



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
From the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development and the  
Minneapolis Arts Commission**

Date: November 17, 2005

TO: Council Member Gary Schiff, Zoning and Planning Committee

Prepared by Mary Altman, Public Art Administrator, Phone 612-673-3006  
Presenters in Committee Mary Altman

Approved by Barbara Sporlein, Director, Planning \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** Proposed Donation of Sculpture to the City of Minneapolis for Brackett Park

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend the Minneapolis City Council Accept the Gift of the Brackett Park Rocket by Randy Walker by Forecast Public Artworks contingent upon Forecast securing sufficient funds and in-kind donations.

**Previous Directives:** Approval of Public Art Policies, 4/02/04, Petn. # 269529

**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** <use any categories that apply>

Ward: 9  
Neighborhood Notification:  
City Goals: 2, 3 and 6  
Comprehensive Plan:  
Zoning Code:  
Living Wage/Job Linkage:  
Other

**Background/Supporting Information**

Forecast Public Artworks, working with the Rocket Boosters, proposes giving the Brackett Park Rocket sculpture to the City of Minneapolis for placement in Brackett Park. A major component of the sculpture is a rocket-like piece of playground equipment that originally was located in the park, and which will be transformed by the artist into a public sculpture. Forecast has been

working closely with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board staff on this project, and plans to bring a proposal before the Board should the City accept the gift. Forecast is approaching the City of Minneapolis to receive the gift because they feel the City is best suited for overseeing the ongoing care and maintenance of the sculpture. Consistent with City policy on donations of public art gifts, their proposal includes a \$10,000 for future maintenance. The attachments detail this project more specifically.

**Attachments:**

- Forecast Application, Proposal, Budget, Site Plan
- Photo of Artwork Model
- Letter of Support from Park Board Staff

# Proposal for a Public Art Gift, Loan or Permit

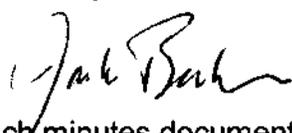
To the Minneapolis Arts Commission and City of Minneapolis

**Directions:** Work closely with the City's Public Arts Administrator to complete this form and plan the gift or loan of an artwork to City. We suggest you submit a draft to the Public Arts Administrator for review and comment, and make any necessary revisions, prior to submitting your final completed proposal. The Public Arts Administrator will also provide you with a copy of the City's policies Gifts and Loans and an estimated schedule for review of your request by the Public Art Advisory Panel, Minneapolis Arts Commission and Minneapolis City Council. Note: This review process can take several months.

Check all [ ] that apply.

## 1 Profile of Applicant

(Please include the information below for all organizations involved:

- 1.1. Name of group, organization, City department or board: FORECAST Public Artworks
- 1.2. Contact person: Jack Becker
- 1.3. Work phone: 651-641-1128
- 1.4. Home phone: 612-722-3143
- 1.5. Cell phone: 612-618-0334
- 1.6. Fax: 651-641-1983
- 1.7. Email: forecast@visi.com
- 1.8. Address (include city, state, zip): 2324 University Ave. W #104, St. Paul, MN 55114
- 1.9. Date form completed: Oct. 23
- 1.10. Authorized signature approving request: 
- 1.11. Name and title of authorized person (attach minutes documenting any official action by the group, organization, department or board): Jack Becker, Executive Director, FORECAST

### Attachments: (Check all that are included, items with an \* are required.)

- Minutes documenting official actions by your group
- \*  Images of the artwork and/or models
- \*  Site plan, to scale, including the artwork (\*required if a specific location is proposed)
- Monetary appraisal of the artwork
- Condition assessment of the artwork by a conservator
- \*  Review by a structural engineer of the design, or of the work itself
- Articles about the artwork
- Biographical information about the artist(s)
- \*  Artist(s) contracts, waivers or relevant legal information, if available
- \*  Documentation of Liability Insurance (\*required for loans)
- Letters of support from the artist(s) or their family(ies)
- Letters of support from the community or other stakeholders
- \*  Itemized budget, including source of ongoing maintenance funding, and any costs incurred by the City
- \*  Estimated timeline, including installation

Draft

1

Draft

## 2. Profile of Artwork

Attach photographic and other documentation relevant to the artwork's location, value and current condition. If available, please also attach any biographical information relating to the artist, contracts with the artist, or any published material relevant to the artwork.

