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(Neb.)-Community Betterment Funds To Be Utilized At Arts Center, Parks, Cemetery [Listen](#)

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 12/18/2012 01:50 PM

Photo: The Chadron Arts Center will be receiving LB 840 community betterment funding to help install a new accessibility ramp and ADA door.

(CHADRON)-The Chadron city council voted to allow LB 840 community betterment funds to be utilized for a variety of purposes at their meeting Monday night. City manager Wayne Anderson explained what the betterment funds are and how they are intended to be used.

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Anderson said usable money was accumulating, but few organizations were being able to fully utilize the funds due to the guidelines.

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With looser requirements, several projects were ready to be approved at the meeting and receive betterment funds. The council approved betterment funds for a new accessibility ramp and ADA door at the Chadron Arts Center, a new drinking fountain, curb-a-yard, wood chips, and doggie deposit bag stations for the city parks, a new gazebo structure to be placed around the kiosk at Greenwood Cemetery, and a new backstop at the Maurice Horse Legion Ballfield. Anderson says there is approximately \$220,000 still available, and there are several more projects in the works as well that will benefit from the funds. He says it's a win-win for the community.

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City human resources director Bev Bartlett, who also serves on the LB 840 committee, says that basically any community-minded group that has an idea of a way to improve the surrounding community can share their idea and fill out an application. She says she knows of only one other community in Nebraska that has received similar funds, so dispersal of the funds to legitimate organizations and in a proper fashion has been virtually uncharted territory for the committee. They have come to the realization, she says, that the main purpose of their committee is to look at the ideas, provide suggestions, and run them through a series of scenarios regarding liability, ADA approval, building/grounds, etc. to help get any kinks worked out.

Bartlett says the application itself is fairly simple. The back page does request organizations to provide a list of their board of directors, minutes from when they voted to submit their application, and a copy of their bylaws and articles of incorporation, but those are not hard-and-fast requirements. Bartlett says the committee is trying to broaden their scope and assist groups that might not be much more than a subcommittee of individuals with a good idea. She says the group will also receive assistance throughout the application and funding process; it's not just a situation of handing over money and saying good luck. Upon approval, she says, it may be possible for up to 50 percent of the funding to be available to get things started, with the final payment not being made until the project is completed to ensure that everything gets done.

Applications for LB840 community betterment funds are available at City Hall or by e-mailing personnel@chadron-nebraska.com.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail news@chadrad.com.)

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