



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Public Works and Department of Community
Planning and Economic Development**

Date: January 18, 2011
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair, Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair, Ways & Means Committee
Subject: **I35W Remembrance Garden**

Recommendation:

Acceptance of the I35W Remembrance Garden as a gift to the City from the I35W Remembrance Garden Fund and direct the proper City authorities to enter into an agreement with the I35W Remembrance Garden Fund and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to construct and maintain the Memorial.

Previous Directives: None

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Approved by:

Steve A. Kotke, P.E. City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Barbara Sporlein, Planning Director, CPED

Presenters: Erica Prosser - Constituent Services Director – Office of the Mayor
Paul Ogren–Superintendent of Environmental Engineering - Public Works
Tom Oslund - Landscape Architect - Principal of Oslund and Associates

Reviews: Not Applicable

Financial Impact: No financial impact - (A future Council request will address the exact amount of the Endowment for this project and anticipated revenue)

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: N/A

City Goals: Livable Communities, Healthy Lives

Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 7, Open Space and Parks; Chapter 9, Arts and Culture

Zoning Code: N/A

Background/Supporting Information

For two years the offices of the Mayor and the Governor have been working closely with the families of the victims and survivors of the I35W Bridge Collapse on a concept and location for a memorial. This group selected Gold Medal Park as the location because it became a gathering place in the days and weeks immediately following the bridge collapse. They have also indentified the values they would like to see the Memorial embody, and worked closely with Tom Oslund, the original designer of Gold Medal Park to develop a schematic design.

The Minneapolis Arts Commission's Public Art Advisory Panel reviewed this proposal on January 5. The Arts Commission review of this proposal on January 19 is occurring concurrently with City Council Review. The Panel recommends the Arts Commission approve the design of the Memorial and that the Arts Commission support the recommendation to the City Council to accept the gift of the Memorial.

Design Details

The proposed Memorial has since been moved to a location directly across the street from Gold Medal Park between West River Parkway and the Mississippi River bluff, which is owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) (The Board approved this location on November 3, 2010.)

MPRB staff and other project representatives are requesting that the City consider owning the Memorial as a work of public art and managing the maintenance, as the City currently owns and maintains a number of public artworks on MPRB property.

The Memorial design has been modified to be integrated into this site. Some of the key design features will include:

- 13 steel and opaque glass I-beams will be engraved with the names of and descriptions of those who lost their lives in their native languages;
- These beams will line an 81' x 13' linear granite plaza, the dimensions of which reference the date of the bridge collapse, August 1, or 8/1, and the number of people who lost their lives, 13;
- A granite water wall will be etched with the names of the survivors and include text in stainless steel embodying the Memorial's values and honoring the families, survivors, first responders and community. (The text in the plans and draft designs is currently a draft and has not been finalized.);
- A 65' path will lead from the fountain to the bluff edge and reference the time of the collapse, 6:05 p.m. An observation deck at the end of the path will allow views of the river and the new bridge;
- LED lighting will be located within the beams, along the path to the overlook, around the overlook and also illuminate the water wall; and
- Benches for rest and contemplation will bookend the plaza site.

Funding and Budget

Over \$1.5 million has been raised to construct the Memorial and provide an endowment to support ongoing maintenance. Funds have been donated by URS Corp; Thrivent Financial; as well as Attorneys Chris Messerly and Philip Sieff of Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi and James Schwebel and Courtney Lawrence of Schwebel, Goetz and Sieben, who helped negotiate the Memorial fund and settlement. A private foundation, The I35W Remembrance Garden Fund, has been established at the Minneapolis Foundation for the purpose of managing these funds and the endowment, as well as raising additional funds. The estimated cost of constructing the Memorial is \$800,000. The endowment for maintenance will be funded through the remaining dollars of approximately \$700,000 (which may be supplemented through additional donations).

Maintenance

Interest on the maintenance endowment is estimated to provide approximately \$28,000 annually. Oslund and Associates, with input from Park Board and Public Works staff, have prepared a maintenance estimate which addresses daily, seasonal and occasional costs. The annual cost of maintenance is estimated, in current dollars, to be between \$27,000-\$32,000, including:

- Daily, weekly and seasonal maintenance;
- Daily observation, waste removal, cleaning, sweeping and graffiti removal;
- Plant and lawn care, leaf removal and snow removal;
- Irrigation, water costs, electrical and maintenance of the water feature; and
- Sanding and sealing of the wood elements twice annually.

The cost to repair or replace elements of the memorial (due to damage, or when elements such as lights or the fountain pump reach the end of their useful life), is not included in the maintenance cost estimate. While there is a maintenance funding source and the initial expenditures for maintenance are estimated to be covered mostly by the interest earned from this source, the City would need to provide the ongoing maintenance funding within its future budgets if the maintenance endowment funding is depleted.

Staffing and Oversight

Public Works will oversee the maintenance of the non-artwork elements of the Memorial and Art in Public Places will oversee the maintenance of the artwork elements. The MPRB police will be responsible for security at the site.

Should the City Council approve the Gift request, a Memorandum of Agreement will be developed between the City, the MPRB, and the Minneapolis Foundation, detailing each party's responsibilities, copyrights and the terms for construction and ongoing funding.

Attachments: Renderings of the Remembrance Garden