



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Council Session

Item I-3

#2014-39 - Consideration of Approving Applications for Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant

Staff Contact: Jaye Monter, Finance Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: Cindi McDowell, Community Development Administrator

Meeting: February 25, 2014

Subject: Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant Applications

Item #'s: I-3

Presenter(s): Jaye Monter, Finance Director
Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director
Cindi McDowell, Community Development Administrator

Background

The City Of Grand Island through the League of Nebraska Municipalities was advised of the opportunity to submit a pre-application to the State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NEDED) for a possible grant up to \$1,125,000 from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund.

Discussion

The City of Grand Island's Community Development Division within the Finance Department is proposing to submit two pre-applications before the deadline of February 28, 2014. The NEDED will determine which projects they believe are most qualified based upon applications from all other communities and will invite the municipalities that meet the highest scoring criteria to submit a full application of the project no later than April 11, 2014. Award notification is scheduled for April 30, 2014.

Funding from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund requires a dollar for dollar match and at a minimum; at least one-half of the total matching funds for the project must be in cash. 'Ready to go' projects and projects with a higher level of local matching funds shall be preferred over those with a lower level of matching funds. A combination of both public and private funding would qualify as the cash match requirement of the grant. Matching dollars will be defined for consideration in the 2014-2015 City Of Grand Island budget.

Proposed Grant Application No. 1 - Veterans Athletic Field Complex Expansion

The Veterans Athletic Complex was built as a result of the Nebraska State Fair relocation at Fonner Park. Currently, the Veterans Complex consists of twelve acres of soccer and four large softball/baseball fields. The fields are used mainly by adult leagues during the summer and fall months. Area youth baseball and softball organizations rent the fields for tournaments and games on weekends and week nights as available. The soccer fields are utilized by the Grand Island Soccer and Heartland Soccer clubs.

The Veterans Complex was originally designed with the intention of adding two future phases of development. A construction budget of \$1.8 million is estimated to complete the second phase of construction with updates to the existing facility. Developments include adding four youth baseball/softball fields, six acres of soccer, two bathroom/concession buildings, additional parking, shade areas, fencing, landscaping, and update the current concession building which was moved from the former Fonner site.

Expanding the Veterans Athletic Field Complex will alleviate scheduling conflicts with local leagues and provide facilities to keep pace with the growing demand of area competitive sports teams and our growing community. With the improvements, the complex will be a desirable location for state and regional tournaments. It is estimated that the annual expense to operate the additional fields will be approximately \$70,000 for staffing, fuel, fertilizer, electricity, weed control, equipment, etc.

Proposed Grant Application No. 2 – Island Oasis Expansion and Update

Island Oasis Water Park opened to the public in the summer of 1993. Grand Island was one of the first few municipalities in Nebraska to build a water park style swimming pool. Peak attendance during the summer of 2002 climbed to over 120,000 swimmers. Expansion projects were completed in 1995 (two enclosed slides), 1997 (lazy river), and 2002 (speed slides). The attendance in recent years averages 40,000 – 70,000 swimmers annually.

It was recommended that a dedicated children's play pool be added to Island Oasis in the 2004 Aquatic Master Plan. The recommendation was made by The Brannon Corporation, an aquatic consulting firm the City hired from Texas to assess swimming facility needs. In the study, The Brannon Corporation stated, "In order to keep its position at the top of the market place, Island Oasis must add new features, remove outdated features, and expand." In 2007 the City hired Water Technology and Olsson and Associates to design a children's area project. Funding has not been available to complete the project.

A budget of \$1.5 million is estimated to complete a dedicated children's wet play area at Island Oasis. Additionally, \$500,000 is recommended for updates which include remodeling the bath house, admission area, paint the pool, replacing exterior wood, PA system, and complete slide and wave machine updates.

Eligible project applications will be reviewed and scored up to ten points under each of the following criteria.

