

A G E N D A R E P O R T

DATE November 1, 2005

ITEM Great Falls City Science and Engineering Fair

INITIATED BY Ruth Carlstrom, North Middle School

ACTION REQUESTED Co-Sponsor Science Fair on March 4 and 6, 2006

PRESENTED BY Peggy Bourne, City Clerk

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RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City co-sponsor the Great Falls All City Science and Engineering Fair on March 4 and 6, 2006, by contributing up to \$500 for the use of the Convention Center.

MOTION: I move the City Commission that the City co-sponsor the Great Falls All City Science and Engineering Fair on March 4 and 6, 2006, by contributing up to \$500 for the use of the Convention Center from the General Fund.

SYNOPSIS: In a letter from Ruth Carlstrom, the Great Falls City Science and Engineering Fair is scheduled to be held in the Civic Center on March 4 and 6, 2005. This event brings approximately 2300 people into the Civic Center every year from all the schools in Great Falls. This includes 800 students with projects, 300 judges and fair organizers, 1200 or more parents and family members, and the media with TV and Newspaper coverage.

This is completely a non-profit event organized to encourage all students to participate in and learn about science research. Many Great Falls businesses make this fair possible by providing funding for student prizes, refreshments for the judges, personnel to judge the fair and mentors to guide the students. The following businesses, organizations and government agencies contribute to the Science Fair:

- Pacific Steel
- Walman Optical
- Benefis Health Care
- Great Falls Clinic
- Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens PC
- Lewis and Clark Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Great Falls Public Schools

To support the goal to encourage more science and engineering, Great Falls Public School's requested the City again partner with them by donating the use of the facility. The rental charge would be \$1,674 which represents a \$1,426 discount offered to the school district. The request

was for the entire amount of \$1,674. However, due to the number of requests similar to this each year, Staff recommends the Commission approve up to \$500 for the use of the Convention Center as long as there is no admission charged.

In an effort to establish some type of guiding principals regarding requests for the City to co-sponsor events, staff recommends the City Commission consider that up to \$500 be granted if the event meets the following requirements:

- Requests should only be accepted from non-profit, public service organizations; and
- Requests will be granted only where the City Commission or another City agency finds a public purpose in co-sponsoring an event; and
- Requests will be considered when the event is to serve the public rather than to raise funds; and
- The event is free to the public; and
- The event benefits the youth of the community.