- 2.1. Title of artwork: Brackett Rocket
- 2.2. Artwork type:  One-of-a-kind,  Part of a limited edition, number \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_,  Part of an unlimited edition,
- 2.3. Public artwork type:  Bench,  Gateway,  Manhole Cover,  Mural,  Commemorative Statue,  Other, please list: Landmark Sculpture
- 2.4. Medium and materials: Playground rocket, galvanized steel, cables, concrete base
- 2.5. Date created: Rocket built in 1960s. Sculpture to be completed June 1, 2006
- 2.6. How obtained by your group:  Commission,  Gift,  Purchase,  Other, please list:  
Rocket removed from playground, saved for sculpture project
- 2.7. Dimensions: (height x width x depth): 35 feet high, 6 feet dia., 32' x 20' base
- 2.8. Life Span:  Temporary-up to 5 years,  Midspan-up to 15 years,  Long term-up to 50 years,  Permanent or site integrated- part of site/structure and cannot be removed, without being destroyed.
- 2.9. Condition:  Mint,  Excellent,  Good,  Poor,  Damaged
- 2.10. Is there a plaque for the artwork?  Yes,  No (If so, please attach a photo of the plaque or proposed copy of the plaque.) To be produced
- 2.11. Estimated value of artwork: \$ 100,000.00  
Source of estimated value (appraisal, commission cost, purchase cost): based on budget
- 2.12. Estimated annual maintenance needed: cleaning and perhaps graffiti removal, plant maintenance.  
Estimated annual maintenance cost: \$: \$1,000 - \$1,200 per year  
What is the proposed source of maintenance funding after City acceptance  City fund, site funding code/source: \_\_\_\_\_,  Endowment provided by applicant,  Service provided by applicant,  Other, please list: Maintenance fund gift to city.
- 2.13. Overall description (include information about the medium/materials used to construct the artwork, as well as information about bases and lighting that might be included :  
ATTACHED
- 2.14. History of the artwork:  
ATTACHED

### 3. Profile of Artist

(Please include the information below for all artists involved)

- 3.1. Name: Randy Walker
- 3.2. Deceased  Yes,  No
- 3.3. Family Contact: (if deceased):
- 3.4. Work phone: 612-282-9820
- 3.5. Home phone: 612-728-7834
- 3.6. Cell phone: 612-282-9820
- 3.7. Fax: 612-728-7834
- 3.8. Email: walkerdesign@bitstream.net
- 3.9. Address (include City, State, Zip): 3616 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406
- 3.10. Have you contacted the artist(s) or their family(ies)?  Yes,  No
- 3.11. Do they support your proposal?  Yes,  No (If so, attach a letter of support.)
- 3.12. Do you have any information about the artist's legal rights or copyrights?  Yes,  No If so, please describe or attach contracts, waivers or other relevant legal information.

### 4. Terms of Proposed Gift, Loan or Permit

Are you proposing to?

- 4.1.  Donate the Artwork or  Place the artwork on City property
- 4.2. Proposed location, if applicable:  
City Ward: 2  
Proposed duration at this location: permanent
- 4.3. Proposed date to be given to the City or date of installation on City site: June 1, 2006
- 4.4. If the artwork is not yet created, or being installed in a specific City location, please describe the partners and/or personnel who will be involved in the creation and/or installation (Please list all involved subcontractors and their qualifications.) Has an art conservator been involved?

ATTACHED

- 4.5. What other stipulations or conditions, if any, are you requesting as part of this proposal?  
Lighting, educational programming, and dedication will be sponsored and coordinated by FORECAST

## **5. Rationale**

Please describe why the Arts Commission should recommend approval of this gift or loan (see the Gift and Loan Policies for Specific Examples).

### **5.1. Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Arts**

Demonstrate excellence in recycling historical neighborhood artifact, honoring the park as a place for the community to share, and demonstrating creative solutions to design challenges.

### **5.2. Enhance Community Identity and Place**

Serve as a landmark monument for the Brackett Park community. Respond to needs expressed by community for promoting identity, celebrating vitality.

### **5.3. Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities**

Hundreds of individuals have been involved to date, including volunteer planning committee (the Rocket Boosters), children and families raising funds, and people donating time, services, goods and dollars.

### **5.4. Contribute to Community Vitality**

Serves as a symbol of spirit and vitality, and the will of the community to save the rocket, and return it to the park as a landmark, and as a reminder to future generations.

### **5.5. Value Artists and Artistic Processes**

Selection of artist based on quality of past work, concept for rocket, knowledge of safety issues and engineering, and desire to involve community throughout the process.

### **5.6. Use Resources Wisely**

Recycles sturdy playground structure, generates countless hours of volunteerism, broad based support and in-kind donations. FORECAST has 28 years of experience managing projects and maximizing limited budgets.

