



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

**Date:** August 23, 2011

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

**Referral:** 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 2011 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 \$8,000 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;
4. Amend the 2009 Capital Appropriation Resolution by an increase of \$108,000 (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.
- April 16, 2010: Resolution 2010R-178 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.
- April 16, 2010: Resolution 2010-177R 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.
- April 16, 2010: 2010-177R 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.
- August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010: Resolution 2010R-394, City Council and Mayor granted approval of bids for OP #7307, low responsive bid of Terra General Contractors, LLC, in the amount of \$237,000.
- February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Resolution 2011R-088, City Council and Mayor approved Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 28308 with Terra General Contractors, LLC, increasing the contract amount by \$6,517.05.

**Prepared by:** Chris Backes, Construction Management Coordinator, 673-3774  
Aaron Hanauer, Senior City Planner, 673-2494

**Approved by:**

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

**Presenters:** Chris Backes, Construction Management Coordinator, 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: \$108,000

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: \$108,000

**Community Impact**

**City Goals:**

1. **Livable communities:** *Our built and natural environment adds character to our city, enhances our health and enriches our lives.* The historic fence that lines Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery is a design element that has been a part of Cedar Avenue and Lake Street for more than 80 years. The rehabilitation of the fence will help restore the fence to its 1928 appearance.
2. **Eco-focused:** *Minneapolis is an internationally recognized leader for a healthy environment and sustainable future.* The rehabilitation of the fence will use less energy and produce less waste than a replacement fence.
3. **Jobs and economic vitality:** *A world-class city and 21<sup>st</sup> century economic powerhouse. Lake Street is an important commercial corridor for the City of Minneapolis.* The rehabilitation of the fence along Lake Street (and Cedar Avenue) will help improve the appearance of this stretch of this highly traveled corridor.

**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.

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 Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project is a \$1.4 million dollar project. The goal of the project is to have approximately half of the overall budget come from outside sources (grants and donations). To date, the project has been able to meet this goal. The City of Minneapolis appropriated \$250,000 as part of the 2010-2014 Five-Year Capital Improvement Committee Program, and \$252,500 has been brought in from outside sources.

The outside funding has come from two sources:

- 1) Grant Funds: The Minnesota Historical Society State Grants-In-Aid program. This program supports historic preservation projects of publicly owned places by providing a dollar-for-dollar match for preservation/restoration work. The fence restoration project was awarded grants three grants in the past three years. The total of the grant awards is \$235,500.
- 2) Private Funds: Friends of the Cemetery, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, has raised \$18,800 for the fence restoration project through their Adopt-a-Picket Fundraiser (the overall goal of the fundraiser is to raise \$100,000). The City of Minneapolis accepted a donation of \$10,800 from Friends of the Cemetery on April 16, 2010 (Resolution 2010R-178).

Phase I of the restoration project was completed in May 2011. This portion of the project included the restoration of 16 of the 66 fence sections (including the main gates and the gates along Lake Street), an in-depth condition analysis of the fence, and architectural design work. The condition analysis and architectural design work will be documents used for the entire project. Phase II of the fence restoration is scheduled to begin by October 2011. It is estimated that Phase II will restore an additional nine sections of fence along Lake Street.

Cc: Mike Kennedy, Public Works  
Barb Sporlein, CPED-Planning Director  
Jack Byers, CPED-Planning Manager