Date: June 14, 2025

To: Bryan Pack
From: Mike Scott

Re: Thursday Agenda Item - Fundraising Agreement With Ivins Inspired

I am not in favor of approving this agreement with Ivins Inspired. I like the Arts Commission's plan to raise money to purchase the Lyman Whittaker wind sculptures, but unless I'm missing something, entering into this agreement makes the process more complicated than it needs to be.

I believe it would be much simpler and less confusing for residents if the City raises the funds directly. This avoids the legal complexities of using a nonprofit intermediary and sends a "cleaner" message to the public, that this is clearly a City project spearheaded by the Arts Commission.

While this approach may limit donations from those wishing to use an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) for tax purposes, it simplifies the process and ensures transparency and public control.

The City can clearly explain to donors that: (a) Funds will be used only for the Wind Sculptures, or (b) if the sculptures can't be purchased, the City will offer refunds or, with donor approval, apply the funds to other public art recommended by the Arts Commission and approved by the City Council.

This approach also keeps the Arts Commission front and center, strengthening public awareness of the Commission's role and building support for future initiatives. There's no confusion about where the money is going, and I think donors will feel more confident giving directly to the City.

Please let me know if I'm missing something.

Also, if it makes sense to have the City handle the fundraising directly, can we make that decision on Thursday so the Arts Commission can move forward with their efforts? Would that require a revision to the wording in the Agenda?

I'd appreciate it if you would share this memo with the Mayor and Council so that no one is caught off guard on Thursday.