



Memorandum

Date: December 3, 2014
To: Bruce D. Glasscock, City Manager
From: Amy Fortenberry, Director of Parks & Recreation
Subject: Haggard Park Lighting – Plano Parks Foundation

The Plano Parks Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3), has proposed purchasing unique lighting to be displayed throughout the year in Haggard Park. Their purchase would also pay for the installation which would be coordinated by park maintenance staff to meet all city standards and requirements.

The initial purchase would provide lighting in 5-6 trees at an approximate cost of \$15,000. Attached is a drawing that shows the most likely trees to be lit. With some trees lit as an example, the Plano Parks Foundation would then work to raise funds to add more trees over time. The vendor they have received quotes from is the same vendor used for the holiday lighting in downtown, The Christmas Light Company. Examples of these “Falling Stars” lights can be viewed at this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z25vuoCtqk&feature=youtu.be>

The Parks and Recreation Department supports this project as one that can have a positive visual impact on the park as well as the image of the forming arts district. In addition to coordinating the installation, the department would arrange for electricity to be available at select locations. This can be done within our existing budget. The lights are LED and should have very minimal impact on our total annual electric bill. No supplemental requests are anticipated.

The maintenance of the lights will be the responsibility of the Plano Parks Foundation, coordinated through the Parks & Recreation Department. If lights are out of service, we will ask if the Foundation would like to pay for repair or have them removed. Again, the goal of creating an inviting visual appearance is desired and therefore we do not anticipate that the Foundation is planning to light a few trees and then walk away. These lights look best in mass or in a row and, if Council approves moving forward, we will work with the vendor and the Foundation to achieve the best possible impact.

The Plano Parks Foundation has sought input from the Historic Downtown Plano Association, the nearby First Christian Church, and the Haggard Park Neighborhood Association. The first two groups have indicated full support. The neighborhood association supports the lighting on a seasonal basis during the holidays, but not year round. Their emails are attached for review.

There are many changes taking place in downtown Plano including the renovation of the McCall Plaza, the Saigling House becoming an arts center, additional redevelopment with Municipal Center South, and a resident theater company being sought for the Courtyard Theater. The addition of year round lights to accentuate a great space that welcomes visitors to this burgeoning scene seems appropriate. I appreciate the Plano Parks Foundation for their idea and support and submit this request for consideration.

Haggard Park Tree Lighting

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