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

Date: February 8, 2010

To: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways and Means Budget Committee

Referral to: (None)

Subject: **Drinking Fountain Project**

Recommendation:

1. Reduce the 2008 Drinking Fountain Project from ten fountains to six fountains resulting in the reduction of the fountain allocation budget by $168,000 for a revised total fountain allocation budget of $332,000. $ 212,000 from Water Bonds WTR10 (a $ 38,000 reduction) & $ 120,000 of Net Debt Bonds from ART0801 (a $ 130,000) reduction.
2. Amend budget resolution 2009R-592 by reducing the water bond request to issue for WTR12 Water Distribution IMP (WTR1012) from $500,000 to $462,000, a $38,000 reduction; and
3. Increase the 2010 ART1001 appropriation by $ 130,000 (04100-9010970). After completion of the remaining fountains and other 2008 ART0801 projects, transfer $38,000 in water bond proceeds to WTR1012 (a 2010 project) and transfer $130,000 in net debt bond resources to ART1001 (a 2010 arts project). If the ART0801 final costs are different than the projected the total of $ 220,000 (estimated at $ 120,000 for fountains & $ 100,000 non fountains) the transfer and capital appropriation to ART1001 shall be adjusted in a like amount and the Finance Department is then authorized to close out the 2008 WTR0810 and ART0801 projects.

Previous Directives:

- Ways and Means Action taken during 2010 Budget Mark-up on December 3, 2009:
  1. Decrease the 2010 net debt bond funding in the ART01 Art in Public Places project by $130,000 for a revised total of $203,000.
  2. Increase the net debt bond funding in the MBC04 MBC Elevators project by $130,000 for a revised City total of $230,000 for 2010. This amount will provide the required match to Hennepin County funding and allow for completing the clock tower elevator renovation in 2010.
  3. Direct staff to prepare a report of the status of drinking fountain projects and recommend which projects can be cancelled and unspent dollars to be returned to the Arts and Public Places project.

- City Council Action, February 29, 2008: Approve the location of the two final sites for the Drinking Fountain Project - (1) on Central Ave NE and (2) in the Uptown area.

- City Council Action, January 18, 2008: Approve the location, scope and budget of the project and release the accompanying funds in the total amount of $500,000, to be funded in the amount of $250,000 from the Arts in Public Places Fund (4100-890-8962) and $250,000 from the Water Fund (WTR 10), with the following staff directions:
  1. That construction of a fountain not begin until there is a signed annual and long-term maintenance agreement in place for the fountain; and
  2. That the Public Works Department will not be the annual or long-term maintenance partner for any fountain.

3. That the selection of the two remaining sites to be determined by the Public Arts Advisory Panel, with the final recommendations returned to the Transportation & Public Works Committee and the City Council for final approval.

- 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

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Barbara Sporlein, Planning Director

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

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval_____ Not applicable ___X_____
Policy Review Group Approval_____ Not applicable ___X_____

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)
_X_ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Community Impact
Neighborhood Notification: Nothing required at this time
City Goals: Enriched Environment.
Comprehensive Plan: 5. Public Services and Facilities, 6. Environment, 9. Arts and Culture
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information:

In late 2007, The City Council approved a 2008 budget which included ten artist-designed drinking fountains funded through $250,000 in Net Debt Bonds from the 2008 Art in Public Places budget and $250,000 in Water Bonds from the 2008 Water Fund. In 2008 the Council approved the location, scope and budget for the project. The attached January, 2010 Status Report outlines the current status of each of the ten fountains.

In the fall of 2009, the Mayor notified the Minneapolis Arts Commission of his intention to cut the Drinking Fountain Project by four fountains and asked the Commission to recommend which of the ten fountains would be eliminated. The Commission proceeded to rank the ten projects using the City's Public Art Values and Goals as criteria (see attached). The aforesaid attached January 2010 Status Report also shows the Commission's ranking and recommended fountains to be eliminated.

During the 2010 Budget Mark-up, the Minneapolis City Council reduced funding to the 2010 Art in Public Places Program by $130,000, directed staff to provide a status report on the Drinking Fountain Project and recommend which projects are to be cancelled with unspent dollars returned to the Art in Public Places budget.

It is the staff recommendation to reduce the Drinking Fountain project by four fountains for a total of six drinking fountains according to the Arts Commission's recommendations, reduce the current project budget by $168,000 for a revised total project budget of $332,000.

Attachments: January, 2010 Status Report and Public Art Values and Goals

cc: Jeremy Hanson, Mayor's Office; Steve Kotke, Public Works; Barb Sporlein, Planning; Don Elwood, Public Works; Karen Berkholtz, Planning; Hubert Fernandez, Finance