



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Lisa Sullivan, People & Communications Director

Council Meeting Date: August 15, 2023

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider approval of the installation of an Eclipse Display Veterans Memorial Park.** *Sponsor: Council Member Sherrie Parks.*

Agenda Item Requestor: Lisa Sullivan, People & Communications Director

Summary/Background: This is a follow-up to the Council presentation made at the City Council Meeting on July 18, 2023. Before approval, Council asked that we check with the veterans, the Farmers Market, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- We got approval from the VFW and American Legion Posts who lease a part of Veterans Memorial Park.
- We got approval from the Farmers Market.
- We got approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- We met with the city engineer to ensure what we're doing will be done to safety standards.

We are hoping to get approval from the City Council based on the follow-up.

DETAILS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

On April 8, 2024, the City of Dripping Springs will be in the totality of a total solar eclipse. This has not occurred here since the 1800s. Millions of people are expected to travel throughout Texas to the areas of totality. We anticipate 2-3 times the population in our city during that time.

A critical part of this event is education and safety. We are doing what we can to plan and educate our residents, businesses, and visitors: we have launched a new website, drippingeclipse.com; we have an eclipse task force that meets once a month to plan; we are creating an Eclipse Ambassador Program to help spread the word; and more.

One of the things we would like to do is create a display at Veterans Memorial Park that not only will be a way to communicate to & remind residents that this event is coming (and to prepare), but it also has an

educational element with its design. The outside of the glasses will be the branding and eclipse date. The inside will have instructions on how to safely view an eclipse, what residents and businesses can expect on April 8, list our website to learn more, etc.

It will also be a focal point for tourism/visitors/residents — an Instagram place for visitors and residents to take pictures. It will be a benefit not just during the event, but all through the months leading up to it.

Please see the attached schematic. The structure will be created by the team at DSRP. They will work with Emergency Management, Building Officials and Public works to ensure it is designed and installed safely. Communications and marketing will create the graphic design, basing it off the branding of our eclipse items. We will use the company we use for car wraps and wall graphics to mount the graphics.

We would anticipate putting this up in the area circled on the map. We would be erecting this sometime in late August or September, in time for the partial annular eclipse in our area on October 14.

Because we are doing this in-house, the cost of this will be kept to the minimum, with costs just materials and graphic display. We also hope to have a sponsor to help us cover the costs. We hope to get \$5,000 as a sponsorship fee.

The picture below is a mock-up of what we're wanting to do. Exact dimensions to be determined, but estimating it to be 7' wide x 6' long.



**Commission
Recommendations:**

The Parks & Recreation Commission unanimously recommended approval.

**Recommended
Council Actions:**

Approve the installation of an Eclipse Display at Veterans Memorial Park.

Attachments:

Schematic and Map

Next Steps/Schedule:

If Council approves, we will start building this immediately. This is the slow period for DSRP and the perfect time to start the project.