- **Project location. (yes/no)**
A project shall be located in the municipality that applies for the grant.
- **Retention Impact. (1-10)**
Funding decisions by the Department shall be based on the likelihood of the project retaining existing residents in the community where the project is located, developing, sustaining, and fostering community connections, and enhancing the potential for economic growth in a manner that will sustain the quality of life and promote long-term economic development.
- **New Resident Impact. (1-10)**
Funding decisions by the Department shall be based on the likelihood of the project attracting new residents to the community where the project is located.
- **Visitor Impact. (1-10)**
Funding decisions by the Department shall be based on the likelihood of the project enhancing or creating an attraction that would increase the potential of visitors to the community where the project is located from inside and outside the state.
- **Financial support. (1-10)**
Assistance from the fund must be matched at least equally from local sources. At least fifty percent of the local match must be in cash. Projects with a higher level of local matching funds shall be preferred over those with a lower level of matching funds. Neither the local match nor the items listed for grant assistance should include amounts already expended prior to the date of application for grant assistance.
- **Readiness. (1-10)**
The applicant's fiscal and economic capacity to finance the local share and ability to proceed and implement its plan and operate the civic or community center.
- **Project Planning. (1-10)**
Projects with completed technical assistance and feasibility studies shall be preferred to those with no prior planning

In visioning for the growth of our community, we believe these two projects have the highest potential of scoring capability related to project readiness, visitor impact, new resident impact and financial commitment of matching funds from City Council.

Alternatives

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

1. Approve the two applications for the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant.
2. Take no action on the issue.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that Council approves the two applications for the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the two applications for the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents.

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER FINANCING FUND 2014 Application Guidelines

The purpose of the Civic and Community Center Financing Act is to support the development of civic, community, and recreation centers throughout Nebraska and to support projects that foster maintenance or growth of communities. The means of support are grants of assistance to municipalities from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund administered by the Department of Economic Development

Eligible projects: The fund may be used for the construction of new civic and recreation centers or the renovation or expansion of existing civic, community, and recreation centers, which may include the conversion, rehabilitation, or reuse of historic buildings. The fund may also be used for preliminary planning related to the development or rehabilitation of eligible projects. The definitions of eligible projects are:

- Civic Center—a facility that is primarily used to host conventions, meetings, and cultural events and/or a library
- Community Center—the traditional center of a community, typically comprised of a cohesive core of residential, civic, religious, and commercial buildings, arranged around a main street and intersecting streets
- Recreation Center – a facility used for athletics, fitness, sport activities, or recreation
- Planning – engineering and technical studies directly related to eligible projects

Eligible applicants: Most Nebraska municipalities are eligible and may apply for a grant in competition with other municipalities. Not eligible is the City of Omaha, the City of Lincoln, the City of Ralston, or other municipality that has received funding under the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act or the Sports Arena Facility Financial Assistance Act. A municipality will own and operate the center, directly or under contract, for which a grant is sought.

Grant amounts: Assistance from the fund shall not amount to more than fifty percent of the cost of construction, renovation, or expansion. The minimum amount for a non-planning grant request is \$10,000. The maximum amount is determined by the total revenues in the Fund and the population size of a municipality applying for a grant, as follows:

Until the balance of the Fund reaches \$2,500,000,

- 1) For a city of the primary class (population of 100,001 to 299,999), \$1,500,000;
- 2) For a municipality with a population of 40,000 but less than 100,000, \$750,000;
- 3) For a municipality with a population of 20,000 but less than 40,000, \$500,000;
- 4) For a municipality with a population of 10,000 but less than 20,000, \$400,000;
- 5) For a municipality with a population of less than 10,000, \$250,000.

After the balance of the Fund reaches \$2,500,000 and until it falls below \$1,000,000,

- 1) For a city of the primary class (population of 100,001 to 299,999), \$2,500,000
- 2) For a municipality with a population of 40,000 but less than 100,000, \$1,125,000;
- 3) For a municipality with a population of 20,000 but less than 40,000, \$750,000;
- 4) For a municipality with a population of 10,000 but less than 20,000, \$600,000;
- 5) For a municipality with a population of less than 10,000, \$375,000.

