# CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
# CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

**ITEM:** Motion - Request for Technical Assistance- Trust for Public Land

**DATE:** February 23, 2015

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None at this time

**SYNOPSIS:** The WDM Library Board and the WDM Parks and Recreation Advisory Board have indicated that they jointly would like to conduct a feasibility study and citizen survey. This research would help determine the support for an expansion of the Library, and the type and number of parks improvements the citizens believe are important; how much they might be willing to pay for these improvements through one or more forms of taxation; and how much they support using the tax funds for these projects.

Staff is recommending that this research work be conducted by The Trust for Public Land. The first step in this process is to ask them for technical assistance. Although this request does not cost any money, ultimately the work would be done through a professional services contract between the Trust for Public Land and the WDM Library Friends or one of our local Foundations. The ultimate cost of this work would be funded privately.

**BACKGROUND:**

**OUTSTANDING ISSUES** (if any):

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommend to the City Council that the City request technical assistance from the Trust for Public Land by sending the attached letter.

**Lead Staff Member:** Gary D. Scott, Director of Parks and Recreation

**STAFF REVIEWS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Department Director | Gary D. Scott, Director of Parks and Recreation |
| Appropriations/Finance | |
| Legal | |
| Agenda Acceptance | RTJ |

**PUBLICATION(S)** (if applicable)

| | |
|---|---|
| Published In | |
| Dates(s) Published | |

**SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW** (if applicable)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Committee | Parks and Recreation Advisory Board | | |
| Date Reviewed | 02/19/15 | | |
| Recommendation | **Yes** | | |

THE CITY OF
West Des Moines®
www.wdm.iowa.gov

**Parks and Recreation**

**4200 Mills Civic Parkway**
**P.O. Box 65320**
**West Des Moines, IA 50265-0320**

**Administrative Office**
**515-222-3444**
**FAX 515-222-3459**

**Nature Lodge**
**515-222-3424**
**FAX 515-222-3658**

**Community Center**
**515-222-3440**
**FAX 515-222-3457**

**Park Maintenance**
**515-222-3450**

**TDD/TTY 515-222-3334**

**E-mail: parkrec@wdm.iowa.gov**

February 23, 2015

Mr. Will Abberger
Director of Conservation Finance
The Trust for Public Land
306 N. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Abberger:

By this letter, the City of West Des Moines requests technical advice and assistance from The Trust for Public Land in connection with our efforts to develop and sustain reliable, ongoing sources of funding for parks, land conservation, and library purposes. As part of your advice and assistance, I understand you may undertake feasibility research, including studying local laws and recent elections; conduct a public opinion survey; provide recommendations regarding program design, and assist with the development of strategies for supporting dedicated, ongoing sources of public funds for land conservation purposes.

We are interested not only in the factual information that you can provide, but also your opinions and recommendations on public funding measures available to us and strategies to enact such measures. That would include understanding the public's priorities and attitudes regarding parks, land conservation, and libraries in the City of West Des Moines.

Information provided to the City of West Des Moines will be public record as a matter of law. This request does not in any way commit public funds to the efforts of The Trust for Public Land related to this request, nor does it require public disclosure of any confidential information of either organization.

This request will continue in effect for any advice you offer or presentations you submit for the use of this body related to such matters. In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to request that you continue to be available to provide technical advice and assistance in this area and on related matters in the future.

Sincerely,

Steven K. Gaer
Mayor

Cc: Tom Hadden, City Manager
Gary Scott, Director of Parks and Recreation
Darryl Eschete, Library Director