



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Date: May 22, 2017  
To: Jason Haas, Chair, Parks, Energy and Environment Committee  
From: John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director, Milwaukee County Parks  
Subject: **Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes) – Task Force Fund Transfer Request (INFORMATION)**

**ISSUE**

Informational report on The Domes Task Force Fund Transfer Request.

**BACKGROUND**

An appropriation transfer of \$184,000 has been requested by the Domes Task Force, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), and Milwaukee County Parks to allocate \$120,000 from the appropriation for Mitchell Park Domes Long-Term Planning project and \$64,000 from the Mitchell Park Domes Mesh Installation project.

In September 2015, the County Board established a capital project with cash financing provided from the County's Debt Service Reserve Fund for a protective netting system in the amount of \$400,000. In addition to the costs related to the stainless steel mesh, funding for long-term planning options in the amount of \$100,000 was also allocated. As the project's scope and cost was better defined, the Departments of Administrative Services - Architecture & Engineering (A&E) and Parks staff determined that additional estimated funding of \$500,000 was required for the protective mesh system (for the Show Dome) and long-term planning options. The resolution for this additional funding also established an eleven member task force ("Domes Task Force") created to develop a comprehensive long-term plan for the Domes, comprised of representatives of the administration and legislative branches of County Government as well as key community stakeholders. The Committee on Finance and Audit, at its meeting on June 16, 2016, placed \$120,000 into an allocated contingency account to ensure that planning funds were available to the Domes Task Force. According to County Board resolution, the \$120,000 in planning funds requires County Board approval to release.

The \$120,000 in planning funds will be used in combination with \$64,000 from the Mesh Installation project to both cover staff professional services as well as award the Domes Future Path and Feasibility Study to the consultant selected after a rigorous Request for



Proposals (RFP) and proposal review process. It is the intention of the Domes Task Force to contract with HGA Architects and Engineers, Inc. to complete Phase One and Two of the Future Path and Feasibility Study. These two phases of work primarily consist of a feasibility study and related public outreach. Elements of the feasibility study will include analysis of programs and services, revenue generation and financial impacts, operations and management, social and economic impacts, site/structure and facility, and other elements that will result in a sustainable long-term solution. A public outreach program will be developed for feedback on all ideas presented.

**RECOMMENDATION**

No action requested. Informational item unless further action required.

Prepared by: Sarah Toomsen, Manager of Planning and Development

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director

- Copy: Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- Marcelia Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
- Peggy West, Supervisor District 12
- Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS
- William Lynch, Chairman of the Domes Task Force