



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2023-829

Agenda Date: September 7, 2023

Department: Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

**Title: 2023-829 Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources
Special Categories Grant Application (NB)**

Department: Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Description: Request from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA), Division of Cultural Affairs, to submit the grant and the City accept the grant, if awarded, from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources

Fiscal Note: The FY 2025-26 Division of Historic Resources Special Categories grant requires a 1:1 match. Up to \$8,000.00 in matching funds will be provided by the Evergreen Cemetery Association of Gainesville, Inc. No additional funds will be necessary to facilitate this request.

Explanation: The City of Gainesville Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs' Department, Cultural Affairs Division, is applying to the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources for a special categories grant. Staff will prepare a special categories grant application which will be submitted by the June 1st deadline, requesting grant funds for FY 2025-2026. This agenda item was approved by consent previously on May 4, 2023. The granting agency requires additional wording added to the recommendation.

To our best knowledge, this will be the first year the City will apply for this grant for Evergreen Cemetery.

This grant is for stabilizing, cleaning, restoring, and repairing historic grave markers located in the municipal cemetery. The historic Evergreen Cemetery was founded in 1856 and has over 11,000 grave markers. Some of the oldest grave markers are in need of stabilizing and cleaning, which will preserve the cemetery for future generations. A detailed outline of how the funds will be spent is required with the application.

The grant submission deadline is June 1, 2023; a panel review of applications is scheduled for August 2023; final recommendations are subject to approval by the Florida Legislature and Governor. Grant awards will be announced when the final budget is approved by the Governor. The grant period for the next grant is July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026.

Strategic Connection:

- Goal 1: Equitable Community
- Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission to 1) approve the request for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA), Division of Cultural Affairs, to apply for the grant and for the City to accept the grant, if awarded, from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, 2) authorize the City Manager or designee to execute the grant award agreement and other grant-related documents, subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality, and 3) acknowledge that the City has a minimum of 25% of the matching funds equal to \$2,000.00, as required by the grant.