



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Council Session

Item G10

**#2004-35 - Approving Donation to Children's Groundwater
Festival '04 - Utilities Department**

Staff Contact: Gary R. Mader

Council Agenda Memo

From: Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director

Meeting: February 24, 2004

Subject: Grand Island Children's Groundwater Festival

Item #'s: G-10

Presenter(s): Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director

Background

The Children's Groundwater Festival, which began in Grand Island in 1989, was one of the first major events of the Groundwater Foundation. Since that beginning, the Foundation has grown into a national organization which has been instrumental in the development of festivals in over 65 cities in 32 states across the nation. With its growing national focus, the Foundation wishes to have the Grand Island community more involved in developing and financing the local festival. That task has been taken up by the Grand Island Community Foundation, working with hundreds of area private and public businesses and individuals. (See attached letters.)

Discussion

The Community Foundation has solicited the financial support of the Grand Island Water Department in the amount of \$500.

In Grand Island, the City relies on an adequate, clean groundwater supply for its municipal water. Over the past few decades, we have seen that groundwater quality diminish greatly. Over that period, the City has abandoned over 20 wells in the city because of various contaminants in the supply. This problem continues with the recent discovery of VOC compounds in the south and southwest area. The most recent contamination places the last remaining in-town wells in jeopardy.

The Groundwater Festival provides a unique opportunity to provide education and understanding, for the next generation, of the complexities of and hazards to this very important resource.

Alternatives

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

1. Approve the \$500.00 contribution
2. Deny the contribution
3. Increase or decrease the contribution amount

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the contribution to Festival '04 in the amount of \$500 as requested.

Sample Motion

I move that the Grand Island Water Department be approved to make a \$500 contribution to the Children's Groundwater Festival – Festival '04.

festival 04'

Children's Groundwater Festival

Thank you for your past support of the Children's Groundwater Festival. Because of the generous support from the Grand Island community, thousands of students and teachers from across Nebraska have learned about the need to protect and conserve one of our most precious resources—groundwater. Planning is underway for the 2004 Festival, which is scheduled for March 16th in Grand Island. Inspired by the positive feedback from past participants and presenters, we are determined to make this year's event the most educational and empowering Festival ever.

Planning is underway for the 2004 Festival, which is scheduled for March 16th in Grand Island. This year marks the 16th Anniversary of the Festival, which has been held in Grand Island every year since its inception. It also marks a time of change in the local organization of this nationally-recognized event. The Groundwater Foundation is initiating a transition to the Grand Island community as the leader in organizing the Festival. As a result, your support is more important than ever if we are to ensure the continued success of this worthwhile event. By making a tax-deductible contribution, you will help empower Nebraska youngsters to make a difference in the world.

It is evident from behavior impact studies conducted by The Groundwater Foundation, that Festival participants increase their understanding of water issues and learn how they could adopt more environmentally responsible behaviors. Experts in primary education attribute this success to the Festival's fun, hands-on approach to learning. But beyond educating students about water, our goal is to help them feel the pride and sense of purpose that that comes from being a caretaker of the earth's resources. Our hope is that the knowledge and confidence they gain will help make the right environmental choices, now and in the future.

Your contributions will continue to make a difference long after the Festival ends. Students and teachers will carry a message back to their families, schools and communities—each citizen can help protect Nebraska's water resources. You will find enclosed a response card and envelope for your convenience. A member of the Friends of the Festival will be calling to assist you in planning your contribution. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jackie Beltzer at 379-6825 or Tim White at 384-1600.

Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Sincerely,


Jackie Beltzer


Tim White



410 West 2nd Street, Suite 2
P.O. Box 430
Grand Island, NE 68802
(308) 381-7767 • FAX (308) 381-6567

Board of Directors

W.W. Marshall III
Chair
Densel M. Rasmussen
Chair Elect
Gayle Bradley
Secretary
J.W. Schultz, Jr.
Treasurer
Don Anderson
Duane A. Burns
Jonni Carpenter
Terry Connick
Kim West Dinsdale
Carey Hamilton
Ralph Kelly
Robert C. Larson
Arthur C. Mayer
Orville O. Quabsett
Matthew E. Shonsey
Beuce I. Smith
Pam Snow
E. J. Thayer

Executive Director
Lisa Katzberg

February 2004

City of Grand Island – Utilities
ATTN: Gary Mader
Post Office Box 1968
Grand Island, NE 68802

Dear Gary,

Grand Island Community Foundation appreciates your generous intent to support the Children's Groundwater Festival – **festival '04**. Your gift will help educate our youth about the importance of groundwater and the role it plays in the daily lives of all Nebraskans!

You asked to be billed for this gift.

Pledge:

Children's Groundwater Festival – **festival '04** \$500.00

Again, thank you for your caring, leadership and generosity.

Sincerely,

Lisa Katzberg
Executive Director



RESOLUTION 2004-35

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island relies on adequate, clean groundwater supply for its municipal water; and

WHEREAS, groundwater quality in the past few decades has diminished greatly due to various contaminants; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Groundwater Festival is an annual event which provides education and awareness of groundwater issues to area youth; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Island Community Foundation is coordinating the development and financing of the local Children's Groundwater Festival, and has solicited financial support of the Grand Island Water Department; and

WHEREAS, it is in the city's best interests to assist with this cause to protect the groundwater for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that a contribution of \$500 be provided by the Grand Island Water Department to the Grand Island Community Foundation for the Children's Groundwater Festival – Festival '04.

- - -

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, February 24, 2004.

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk