

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 05/14/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0432

LOG NAME: 80FWNC&RGREENHOUSEDONATION

SUBJECT

(CD 7) Authorize the Acceptance of a Restricted Grant from the Marilyn Brachman Hoffman Foundation in the Amount of \$18,239.76 Designated for Extending Electricity to the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge's Greenhouse and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the acceptance of a restricted grant from the Marilyn Brachman Hoffman Foundation in the amount of \$18,239.76 designated for extending electricity to the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge's Greenhouse;
 2. Authorize Falcon Construction to perform the work as requested by the Marilyn Brachman Hoffman Foundation; and
 3. Adopt attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Capital Project Other Fund, subject to acceptance of the grant, in the amount of \$18,239.76, for the purpose of funding the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge's Greenhouse Improvement Hoffman Foundation Grant project.
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DISCUSSION:

On February 15, 2024, the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNC&R) was notified that it was awarded \$18,239.76 (based on estimates and quotes) by the Marilyn Brachman Hoffman Foundation to extend electricity to the FWNC&R's Greenhouse. The primary function of the Greenhouse is to grow native plants that are used to restore the FWNC&R's recovering ecosystems. The Greenhouse also hosts a *Native Neighborhoods Program*, which aims to teach Fort Worth residents about the benefits of native landscaping. Live plants are given away for free at Native Neighborhoods events to encourage the use of native plants in residential landscaping.

Although the 30' x 30' greenhouse was constructed in 2018, the cost to run electricity to it was prohibitive at the time of its completion. Consequently, plant mortality during summer heatwaves can be as high as 100% without daily watering, and extreme winters can also be a challenge for regulating temperatures. These extreme temperatures also pose a threat to the health and safety of the Greenhouse's staff and volunteers. Acceptance of these funds will facilitate the use of electric heaters and fans that have already been purchased. These improvements will make the Greenhouse more useful for growing plants and safer for staff and volunteers.

The Marilyn Brachman Hoffman Foundation's preferred vendor for this project is Falcon Construction Services Inc. The Foundation is familiar with the owners of Falcon Construction Services Inc., and they have been pleased by Falcon's quality of work.

The Greenhouse Project is estimated to increase the department's annual maintenance by \$400.00 beginning in FY25. As of March 2024, the cumulative total of all previously approved M&C's increased the department's estimated annual maintenance by \$704,103.00 beginning in FY2025.

This Project is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 7.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current capital budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Capital Project Other Fund for the Hoffman Foundation Grant project. The Park & Recreation Department (and Financial Management Services) is responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to any expense being incurred, the Park & Recreation Department will also have the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is an advance grant.

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Expedited