



City of Eustis

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TO: EUSTIS CITY COMMISSION

FROM: Tom Carrino, City Manager

DATE: December 14, 2023

RE: Resolution Number 23-104: America-In-Bloom: Clifford House Museum's Grounds and Garden Restoration and Corresponding Budget Amendment

Introduction:

Resolution Number 23-104 approves the expenditure of \$99,750 for the renovation of the Clifford House Museum's gardens and grounds, and approves a corresponding budget amendment for this purpose.

Background:

In March 2023, the City of Eustis became a member of *America-In-Bloom*, a nationwide organization dedicated to creating community vitality across America through policies, programs, activities and facilities that lead to a vibrant community and promote a sense of health and well-being. As part of the City's efforts, an America-In-Bloom committee has been formed, lead by Vice-Mayor Emily Lee.

In keeping with America-In-Bloom's mission, the Committee wishes to undertake the refurbishing of the gardens and grounds of the Eustis Historical Museum, the Clifford-Taylor House. Staff has developed a plan to restore the grounds to its former glory, placing the museum's grounds into a place of beauty and tranquility for citizens and guests to visit.

The Committee's plans include landscape architectural design in keeping with the museum's era. The plan will also involving engaging the City's arborist to evaluate trees and plants to determine what is to be removed. The chain link fence will be removed to create an open, inviting atmosphere for people to stroll the grounds. New pollinator-friendly flower beds and shrubs will be planted in various areas around the property and surrounding the house, along with cultivated and native trees and ground cover.

The irrigation system for the proposed planting beds will be refurbished to adequately cover the new plantings. Lastly, there will be a water feature installed on the grounds to add to the peaceful ambiance along with furnishings for visitors to sit and relax in the shade.

Estimated Cost for this project:

- Landscape Architect Design \$ 20,000
- Tree Removal and Pruning \$ 20,000
- Fence Removal \$ 3,500
- Furnishings \$ 4,500
- Bed Plantings & Irrigation \$ 40,000
- Water Feature \$ 7,000
- 5% Contingency \$ 4,750

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution Number 23-104

Budget/Staff Impact:

The cost for the renovations of the Eustis Historical Museum – Clifford House Gardens and Grounds is estimated at \$99,750. The General Revenue Fund balance, less a 90-day reserve of \$5,971,728, is \$14,934,868. Staff is requesting an amendment to the 2023-2024 Budget to establish a project expenditure account within the 001 General Fund using account number 001-8600-581-94-33. The City's Engineering Department will serve as project managers, and our "Continuing Consultants and Contracts" vendors will be utilized where possible.

Prepared By:

Sally Mayer, Administrative Assistant – Public Utilities

Reviewed By:

Rick Gierok, P.E. Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Mike Sheppard, Director of Finance

Attachments:

Resolution Number 23-104