



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Cultural Affairs

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 19, 2024

Re: Display of an art sculpture from Dr. Taylor Sirois in Clary-Shy Community Park

Executive Summary

The Parks & Recreation Department received a proposal for a sculpture of a praying mantis to go in Clary-Shy Community Park. Dr. Taylor Sirois owns the sculpture and is amenable to having the sculpture displayed in the Park. The proposal was presented to the Commission on Cultural Affairs who have recommended it to the City Council. Council approval is needed to authorize an agreement for the display of the sculpture in the Clary-Shy Community Park.

Discussion

At its January 8, 2024 meeting, the Commission on Cultural Affairs reviewed the proposal received by the Parks & Recreation Department, summarized below. The Commission voted to recommend it to the City Council. Council approval is needed to authorize an agreement for the display of the sculpture in the Clary-Shy Community Park.

Overview of Project and Design

Clary-Shy Community Park is home to the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC), the MU Health Care Pavilion, utilized by the Columbia Farmers Market, and an agriculture park managed by the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA). The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with CCUA, have proposed a series of insect sculptures to be integrated into the built environment of the park. The sculptures would represent a variety of native insects as well as add artistic interest to the various buildings and structures throughout the park. The sculptures are to be designed and created by local artist, Stephen Feilbach.

The first sculpture in the series depicts a praying mantis, which has been constructed out of metal, industrial foam, Line-X bed liner material and automotive paint. The dimensions are approximately 5 feet long, 4 feet tall and 2 feet wide. Since the sculpture has been created from very durable materials, there is no annual maintenance required. The value of the artwork is \$6,500.



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The proposed display site would be on the east-facing awning of the CCUA Schoolhouse, which is just off the path to the center entrance from the parking lot into the MU Health Care Pavilion.



The sculpture has been created with loopholes in its lower four legs that will allow it to be bolted to the roof of the awning. Parks and Recreation staff would plan to install the sculpture, requiring little cost to the City.



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Artist

Stephen Feilbach is a local artist who has created a variety of works that have been commissioned and installed in outdoor settings across the Midwest. The artist uses many different media and has a passion for creating a wide variety of large and small custom projects for clients. Examples of some of the project include “Howler” created for Howler Bike Park near Branson, Missouri; Bigfoot broke the bench in Lake Leatherwood, Arkansas; and several trail giant bugs, lighted turtles, and a tunnel camera in northwest Arkansas. The artist currently resides in Columbia and has shops in both Eureka Springs, Arkansas and Columbia, Missouri, where he creates Nature’s Giant Realism for people to enjoy.

Agreement

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an agreement with Dr. Taylor Sirois for the project. The donor will retain title to the sculpture, but grant its use to the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, with an initial agreement of a long-term display of 10 years in Clary-Shy Community Park. The City will be responsible for routine maintenance and repair during the agreement period.

The Office of Cultural Affairs, Parks & Recreation, and the Law Department have reviewed the terms of the agreement.

Schedule of Project

If Council approves the project, the sculpture would planned to be installed sometime over the upcoming spring months.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None
Long-Term Impact: None

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Public Safety, Tertiary Impact: Economy

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Economic Development Communities, Tertiary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation

Legislative History

Date	Action
	N/A

Suggested Council Action

If Council agrees, city staff recommends approval of the resolution as proposed.