**FORECAST Public Artworks  
Public Art Gift Proposal to the City of Minneapolis**

**Brackett Park Rocket Project**

**BACKGROUND**

For over 40 years, the playground at Brackett Park in the Longfellow Neighborhood of South Minneapolis was home to an interactive 3-level Rocket that fueled the imaginations of generations of neighborhood children. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) renovated the park in 2004 and removed the Rocket from the park's play area. Prior to this, area residents dedicated to saving the Rocket—the Rocket Boosters—petitioned the MPRB and saved the structure from demolition, with the hope of returning it to a different site in the park as a landmark (the Park Board required that it not be used as playground equipment again).

In addition to preserving the Rocket as a neighborhood icon of an historic era, transforming it into a sculptural landmark was viewed as an opportunity to build community by engaging community members in the process and in a culminating celebration. The final work, relocated to a high visibility site within the park, would reflect the community's progressive and creative spirit and provide a lasting legacy that connects Brackett Park's past to its future for generations of children.

**FORECAST PUBLIC ARTWORKS**

In 2004 the Rocket Boosters approached Longfellow/Seward resident Jack Becker of FORECAST Public Artworks to develop concepts for reusing the Rocket as an artistic landmark. FORECAST, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in St. Paul, focuses on advancing the field of public art locally, regionally and nationally by expanding participation, supporting artists, informing audiences and assisting communities. Jack has 28 years of experience in the public art field. He also established FORECAST's statewide grant program and national journal *Public Art Review*.

FORECAST attended Brackett Rocket project meetings, identified potential artists, managed the artist selection process, worked with the selected artist during a preliminary design phase, and publicized the project. In March 2005 artist Randy Walker was selected by a Booster-appointed committee from a group of three qualified candidates. FORECAST contracted with Walker to prepare preliminary design drawings to present to the community in order to obtain input and feedback prior to completing the design. FORECAST assisted the artist during the design phase to ensure that the sculpture is durable, requires little maintenance, and meets the approval of the MPRB.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Brackett Rocket landmark sculpture, utilizing the original rocket playground structure, will be located at the southwest corner of Brackett Park, just behind the park's sign. The rocket, a 25-foot-long structure of galvanized steel, will be mounted to a concrete column rising ten feet off the ground, centered within an oval raised planter, approximately 34 feet long and 20 feet wide. The total height of the rocket will be 35 feet. Walker will install the rocket on the concrete column in Late May or early June, 2006. Once installed, the artist will attach 84 steel cables to the perimeter of the rocket

form, stretching straight down to the edge of the oval surround, giving a sense of the rocket taking off. Plantings located around the base of the column will suggest plumes of smoke, billowing and changing with the seasons.

Funding for the rocket project comes from a variety of sources (described below), including individuals, foundations, corporations, businesses, benefit fundraisers, and in-kind donors. In addition to FORECAST and the Rocket Boosters, partners in this effort include the Longfellow Community Council, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and a variety of contracted service providers. These include conservator Kristin Cheronis, structural engineer Chris Arlandson (PEM Engineering), fabricator Andrew MacGuffie, and several as-of-yet undetermined sub-contractors (for base construction and landscaping).

## **ESTIMATED PROJECT BUDGET**

Artist's fees (250 hours \$75 per hour)	
• Design	\$9,500
• Oversee Fabrication	\$4,750
• Oversee Installation	\$4,500
Fabrication, repairs, and painting	\$3,200
Foundation (concrete footing and raised planting beds)	\$26,000
Storage and Transporting	\$500
Rental equipment for installation	\$2,500
Liability Insurance (under FORECAST's policy)	\$800
Materials (cables, hardware, anchors)s	\$2,795
Landscaping Contractor	\$3,500
Donor recognition plaques (84 tags, one title plaque)	\$1,400
Administration - FORECAST (250 hours at \$80 per hour)	\$20,000
Consultants	
• Engineer (PEM Engineering)	\$5,000
• Conservator (Kristin Cheronis)	\$600
Contingency	<u>\$1,500</u>
Sub Total	<b>\$86,545*</b>
Maintenance Fund	<u>\$10,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$96,545</b>

## **INCOME**

### Raised to Date:

Longfellow Community Council  
(funds provided by NRP, COMPAS, individual donations) \$17,200\*\*

### In-kind goods and services, including:

Donated time by artist	\$8,000
Donated time by FORECAST staff	\$10,000
Donated time by consultants	<u>\$5,000</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,200</b>

Anticipated by February 1, 2006

Partial donated services by landscaping firm	\$2,500
Partial donated services by construction firm	<u>\$12,000</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>

To Be Raised between 11/1/05 – 6/1/06:

Cable sponsors (\$250 per cable x 84 cables)	
Individuals, block clubs, and businesses	\$21,000
Grants from Foundations and Corporations	\$13,000
Benefit Events	\$5,845
In-kind goods and services	<u>\$2,000</u>

**TOTAL** **\$96,545**

\*The total does not include anticipated in-kind donations of time, materials, and services (plus hundreds of hours of volunteer time with an estimated value of more than \$85,000).

