



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Council Session

Item I-1

#2015-56 - Consideration of Approving the Grant Application to Civic and Community Center Financing Fund regarding Island Oasis Expansion

Staff Contact: Todd McCoy, Parks & Recreation Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director
Charley Falmlen, Community Development Specialist

Meeting: February 24, 2015

Subject: Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant Application

Item #'s: I-1

Presenter(s): Charley Falmlen, Community Development Specialist
Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director

Background

The City of Grand Island's Community Development Division is proposing to submit a grant pre-application to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development's Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) within the submission period of April 15, 2015 and May, 1, 2015. The pre-application will be requesting \$800,000 from the CCCFF to assist in funding the proposed \$1.6 million Children's Wet Playground at Island Oasis Waterpark.

Upon receiving the City of Grand Island's pre-application, and those of various other communities, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NEDED) will determine which projects they believe are most qualified by using pre-determined scoring criteria. The pre-application process is competitive and the projects that score the highest are invited to submit a full application. Those communities which are invited to submit a full application must do so by June 15, 2015.

The City of Grand Island was unsuccessful last year with a pre-application to the CCCFF for the same project; however, City staff feels the Wet Playground project will have a stronger chance this year with recent Island Oasis updates.

Funding from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund requires a 1:1 match, 50% of the match can be in-kind and at least 50% must be a cash match. Matching dollars will be defined for consideration in the 2015-2016 City of Grand Island budget.

Discussion

In June, 2004, City Council authorized City staff to enter into agreement with The C.T. Brannon Corporation to prepare a study of aquatic facilities in Grand Island with respect to their condition, their best utilization, eventual disposition and adequacy to meet current and future needs in the city. In an effort to engage new visitors, the study recommended that a Children's Wet Playground be added to Island Oasis. This Wet Playground would be specifically designed for younger children. In 2007 the City hired Water Technology and Olsson and Associates to design the Children's Wet Playground area.

The City of Grand Island Parks and Recreation Department and the Community Development Division firmly believe that this new playground would expand the quality recreational options available to our city's residents, entice new visitors to the area, and increase overall attendance – making both the State's and the City's support of the project a worthwhile investment.



Alternatives

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

1. Approve the application for the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant.

2. Take no action on the issue.

Recommendation

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

Sample Motion

Move to approve the pre-application and subsequent full application for the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents.

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER FINANCING FUND

2015 Application Guidelines & Pre-Application

The State of Nebraska, Department of Economic Development, will be accepting applications from Nebraska municipalities for grants to support the development of civic centers and community centers under the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund program. A municipality seeking a grant should complete the enclosed brief preliminary application form and return it to the Department no earlier than April 15 but no later than May 1, 2015. Completion of the pre-application is the first step in a two-part grant application process. After May 1, the Department will seek more detailed information on eligible grant requests and the final application is due June 15.

Background: In 2013, the State Legislature amended the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Act. **The Act's purpose is to support the development of civic, community, and recreation centers throughout Nebraska and to support projects that foster maintenance or growth of communities. In effort to support this purpose, grants of assistance to municipalities from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) 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. A civic center therefore includes space for 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. A community center is therefore an area of multiple buildings with both internal and external elements. A civic center may or may not be in a community center.
- **Recreation Center** – a facility used for athletics, fitness, sport activities, or recreation that is owned by a municipality and is available for use by the general public with or without charge. A recreation center does not include any facility that requires a person to purchase a membership to utilize such facility.
- **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 and the City of Lincoln, The City of Ralston, or other municipality that has received funding under the Sports Arena Facility Financial Assistance Act is ineligible to receive funds under both the Sports Arena Facility Financial Assistance Act and the CCCFF. 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
(Grant Maximum Schedule A)*

| Population of Municipality | Maximum Grant Amount |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 100,000 to 299,999 persons | \$1,500,000 |
| 40,000 to 99,999 | \$750,000 |
| 20,000 to 39,999 | \$500,000 |
| 10,000 to 19,999 | \$400,000 |
| less than 10,000 | \$250,000 |

After the balance of the Fund reaches \$2,500,000 and until it falls below \$1,000,000 (Grant Maximum Schedule B)

| Population of Municipality | Maximum Grant Amount |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 100,000 to 299,999 persons | \$2,500,000 |
| 40,000 to 99,999 | \$1,125,000 |
| 20,000 to 39,999 | \$750,000 |
| 10,000 to 19,999 | \$600,000 |
| 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.

Application Timing and Process: A municipality seeking funding will complete and return a Preliminary Application Form by **May 1, 2015**. Projects deemed eligible and competitive for funding will be sent an invitation to submit a Full Application no later than **May 15, 2015**. Full Application Forms are to be completed, returned to the Department no later than **June 15, 2015**. 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 **June 30, 2015**.

All applications and supporting materials must be received in the Department by 5:00pm on the respective due date. Please submit both single hard copy original and electronic copy (PDF email attachments are acceptable).

The Department reserves the right to hold a second application cycle beginning in **September 2015**. The announcement of this cycle will be made no later than **August 15, 2015**.

