



Chicago Park District

Legislation Text

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ACCEPTANCE OF THE DOROTHY AND TOTO SCULPTURE FOR OZ PARK

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners
of the Chicago Park District

I. Recommendation

It is recommended that an order be entered authorizing the acceptance of the *Dorothy and Toto* sculpture donation from the Oz Park Advisory Council.

II. Funding

The Oz Park Advisory Council has raised the total \$60,000 needed for the sculpture along a commitment to raise additional funds for future maintenance of all of the sculptures in the park.

IV. Explanation

The Oz Park Advisory Council proposes the donation of *Dorothy and Toto* to complement the park's existing *Tin Man*, *Scarecrow*, and *Cowardly Lion* sculptures. The *Dorothy and Toto* sculpture will be placed to the west of *Dorothy's Playground* just to the south of Orchard Street.

The sculpture will be approximately 6 feet tall and will be installed on a 4 feet high base in a lawn area at the fork of two paths. The sculpture will be composed of bronze and the base will be made of concrete. In a manner similar to the *Scarecrow* sculpture, *Dorothy and Toto* will be finished in colored patinas to highlight its various features.

John Kearny, who will sculpt *Dorothy and Toto*, is the artist of the three other existing pieces in the park. A well-known Chicago artist, Kearny has created sculptures of welded steel automobile bumpers, stainless steel, and cast bronze for many years. He was educated at the famed Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan, and the University per Stanierie, Perugia Italy. He was a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome in 1985, 1992, and 1998. Mr. Kearny has works in major museums, galleries, and collections throughout the nation including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Illinois State Museum, the Detroit Children's Museum, Wichita Art Museum, and the Lincoln Park Zoo.

This is the fourth and last sculpture to be donated to the park by the Oz Park Advisory Council. Recognizing the fact that the four sculptures will eventually need conservation work, the advisory council has committed to raising additional maintenance funds. The Chicago Park District will work closely with the advisory council on any future maintenance work conducted on the sculptures.

This sculpture has received a positive review from the Chicago Park District Enhancement Committee. In addition Alderman Vi Daley has expressed support for the project.

Respectfully Submitted:

Arnold L. Randall
Director of Planning and Development

Erik Varella
Legislative Liaison, IGA

Approved as to Legal Form:

María G. García
General Counsel

Approved:

Timothy J. Mitchell
General Superintendent and CEO

JSB/jsb