



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Council Session

Item G-6

**#2015-86 - Approving Statewide Arboretum Grant Re-Application
for Trees at Kaufmann Cummings Plaza**

Staff Contact: Charley Falmlen

Council Agenda Memo

From: Charley Falmlen, Community Development

Meeting: April 14, 2015

Subject: Approving Statewide Arboretum Grant Re-Application for Trees at Kaufmann Cummings Plaza

Item #'s: G-6

Presenter(s): Charley Falmlen, Community Development

Background

In 2011, The City of Grand Island was one of eight Nebraska communities that was selected to receive a \$55,000 Greener Nebraska Towns Program grant. In March 2011, the City applied for a Greener Nebraska Towns Initiative grant that enabled Grand Island to create short and long-range greenscape goals and a green community education plan. A planning committee, comprised of city staff and community representatives, was formed to identify potential community greenscape needs, collect information for the grant and create a comprehensive list of potential project partners if the grant was awarded. The grant funded the Bioinfiltration Garden located at the Grand Island Public Library and allowed the City of do multiple tree plantings throughout the community. The City was unable to make use of 100% of the funds allocated for tree planting before the grant deadline, and therefore returned a portion of grant funds to the Statewide Arboretum. The Arboretum representative encouraged the City of Grand Island to re-apply for the returned funds, when a program was in place to plant additional trees.

A potential project for re-distribution for the Statewide Arboretum funds is in motion. The City of Grand Island has a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement District that is being used to re-design and update Kaufmann Cummings Plaza. The CDBG does not cover the costs of aesthetic updates such as trees and shrubs. Therefore the Community Development Division would like to re-approach the Statewide Arboretum about making use of the returned funds from the original 2011 Arboretum grant, and using said funds toward purchase of trees, land preparation and tree planting fees, all within Kaufmann Cummings Plaza.

Discussion

In addition to many other landscaping details, the tree planting at Kaufmann Cummings Plaza will include the planting of 6 Serviceberry, 1 Kentucky Coffeetree, and 7 Regal Prince Oak trees within the KC Plaza. Grant funds require a 1:1 match from the community. The total landscaping project cost is estimated to be \$17,000, and the City of Grand Island will be requesting \$8,500 from the funds returned to the Statewide Arboretum. The remaining \$8,500 in matching funds will be provided by the Downtown Business Improvement District, as they are a partner in this CDBG project and responsible for a portion of matching funds.

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 Statewide Arboretum Grant Re-Application.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the Statewide Arboretum Grant Re-Application.

RESOLUTION 2015-86

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, was one of eight Nebraska communities that has been selected to receive a Greener Nebraska Towns Program grant; and

WHEREAS, the \$55,000 grant enabled the City of Grand Island to intensively plant trees, implement and create a bioinfiltration garden and conduct public outreach and education activities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island returned a portion of the grant funds, with the potential for future use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island will re-apply to make use of the returned funds for landscaping needs at Kaufmann Cummings Plaza.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that:

1. The City of Grand Island, Nebraska is hereby authorized to accept the Statewide Arboretum Grant Re-Application; and
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Grant Application and other documentation on behalf of the City of Grand Island for such grant process.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, April 14, 2015.

Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
April 13, 2015	☐ City Attorney