Densel's Dream

The artist is Matthew Placzek, a Grand Island native. He has done many sculptures thru out the US and even some foreign countries. His



website is <https://www.placzekstudios.com>,

Densel's Dream is 50 feet in length, 14.5 feet tall and about 9 feet wide (deep). The materials are aluminum, acrylic and stainless steel, that have special patinas (colors) and they will not fade much with time. The design has been tested by an engineer for wind and all is well. It won't blow over unless it is a tornado. From an email from Matthew: "The materials used in the sculptures will be aluminum and stainless steel, for the grasses and the cattails. The sculpture design will be subject to a structural engineer's testing and will be designed accordingly. The usual rating for this area of country is about 90 mph. The piece will be painted with industrial epoxy two part paint. The paint has a high UV rating and will be painting these in the studio. I would like the cranes to incorporate the dichroic acrylic. However, we can explore other materials, such as a colored acrylic. I have used the colored acrylic in many installations. As far as the hail question, like any material, it has the possibility of damage. The possibility of metal denting is very minimal, as it will be a substantial thickness. The paint is extremely durable, so I would rely on this also. I have many pieces painted with this material and haven't had any problems thus far."

Cost is 525,000 dollars for site work and sculpture, landscaping (minimum maintenance so there will be less maintenance for the city then there is presently.

Grand Island Partnership for the Arts



