

Aquatic center reaches minimum goal with \$100K state grant

Gov. Chet Culver announced yesterday that the Vision Iowa Board approved the award of a \$100,000 grant from the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Fund to the Grinnell Mutual Family Aquatic Center at its May 13 meeting.

With bids to build the \$5.5 million project due next week, supporters continue to seek funding for the project and to hope for attractive bids. Receipt of the CAT grant brings fund raising closer to the goal. City Manager Russ Behrens says the state grant puts fundraising for the aquatic center at

\$5.5 million but cautions that pool lighting, a staff shelter, half the parking lot, and other important amenities were left out of the basic pool bid and added as alternatives due to funding. He says fundraising for those items will continue and adds that CAT funding was only recently opened to non-flood applicants, counting the city lucky to receive the grant.

As described by the Vision Iowa board, the grant will assist in construc-

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tion of a new aquatic center facility which will include eight 25-meter lap lanes, a speed slide, a tube slide, a family slide, zero-depth entry with various play features, a water walk, concessions, a lazy river, a new bathhouse, shade structures and new playground equipment.

"It's my pleasure to work with . . . the Vision Iowa Board as we continue our efforts to improve the quality of life of our citizens," said Governor Culver, noting that CAT projects like Grinnell's aquatic center "put people to work, help make our communities more attractive, and provide new and exciting educational and recreational opportunities for countless Iowans."

The Vision Iowa Program provides financial incentives to communities for the construction of recreational, cultural, educational or entertainment facilities that enhance the quality of life in Iowa, according to Culver. 311 CAT awards have been granted by the board, totaling \$111,367,405.