\*\*This amount reflects the approximately amount raised as of October 1, 2005 by the Longfellow Community Council from grants, sales of rocket jewelry, benefit events, and NRP funds. \$14,000 has been contracted to FORECAST for production of this project, and the balance will be requested by FORECAST upon request in 2006.

**ANTICIPATED EXPENSES NOT INCLUDED IN PROJECT BUDGET:**

1. Lighting (beyond the existing street lights), to be determined following installation
2. Dedication event and celebration
3. Educational programming with children in the park and at nearby school
4. Web site and promotional programs

FORECAST, a tax-exempt corporation, will raise any additional funds needed for the project. FORECAST will approach foundations, individuals, businesses and in-kind donors. Following the completion of the sculpture we will raise support for lighting, educational programming and web site development, and a dedication event.

Past fundraising events have included a film showing at the Riverview Theater, a Jazz Festival at Molly Quinn's, sales of Rocket jewelry and other items by local artists, donations offered during a neighborhood performance of Star Wars.

Among the upcoming benefits planned is a pancake breakfast event at the soon-to-be-reopened Town Talk Diner on East Lake Street (tentatively in December, 2005).

Prior to the installation in June of 2006, a \$10,000 maintenance fund will be established using the strategy of obtaining sponsors for each of the 84 cables surrounding the rocket. Each cable will be offered to sponsors at the cost of \$250. Each sponsored cable will be connected to a hook on the base, underneath which will be a small metal tag listing that sponsor. This will include individuals, as well as groups, such as block clubs in the neighborhood. Funds raised beyond the \$10,000 maintenance fund will be used for additional programming, such as an educational component, the dedication event, etc.

