

City of Minneapolis
Request for Committee Action

To: Ways & Means
Date: 1/11/2016
From: Community Planning & Economic Development
Prepared by: Charles T. Lutz
Presented by: Susan L. Segal
File type: Action

Subject:

Accepting Contribution from the Vikings to the City for the Downtown East Commons

Description:

1. Authorizing execution of an amended and restated charitable pledge agreement with Minnesota Vikings Football, LLC providing for an additional \$2 million in charitable contributions for the Downtown East Commons.
2. Adopting a resolution authorizing acceptance of the anticipated \$2 million gift from Minnesota Vikings Football, LLC.

Previous Actions:

On December 13, 2013, in conjunction with the approval of a term sheet with Ryan Companies and the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority for the Downtown East project, the City Council accepted and authorized the City to enter into a charitable pledge agreement for a \$1 million contribution from Minnesota Vikings Football LLC (the “Vikings”) for basic improvements to the 1-2/3rds blocks of green space located between Portland and 5th Avenue South and 4th and 5th Streets South now known as the Downtown East Commons (the “Commons”). September 11, 2015, the City Council approved a concept design for the Commons, authorized Green Minneapolis, a 501(C)(3) non-profit, to undertake a fundraising campaign and approved construction of an initial phase of enhancements to the Commons, among other actions. November 6, 2015, the City Council adopted a resolution accepting gifts from Green Minneapolis and Ryan Companies for construction of interim enhancements to the Commons.

Ward/Address:

Ward 3
425 Portland Ave S and 521 4th St S

Background/Analysis:

On February 10, 2014 the City and Minnesota Vikings Football, LLC (the “Vikings”) entered into a Charitable Pledge Agreement in conjunction with the closing on the 5-block Downtown East development project. Under the agreement, the Vikings pledged to contribute \$500,000 to the City by July 1, 2014 and \$500,000 to the City by July 1, 2015 for development and construction of certain improvements to a publicly-owned green space now known as the Commons. The Vikings have donated the pledged funds to the City. Recently the Vikings announced an intention to contribute an additional \$2 million to the City for the Commons pursuant to an amendment to the original agreement. Of the \$2 million donation, 17 – 23% of the donation (\$340,000 to \$460,000) is to be reserved for operating expenses of the Commons, with the balance designated for capital improvements.

The acceptance of this donation does not obligate the City to undertake actions beyond the basic improvements already contained in the original Charitable Pledge Agreement.

In accordance with state law and the City's gift policy, the City Council must authorize acceptance of gifts to the City by resolution adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members.

Financial Review:

No additional appropriation required, amount included in current budget.

This action merely involves acceptance of a gift and authorizes the City to

Attachments:

1. Resolution