Resolution 2013-259

Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with West Bank Community Coalition for Fundraising Related to the Planting and Maintenance of a Native Prairie at Bluff Street Park

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of Minneapolis parks and authorized to contract with public and private entities in the conduct of its functions;

Whereas, The MPRB is the owner of Bluff Street Park at 20 20th Avenue South, Minneapolis, which includes an upper field area of approximately 1.5 acres;

Whereas, The MPRB has been collaborating with a grass-roots community group organized as the Bluff Street Task Force and their parent organization, the West Bank Community Coalition to pursue prairie restoration of Bluff Street Park's upper field;

Whereas, The MPRB, the City of Minneapolis, and the Bluff Street Task Force collaborated on the preparation of a Landscape Planting Plan to guide the restoration;

Whereas, Based on Bluff Street Task Force and West Bank Community Coalition advocacy, the MPRB and West Bank Community Coalition desire to enter into a fundraising agreement for the restoration and maintenance of the proposed native planting area;

Whereas, A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been drafted outline roles, responsibilities, and expectations of project fundraising; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions "Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs";

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approve a Memorandum of Understanding with West Bank Community Coalition for fundraising related to the planting and maintenance of a native prairie at Bluff Street Park; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

TO: Administration & Finance Committee

FROM: Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning

DATE: August 7, 2013

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with West Bank Community Coalition for Fundraising Related to the Planting and Maintenance of a Native Prairie at Bluff Street Park

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BACKGROUND

This Board action considers approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with West Bank Community Coalition, the parent organization of the Bluff Street Task Force for fundraising toward the restoration and maintenance of native prairie in the upper field of Bluff Street Park.

For several years, the MPRB has been collaborating with a grass-roots community group organized as the Bluff Street Task Force, which is advocating for prairie restoration of the upper field of Bluff Street Park. The MPRB, City of Minneapolis, and Bluff Street Task Force have collaborated on a planting plan (Attachment 1) to accomplish the restoration.

The Task Force wishes to raise funds for both implementation of the planting plan and six years of landscape maintenance of the plan, all estimated at $30,000. To identify the roles, responsibilities and expectations of fundraising and implementation, an MOU (Attachment 2) has been drafted between the MPRB and the Bluff Street Task Force's parent organization, West Bank Community Coalition. The MOU identifies fundraising thresholds, milestones and responsibilities to carry out the work.

The MOU along with the recently approved management plan for Bluff Street Park represents a significant step forward for stewardship of the park and the MPRB's relationship with the community surrounding the park.

Legal counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement.

FUNDING / COST SUMMARY

No MPRB funds will be used to install or maintain the vegetation restoration work at Bluff Street Park.

RELATED BOARD ACTIONS

July 10, 2013	Resolution No. 2013-237 Approving the Native Prairie Restoration Planting Plan for the upper field of Bluff Street Park

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with West Bank Community Coalition for fundraising related to the planting and maintenance of a native prairie at Bluff Street Park.

This action supports the following vision theme and goals of the MPRB adopted Comprehensive Plan:

Vision Theme 2:	Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs.
Goal:	Parks shape an evolving city.
Goal:	Focused land management supports current and future generations.

HISTORY:

07/24/13	**Administration & Finance Committee**	**ADOPTED**

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 - FINAL Bluff Street Park Planting Plan (PDF)
- Attachment 2 - MOU with West Bank Community Coalition (PDF)

Prepared By: Renay Leone, Real Estate Coordinator, Design and Project Management
Review:
Cliff Swenson Completed 07/11/2013 9:40 AM
Bruce Chamberlain Completed 07/11/2013 2:57 PM
Jayne Miller Completed 07/13/2013 10:14 PM
Administration & Finance Committee Completed 08/01/2013 8:19 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pending