Rocket

27ft tall

8ft diameter

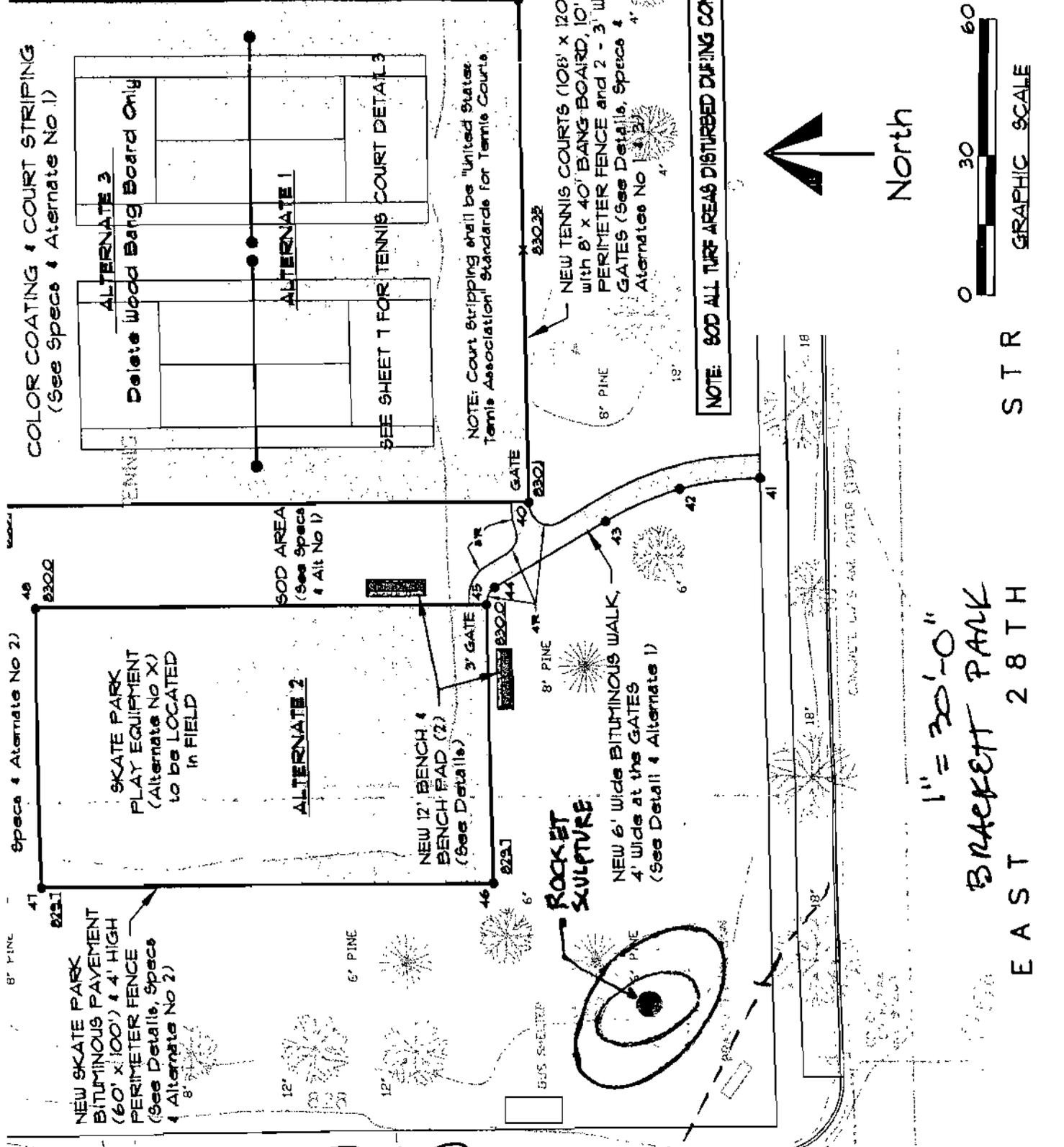
removed footings

center pole → 3ft wide  
6ft deep

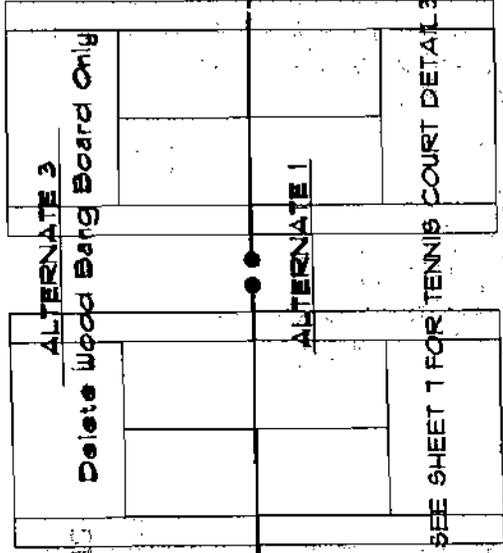
1-leg footings 1ft 6in wide  
2ft 6in deep

TRAFFIC CLEAR ZONE

A V E N U E



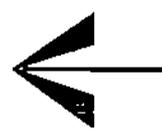
COLOR COATING & COURT STRIPING (See Specs & Alternate No 1)



NOTE: Court striping shall be "United States Tennis Association" Standards for Tennis Courts.

NEW TENNIS COURTS (108' x 120') WITH 8' x 40' BANG BOARD, 10' HIGH PERIMETER FENCE AND 2 - 3" WIDE GATES (See Details, Specs & Alternates No 1, 2, 3)

NOTE: 600 ALL TURF AREAS DISTURBED DURING CONSTRUCTION



North



GRAPHIC SCALE

1" = 30'-0"

BRACKETT PARK

EAST 28TH

STR

FC 54 (S)



September 26, 2005

Department of Community Planning & Economic Development  
Planning Division-Minneapolis Arts Commission  
350 South 5th Street, Rm 210 City Hall  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1385

Dear Minneapolis Arts Commission,

I am writing to you in support of the proposed Brackett Rocket art project that Jack Becker of FORECAST Public Artworks is presenting to you for consideration. Jack Becker and Randy Walker, project artist, have been working with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MRPB) staff to address safety and engineering concerns of this project. We are very pleased and impressed with how they have listened and addressed these issues.

*President*  
Jon Olson

*Vice President*  
John Erwin

*Commissioners*  
Rochelle Berry Graves  
Walt Dziedzic  
Bob Fine  
Marie Hauser  
Carol A. Kummer  
Vivian Mason  
Annie Young

*Superintendent*  
Jon R. Gurban

*Secretary to the Board*  
Don Siggelkow

We look forward to taking this design to the MPRB for approval once we are assured that the funding needs for maintenance and construction are met. We also look forward to hearing the outcome of the commission's review of this project.

Kind regards,

  
Eileen Kilpatrick  
Minnehaha District Manager

cc: Jack Becker  
File

*Administrative Offices*  
2117 West River Road  
Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227  
Phone: 612-230-6400  
Fax: 612-230-6500

*Operations Center*  
3800 Bryant Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1000  
Phone: 612-370-4900  
Fax: 612-370-4831

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