



City Council

Approval to Submit National Endowment of Arts (NEA) Grant for the Artesian Well Site

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Agenda Item:

Approval to Submit National Endowment of Arts (NEA) Grant for the Artesian Well Site

Issue:

Staff is seeking approval from council to submit an application for the NEA "Our Town" Grant for the Artesian Well Site

Committee Recommendation:

N/A

City Manager's Recommendation:

Move to authorize staff to submit NEA "Our Town" grant application for Artesian Well site.

Staff Contact:

Brian Wilson, Code Enforcement Officer, Community Planning & Development, 360.570.3798

Presenter(s):

None. Consent Calendar item.

Background and Analysis:

In 2011, the City of Olympia purchased the former Diamond parking lot on the south side of the 400 block of 4th Avenue E. This parking lot features an artesian well that is open to access for well-users 24 hours a day. The parking lot also contains about 80 leased parking stalls available for city employees for \$45/month.

The city has made improvements to the usability and accessibility of the well location which included infrastructural improvements, the addition of a community bulletin board, and a mosaic art installation.

In 2012, a wave of illicit behavior including drug/alcohol use, public urination/defecation, vandalism and littering became a daily problem at the well site. This behavior resulted in over a 50% decline in leased parkers.

Consistent with other placemaking efforts in Downtown Olympia, the City is interested in pursuing building a park on the north-side of the parking lot. The park would bring a variety of new uses for the location including physical activity, food vendors, art, additional seating, and greenery all the while maintaining unrestricted accessibility to the Artesian Well.

The City Council has appropriated \$100,000 in the Capital Facilities Plan toward creating an Artesian Well park. The entire project would cost an estimated \$250,000.

City staff is requesting approval from council to submit an application to the National Endowment of Arts (NEA) "Our Town" Grant to supplement the CFP allocated funds. The NEA "Our Town" grant aims to fund "creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core."

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Transforming the Artesian Well Lot to a lively, beautiful, and sustainable park will increase the diversity of users in that space. This will result in a more safe and welcoming environment for all users of downtown.

The deadline to apply for the NEA grant is January 14, 2013.

Options:

Option 1 - Approve staff to apply for NEA Grant

Option 2 - Do not approve staff to apply for NEA Grant

Financial Impact:

Depends on the amount of grant award, if any. Applications are being accepted for amounts up to \$250,000.