The maximum amount of a planning grant is \$10,000. The Department will allocate no more than 10% of annual grant funds awarded for planning projects.

Revised December 2013

Application Timing and Process: A municipality seeking funding will complete and return a Preliminary Application Form by February 28, 2014. Projects deemed eligible and competitive for funding will be sent Full Application Forms no later than March 14, 2014. Full Application Forms are to be completed and returned to the Department no later than April 11, 2014. Only projects that have been invited to complete Full Applications will be accepted. The Department will evaluate final application forms soon after they are received. Announcement of grants awarded will occur no later than April 30, 2014.

All applications and supporting materials must be received in the Department by 5:00pm on the respective due date. Both hard copy and .pdf email attachments are acceptable forms of submission.

The Department reserves the right to hold a second application cycle beginning in August, 2014. The announcement of this cycle will be made no later than July 14, 2014.

Review Criteria: Full applications will be reviewed and scored by a committee consisting of Department of Economic Development staff as well as invited members of other vested State agencies. The review committee will make a recommendation based off of top scoring applications to the Director of the Department of Economic Development, or their designee, for final approval.

Eligible project applications will be reviewed based upon review criteria established in statute (Nebraska Revised Statute 13-2707). Up to ten (10) points will be available for each of the following review criteria. Top scoring applications will be recommended to the Director for approval. The Department reserves the right to establish the maximum amount of funds to be awarded in any given year.

- **Project location. (yes/no)**
A project shall be located in the municipality that applies for the grant.
- **Retention Impact. (1-10)**
Funding decisions by the Department shall be based on the likelihood of the project retaining existing residents in the community where the project is located, developing, sustaining, and fostering community connections, and enhancing the potential for economic growth in a manner that will sustain the quality of life and promote long-term economic development;
- **New Resident Impact. (1-10)**
Funding decisions by the Department shall be based on the likelihood of the project attracting new residents to the community where the project is located.
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- **Readiness. (1-10)**
The applicant's fiscal and economic capacity to finance the local share and ability to proceed and implement its plan and operate the civic or community center.
- **Project Planning. (1-10)**
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Revised December 2013

**CIVIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER FINANCING FUND
GRANT ASSISTANCE - 2014**

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY APPLYING FOR GRANT: _____

EXISTING OR PRELIMINARY NAME OF CIVIC CENTER OR COMMUNITY CENTER FOR WHICH GRANT ASSISTANCE IS BEING REQUESTED:

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST (See grant amount limitations in announcement): \$ _____

ATTACHMENT ENCLOSED: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTER (This summary should be at least one paragraph, but no more than one page. Please be clear and concise.)

PERSON PREPARING PRELIMINARY APPLICATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICER OF MUNICIPALITY APPLYING FOR GRANT:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

