



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: January 8, 2008

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral to: Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee

Subject: Drinking Fountain Project

Recommendation:

Approve the scope and budget for the Drinking Fountain Project and release the accompanying funds as described in the 2008 budget directive listed below.

Previous Directives:

- Ways and Means Action taken during the 2008 Capital Budget Mark-up on November 26, 2007: "Public Works staff be directed to provide a report to the Transportation & Public Works Committee by 1st Quarter 2008 on the Drinking Fountain fund, relating to the capital and operational costs and the scope of the program; and that the funds not be released until the report has been presented."

Prepared by: Paul W. Ogren, Public Works, 673-2456
Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator, 673-3006

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P. E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Paul W. Ogren, Public Works
Mary Atman, Public Arts Administrator

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	Approval _____	Not applicable	<u> X </u>
Policy Review Group	Approval _____	Not applicable	<u> X </u>

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Nothing required at this time

City Goals: The City's infrastructure will be improved as well as enhancing our environment.

Comprehensive Plan: Consistent

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information:

Vision and Goals:

The 2008 budget proposed funding a series of artist-designed public drinking fountains to be placed throughout the City of Minneapolis. The inspiration for this project is the theater production *Invigorate the Common Well*, by Sandy Spieler and In the Heart of the Beast Theatre (HOBT). The vision of the Drinking Fountain project is to celebrate the role water has played in Minneapolis history as part of the City's 150th anniversary. The program's six goals are as follows:

- Establish Minneapolis as a place where people can walk down the street and enjoy a free drink of water.
- Raise the public's consciousness on how their daily habits impact the public water supply, rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands.
- Support conservation and a sustainable future by nurturing water quality and quantity practices in homes, schools, and workplaces.
- Provide free water in open public spaces to pedestrians, bicyclists, and visitor to the City.
- Inspire the private sector to integrate public water fountains into their buildings/spaces.
- Beautify the public realm and celebrate the role of water in our lives through the creative work of artists.

Locations:

Ten overall sites are recommended for the incorporation of the artist-designed drinking fountains. (The exact locations will be determined by Public Works, Public Art Advisory Panel, and the Minneapolis Arts Commission.) :

- Nicollet Mall
- Mill District
- Lake Street near the Midtown Exchange
- Franklin Avenue near the Library and the American Indian Center
- Plymouth Avenue and Penn Avenues North
- Dinkytown
- Four sites integrated into the new transit corridors along Marquette and Second Avenue South.

These sites were selected based on the following criteria:

- Popular designations that are fitting places to celebrate the story of water and Minneapolis.
- On pedestrian corridors or bike trails, near schools or libraries, or within plazas or other public gathering spaces.
- Publicly owned sites and public accessible days, evening, and weekends.
- With readily accessible sources of water.
- Accessible to a broad range of people.
- In areas of the right-of-way or public lands with adequate space.
- A potential for a public or private partner able to provide daily and ongoing maintenance

Technical Details:

- Fountains may be freestanding, wall-mounted, pump-style, and/or have individual spigots for pets and filling water bottles.
- All fountains will be new. Artist may modify standard fountains, use core plumbing systems or work with a City of Minneapolis plumber who will assist in the design and installation of custom plumbing.
- All fountains will be code and ADA compliant.
- All plumbing will consist of readily available standard parts.
- Artist will modify preliminary designs as necessary to address plumbing, maintenance, and code issues.

Project Management:

The project will be coordinated by the Department of Public Works and the Public Arts Administrator. The Public Art Advisory Panel and the Minneapolis Arts Commission will provide direction to the project according to the City's Public Art Policies and Procedures. Heart of the Beast Theatre will provide additional artistic direction to the project and design one fountain.

Timeline: The planned timetable for this project is as follows:

- Finalize the framework and draft RFP: October – December, 2007.
- Site Selection: December, 2007.
- Report to the Transportation and Public Works Committee: January 8, 2008.
- Approval by the Minneapolis City Council: January, 18, 2008.
- Finalize RFP and commission HOBT to design the first fountain: Late January, 2008.
- Distribute Request For Proposals and review HOBT design: mid-February, 2009.
- Short-listed finalist and finalize HOBT design and begin fabrication: late March, 2008.
- Successful finalist and designs selected: May, 2008.
- Finalize designs and complete HOBT fountain installation: June, 2008.
- Dedicate HOBT fountain and present 5 other designs at a public event in conjunction with Sesquicentennial celebration: July, 2008.
- Fabricate, install, and dedicate the remaining 5 fountains in collaboration with the specific community and partners: July, 2008 – June, 2009.
- Schedule for 4 fountains along Marquette and 2nd Avenue South projects will be based on the time-line of the reconstruction of these sites.

Maintenance:

The current estimate on the complete design and construction of each water fountain is approximately \$50,000 per fountain for a total of \$500,000 for 10 fountains. Of this \$500,000, the Arts in Public Places fund (4100-890-8962) would contribute \$250,000 and the remaining \$250,000 would be funded from the Water Fund (WTR 10).

Plans for the project include addressing daily, annual and long term maintenance issues of both the artwork and the plumbing mechanics:

- Daily maintenance includes the activities necessary for the fountain to remain safe and sanitary.
- Annual maintenance includes winterizing the water lines of the fountain in the spring and fall to prevent significant freeze damage and replacing broken plumbing parts. .
- Long term maintenance includes the periodic conservation costs of the artwork, or the exterior surfaces of the fountain.

A requirement of this program is to find qualified partners among adjoining private, quasi-public, Special Service Districts, and/or public agencies to perform all the daily sanitary maintenance of

the drinking fountains. In addition to the daily sanitary maintenance, it is expected these partners will conduct the annual maintenance functions. If necessary, Property Services can conduct the annual maintenance of fountains in one or two areas of the City where it may be difficult to locate a partner for this particular function. Maintenance of the artwork components of the fountains will be conducted by Art in Public Places as part its regular conservation program and consistent with existing City public art policies. Public Works is recommending that for these specific fountains, water will be provided at no charge.

Prior to installation of each water fountain, the solutions to these three maintenance issues listed above will be clearly determined and written agreements will be in place. Public Works recognizes that these partnerships may not address all maintenance issues for the life of the fountains. If in the future these partners are no longer able to address all the maintenance issues, it may be necessary to considering deaccessing the fountains as determined in the City's established Public Art Policy.

Enclosure: Preliminary map of recommended locations

CC: Jeremy Hanson, Mayor
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