Review Criteria: Pre-application narratives should be developed using the same criteria as full applications as outlined below. Maps, images, and photographs should be included where appropriate. Upon invitation by DED, full applications will be reviewed and scored by a committee consisting of Department staff as well as invited members of other vested State agencies. The review committee will make a recommendation reflecting 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), and any other relevant parts of the Civic and Community Center Financing Act. Up to ten (10) points will be available for each of the following review criteria (60 points maximum). 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. The review criterion includes:

- **Project location. (yes/no)**
A project shall be located in the municipality that applies for the grant. Please include a map of the project area in relation to the community, identifying any relevant sites or related projects. The map is intended to provide context to the proposed project. Photographs may also be included.
- **Project ownership. (yes/no)**
A project shall be owned by the municipality that applies for the grant.
- **Project operation. (yes/no)**
A project shall be operated by the municipality that applies for the grant, directly or under contract.
- **Retention Impact. (1-10 points)**
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;
 - *Tips for completing the project application narrative: describe a how the proposed project fulfills a known local need, based on a formal or informal assessment of current conditions.*
- **New Resident Impact. (1-10 points)**
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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- *Tips: describe the unique and/or specific services or function to be provided as a result of project completion otherwise not available, specifically related to attracting new residents, include what services or functions would become available should the project be completed.*
- **Visitor Impact. (1-10 points)**
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.
 - *Tips: describe the unique and/or specific services or function to be provided as a result of project completion otherwise not available, specifically related to attracting visitors and/or tourists into the area.*
- **Financial support. (1-10 points)**
Assistance from the fund must include a 100% match (i.e. matched at least equally from local sources). At least fifty percent of the local match must be in cash. Preference shall be given to those projects with a higher level of local matching funds compared to 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.
 - *Tips: describe project viability, leverages, and financial resources, as well as efforts to secure non-CCCCF monies from other state, federal, foundation, business, or individual sources.*
- **Readiness and local public support. (1-10 points)**
The applicant's fiscal, economic, and operational capacity to finance and manage the project and ability of the applicant to proceed and implement its plan and operate the civic or community center.
 - *Tips: identify who will handle the day-to-day operation and management of the project, project roles, and established or potential partnerships, as well as any volunteer efforts. Include a summary and description of past and future projects and activities carried out at the local level, and identify partnerships and volunteer efforts. Provide a summary or other evidence of public support in the form of public meetings, design charrettes, fundraising campaigns, etc.*
- **Project Planning. (1-10 points)**
Projects with completed technical assistance and feasibility studies shall be preferred to those with no prior planning.
 - *Tips: describe the level of design or conceptualization of the project, who was involved, historical preservation consideration (where appropriate), etc. Including a planning process timetable that would further illustrate the planning process, as well as a timeline for project implementation, including securing matching funds.*
 - *Note: when applying for **planning grants**, please provide any information about initial planning, stakeholder and/or public meetings, as well as a summary of comprehensive planning that may have been conducted at the project area or community level. When a comprehensive plan has recommended the proposed project, please provide a hyperlink or electronic copy of the entire comprehensive plan and indicate the specific location(s) of those recommendations.*

**CIVIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER FINANCING FUND
GRANT ASSISTANCE - 2015**

DED USE ONLY: _____

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| A | Name of Municipality: | |
| B | Type of grant requested (check one) | <input type="checkbox"/> planning <input type="checkbox"/> capital construction |
| C | Grant amount requested*: | |
| D | Facility is located within Municipality listed in Line A | <input type="checkbox"/> yes |
| E | Municipality listed in Line A will own facility | <input type="checkbox"/> yes |
| F | Municipality listed in Line A will operate the facility | <input type="checkbox"/> yes, skip to Line H <input type="checkbox"/> no, include an explanatory statement |
| G | Entity under contract that will operate the facility: | |
| H | Existing or preliminary name of facility: | |
| I | Type of facility (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> civic center <input type="checkbox"/> community center <input type="checkbox"/> historic building <input type="checkbox"/> recreation center | |
| J | Proposed project has completed technical assistance and/or feasibility studies: | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| K | Web address (if available): | |

*Must correspond to the appropriate amount based on population size as listed in the table on page 1 of the 2015 Application Guidelines.

☐ **ATTACHMENTS ENCLOSED: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTER AND A MAP IDENTIFYING THE LOCATION OF THE FACILITY** (The summary should be at least one paragraph, but no more than one page. Please review final application scoring criteria and be clear and concise with your project summary. Supplemental maps, images, or photographs may be included, but limited to one additional page. The pre-application with attachments shall be no more than four pages.)

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.
☐ The applicant has not received funding assistance from the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act.
☐ The applicant has not been awarded a CCCFF grant within the last 5 grant years.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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

Jenny B. Mason, CCCFF Coordinator
Nebraska Department of Economic Development
P.O. 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509-4666
t: (402) 471-6280 | e: jenny.mason@nebraska.gov

Revised January 12, 2015

RESOLUTION 2015-56

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, will seek the opportunity to apply for a \$800,000 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 will submit an application for the Island Oasis Water Park Children's Wet Playground; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island will submit an application as a result of project readiness, signified by the financial understanding of City Council.

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 a \$800,000 grant request from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund from the State of Nebraska's Department of Economic Development Department ; and

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

- - -

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, February 24, 2015.

Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Approved as to Form | ▣ _____ |
| February 20, 2015 | ▣ City Attorney |