Source: Community Development - NS

Agenda Item No: REP 8-13

To: City Council
From: City Manager and Staff

Council Meeting Date: Jan 7, 2013

Re: Report on Volunteer Hours for FY12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In fiscal year 2012, volunteers shared 50,300 hours of service with the City of Columbia, a slight increase over FY11. Through their time, volunteers enhance city programs and services and give citizens greater connection to municipal government. Based on the national value of an hour of service, $21.79, these hours have a value of $1,096,037.

DISCUSSION:

Once again in FY12, volunteer hours set a record and exceeded the number reported since the City began counting volunteer hours in 1997. Volunteer Programs staff estimate that more than 6,000 residents volunteered and 1,230 new contacts were made with those interested in volunteering. Some highlights for this year include:

- Parks & Recreation continues to log the highest number of volunteer hours as a department with 18,006, followed by Community Development with 11,334 and Public Works with 11,113.
- There was increased activity by the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program coordinated by the Columbia Fire Department. Volunteers logged the highest number of service hours in the history of that program.
- Parks & Recreation had the highest number of volunteer hours in nine years. Increases were particularly significant with the Community Recreation Program and parks projects that included a large project at the Rainbow Softball Complex. Parks & Recreation continues to offer many opportunities for service with the City including Special Olympics, TreeKeepers, the Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project (C.A.R.P.), festivals & special events and volunteers who help with ongoing programs with Community Recreation.
- Many of the City's ongoing volunteer activities continued with similar volunteer efforts as past years, including the Park Patrol, Cleanup Columbia, Adopt-A-Spot Beautification and the Youth In Action summer program.

Volunteers of all types serve the City in roles ranging from episodic projects, that may be only a few hours in length, to long-term commitments where volunteers share time on a weekly basis over several years. The volunteer program includes residents of all ages and abilities including college students and those fulfilling community service obligations. The hours included in this report do not include service from the City Council or Boards & Commissions that give thousands of hours each year.

Priorities for FY13 including staffing the new Visitor's Center in City Hall in cooperation with the Convention & Visitor's Bureau and continuing to match volunteers with landscaped beds through the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification program.

Much appreciation goes to the volunteers who have shared their time to make FY12 another record-setting year. The work of volunteers extends the efforts of paid staff and allows for a greater connection to the City and fellow residents while learning new skills. City staff also deserve recognition as volunteers take time and effort to manage.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Volunteers extend the services provided by City government. Based on the national value of volunteer time, the value of our volunteer service is $1,096,037.

VISION IMPACT:
http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionimpact.php

The City's volunteer program supports the overall vision statement that Columbia will be a "connected, informed, engaged community." The program also supports Strategy 12.1.4 in Parks, Recreation & Greenspace: Expand the program of volunteers to help support the parks.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Acceptance of this report; no action required.

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:					
City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply		**Program Impact**		**Mandates**	
City's current net FY cost	$0.00	New Program/ Agency?	No	Federal or State mandated?	No
Amount of funds already appropriated	$0.00	Duplicates/Expands an existing program?	Yes	**Vision Implementation impact**	
Amount of budget amendment needed	$0.00	Fiscal Impact on any local political subdivision?	No	Enter all that apply: Refer to Web site	
Estimated 2 year net costs:		**Resources Required**		Vision Impact?	Yes
One Time	$0.00	Requires add'l FTE Personnel?	No	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	Overall Vision 🞉
Operating/ Ongoing	$0.00	Requires add'l facilities?	No	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	12.1.4
		Requires add'l capital equipment?	No	Fiscal year implementation Task #	