The Facility in question is, or will be, owned and operated by the municipality

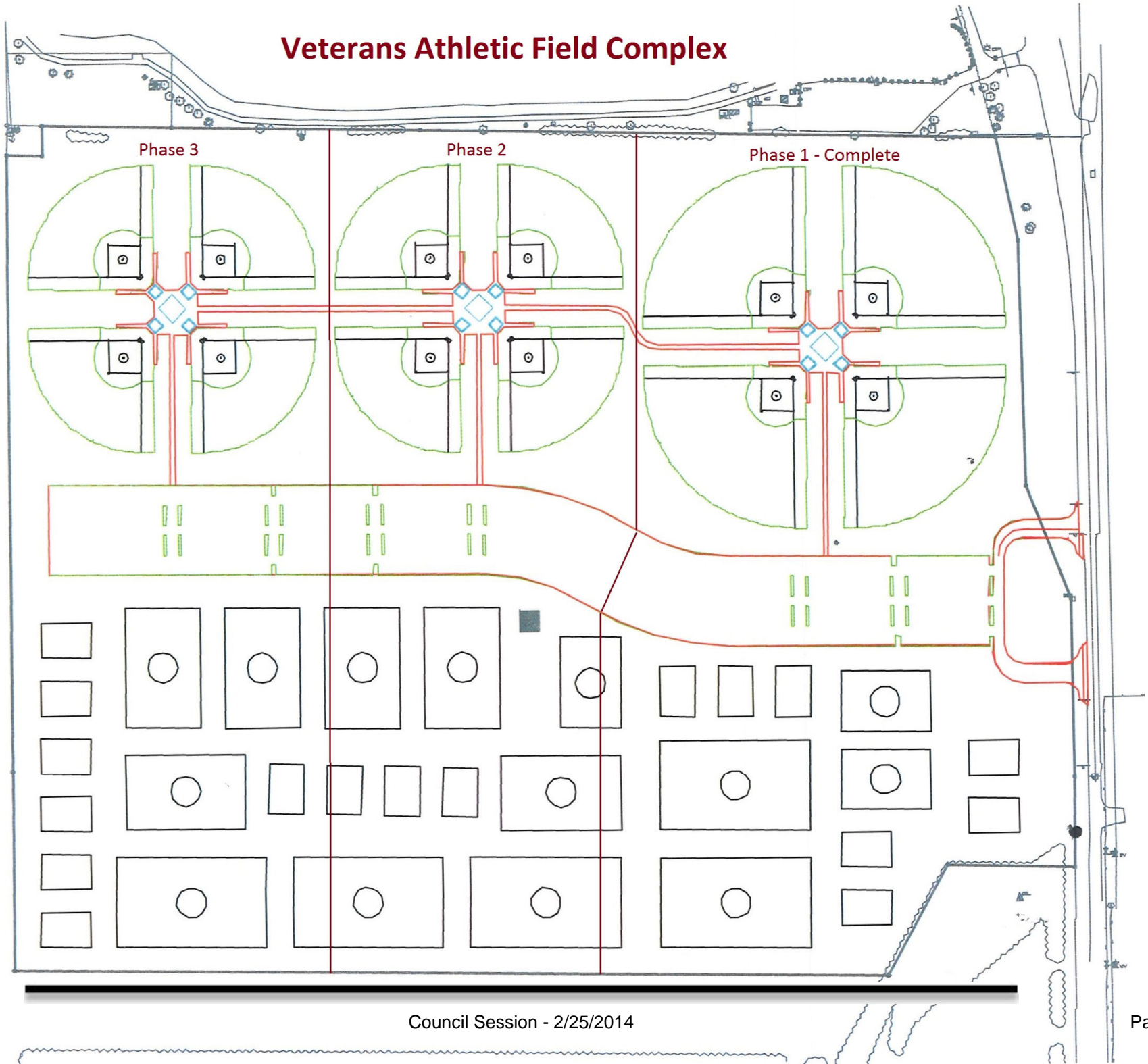
SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

RETURN COMPLETED PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CENTER TO:

Kevin Andersen
Nebraska Department of Economic Development
P.O. 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509-4666
(402) 471-3775
kevin.s.andersen@nebraska.gov

Revised December 2013

Veterans Athletic Field Complex



Dedicated Children's Wet Play Area



RESOLUTION 2014-39

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, will seek the opportunity to apply for a \$1,125,000 grant request from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund from the State of Nebraska's Department of Economic Development Department; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island will submit two applications established from the vision of city projects meeting the highest potential of scoring criteria based upon project readiness, visitor impact, new residence impact and financial commitment from City Council; and

WHEREAS the City will submit applications for the Veterans Athletic Field Complex Expansion and the Island Oasis Water Park Expansion and Facility Update.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City of Grand Island, Nebraska is hereby authorized to apply for grant funding; and

The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute documentation on behalf of the City of Grand Island for such process.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, February 25, 2014.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
February 21, 2014	☐ City Attorney