



Staff Report

Agenda Item: **REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF TOWN FEES FOR THE FESTIVAL OF NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE** – Discussion and consideration of a request from the Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce for a reduction in the Town's Fees for the use of Town Facilities for the Festival of Native American Culture being held June 5, 2009.

Staff Contact: Walt Good, Deputy Town Clerk

Meeting Date: February 24, 2009

Background: The Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce has been working with Ken Zoll of the Arizona Archeological Society (a 501c3 organization) to organize and produce a weeklong Festival of Native American Culture (<http://festivalofnativeamericanculture.org/>) June 5-13, 2009 to be held at venues throughout the Verde Valley. This festival will be an annual event in a traditionally slow time. It will bring together film makers, artists, musicians and heritage sites.

The Festival of Native American Culture is designed to encourage a greater understanding of our land's indigenous peoples, and their many contributions to the world. The festival is a non-profit event with proceeds dedicated to the protection, preservation and interpretation of the Native American cultural heritage sites of Sedona and the Verde Valley. The intent is to develop a fund from which grants can be made to any State, Federal or local project within the Sedona/Verde Valley area that furthers the protection, preservation and/or interpretation of Native American prehistoric cultural sites.

One of the influencing factors in the development of this Festival was a report issued by the National Trust for Historic Preservation entitled "*The National Forest System: Cultural Resources At Risk*" which highlighted the financial resource limitations available to the U.S. Forest Service for cultural heritage site preservation. Similar findings have applied to the National Park Service.

Despite the efforts of the wonderfully dedicated staffs that we have in the Verde Valley, they do not have the resources needed. Unless we as a community become involved, we could lose these American heritage sites forever.

Lisa O'Neill has secured the Town Park for the opening of the festival on June 5, 2009, and the film festival to be held in the auditorium. The chamber has made reservations with the Town for these facilities. This would be additional dates for the Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce not addressed in their current contract. Lisa O'Neill on behalf of the Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce is requesting that the Town waive the regular fees and only be charged the utility consideration fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per day. The Town would request an addendum to their insurance policy to cover the additional dates.

Fee Comparison:

Town of Clarkdale Fees			Total
Auditorium	\$200.00 per day	\$300 Damage Deposit	\$200
Town Park Gazebo	\$ 25 per day	\$ 50 Damage Deposit	\$ 25
Park Electricity	\$ 25 per day		\$ 25
Grand Total			\$250

Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce Contract Utility Fees			Total
Auditorium	\$ 15 per day	No Damage Deposit	\$ 15
Town Park Gazebo	\$ 0	No Damage Deposit	\$ 0
Park Electricity	\$ 0		\$ 0
Grand Total			\$ 15

Recommendation: To approve a reimbursement costs from the Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce in the amount of _____ \$ for the combined use of the Clarkdale Clubhouse Auditorium, Town Park Gazebo and electric utility for the Festival of Native American Culture.