



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

Date: April 6, 2010

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

Referral: Honorable Gary Schiff, Chair Zoning and Planning Committee
Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways & Means Committee

Subject: **Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Rehabilitation Project**

Recommendation:

1. Authorize the proper City Officers to execute agreements as appropriate for the purpose of obtaining donations for the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project
2. Adopt a resolution to accept a 2008 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Grant-In-Aid award in the amount of \$100,000 for the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project;
3. Adopt a resolution to accept a 2009 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Grant-In-Aid award in the amount of \$35,500 for the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project;
4. Adopt a resolution to accept a \$10,800 donation from Friends of the Cemetery, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, for the purposes of the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project;
5. Amend the 2009 Capital Appropriation Resolution by an increase of \$146,300 (Fund 04100 9010923 CPS0610000) for the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project;

Previous Directives:

- December 7, 2009 – Resolution 2009R-587 of the City Council, Adopting the Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Fencing Rehabilitation Project (PSD06) in the 2010-2014 Five-Year Capital Program.

Prepared by: Paul Miller, Senior Project Manager 673-3603
Aaron Hanauer, Senior City Planner 673-2494

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Paul Miller, Sr. Project Manager, Department of Public Works, Property Services
Aaron Hanauer, Sr. City Planner, Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED)

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval NA Date _____

Civil Rights Approval Approval NA Date _____

Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval NA Date _____

Financial Impact

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget or Operating Budget

Dept Name: Public Works

Fund Name: (Fund 04100 9010923 CPS0610000)

Project Name (if capital budget): Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Rehabilitation

Amount: \$146,300.00

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Dept Name: Public Works

Fund Name: (Fund 04100 9010923 CPS0610000)

Project Name (if capital budget): Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Rehabilitation

Amount: \$146,300.00

Community Impact

City Goals: Enriched Environment: Greenspace, Arts, Sustainability: In five years there will be plentiful green spaces, public gathering areas, celebrated historic architectural features and urban forests in Minneapolis; lakes, rivers and the soil and air will be clean; the city's parks and the Mississippi riverfront will be valued and utilized; opportunities to experience diverse cultures and the arts will abound; and usage of renewable energy will be increasing."

Comprehensive Plan:

Policy 8.1: Preserve, maintain, and designate districts, landmarks, and historic resources which serve as reminders of the city's architecture, history, and culture.

Policy 8.6: Provide educational, financial, technical, and regulatory assistance to ensure the survival of the city's historic resources.

Background/Supporting Information

Layman's Cemetery, which was renamed Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery in 1928, is an important part of the State of Minnesota and City of Minneapolis' history. The Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery (2925 Cedar Avenue South) has the honor of being the only cemetery in Minnesota listed as an individual landmark on the National Register of Historic Places. Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, which has been owned by the City of Minneapolis since 1928, is also a City landmark. This cemetery, which was non-sectarian and ethnically diverse, is the oldest surviving cemetery in Minneapolis, and one of the few surviving features from the city's first period of settlement.

Since 2006, CPED, the Public Works Department, Minneapolis Parks and Recreational Department, and Friends of the Cemetery (a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery), worked to create a work plan to aid in the preservation of the Cemetery. This work plan includes five parts.

1. Raise funding for capital improvements and awareness of cemetery importance.
2. Adopt design guidelines and begin capital improvements.
3. Create an ongoing maintenance agreement.

4. Archive cemetery records.
5. Create an interpretive plan.

Initially, the most imminent need for capital improvement at the Cemetery is the restoration of the decorative steel fence that surrounds the Cemetery and runs along Cedar Avenue and Lake Street. The fence is considered a contributing feature of the National Register of Historic Place listing. The fence, which is 1,953 linear feet in length, was built in 1928. The fence is in poor condition, and if not restored in the next couple of years it is likely that it will have to be completely replaced.

In 2009, the fence Rehabilitation Project was appropriated \$250,000 as part of the 2010-2014 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program. In 2008 and 2009, the Project was awarded grants totaling \$135,500 from the State Historic Preservation Office as part of their State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program. This program supports historic preservation Projects of publicly owned places. In addition, Friends of the Cemetery, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, has raised approximately \$10,800 for the fence restoration Project through their Adopt-a-Picket Fundraiser (the overall goal of the fundraiser is to raise \$100,000). Consequently, total funds available for the Project (combining capital, grants, and donations) equals a budget of \$396,300.

The total cost of the fence rehabilitation Project is estimated to be between \$500,000 and \$1 million. The Capital Long Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) has recommended that additional funding required for the Project is to be sought through historic grants and charitable sources. Given the total estimated cost of the Project and current funding available, the fence Rehabilitation Project will be completed in two phases. The first phase is scheduled to be completed in 2010 and contemplates restoration of fence in an amount equivalent to the currently available funding. The second phase of fence restoration will be completed when appropriate funding is available to complete the remaining portions of the fence.

Recommendation:

Therefore, we are requesting the following:

1. Authorize the proper City Officers to execute agreements as appropriate for the purpose of obtaining donations to rehabilitate the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project
2. Resolve to accept a 2008 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Grant-In-Aid grant in the amount of \$100,000 for the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project;
3. Resolve to accept a 2009 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Grant-In-Aid grant in the amount of \$35,500 for the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project;
4. Resolve to accept donation of \$10,800 from Friends of the Cemetery, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, for the purposes of rehabilitating the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery fence;
5. Amend the 2006 Capital Appropriation Resolution (Fund 0410 9010923 513007 CPS0610000) by \$146,300 for the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project;

We will keep your committee apprised of the progress of this Project. Additional grants and donations received for this Project (outside of the Friends of the Cemetery, Adopt-a-Picket Fundraiser) will be brought to the City Council for acceptance.

Cc: Bob Lind, Finance Director
Barb Sporlein, CPED-Planning Director
Jack Byers, CPED-Planning-Preservation and Design Team Manager