METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION-RECREATION COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 96-4

Authorizing the General Manager to request bids, proposals, award and enter into contracts for upgrading of the MERC Management Information Computer System.

1. That the ConCentRics computer software and programs used by MERC's facilities has been upgraded to Microsoft Windows operating software technology, and that the current MERC computer system cannot utilize Windows software, is not compatible with Metro's computer system and utilization now exceeds original specifications.

2. That MERC staff has evaluated various options available to up-grade the current computer system and recommends the conversion to personal computers in place of terminals and up-grading the VAX 3800 to an Alpha Computer System utilizing Windows software.

3. That the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission approve expenditure not to exceed $358,847 to upgrade and replace the MERC terminal based computer system during the 1995-96 fiscal year.

4. That the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission has the authority to delegate this procurement process to the General Manager and to enhance the effectiveness of its facilities operations and services to serve clientele and the public.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Exhibition-Recreation Commission authorizes the General Manager to execute all necessary processes and contracts to complete the MERC Computer System Upgrade within the approved budget amount, procurement documents and specifications.

Passed by the Commission on January 10, 1996.

_____
Chairman

_____
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved As to Form:
Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

By: _____
Mark B. Williams
Senior Assistant Counsel

MERC STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item/Issue: MERC Management Information System Up-grade

Date: January 10, 1996   Presented by: Terry Ausbun
                                                        Patrick LaCrosse
                                                        Jim Waki

Background and Analysis: The current MERC computer system software
and hardware consists of a DEC/VAX 3800 central processing unit,
83 terminals, support hardware, ConCentRics, Word Perfect, Lotus
and operating software. The system was selected in 1989 and has
met the basic needs of MERC. However, the current system is limited
and cannot utilize Windows based computer software unless
terminals, CPU and hardware are up-graded.

In order to operate the Windows versions of ConCentRics and Windows
based software, terminals will have to be replaced with PC's and
the current VAX CPU upgraded to an Alpha CPU. Additionally an
upgrade would be needed in order to be compatible with computer
hardware/software of MERC clients, Metro and other government
agencies. Upgrade to a DEC Alpha Computer is based on trade in
allowance from DEC for our current VAX computer and a no charge 3
year warranty on the new CPU. Currently, maintenance costs for the
system is $22,000 per year.

Staff has completed analysis to evaluate various PC capabilities
and cost to upgrade MERC's computer system in order to utilize
ConCentRics Windows software. Analysis to up-grade VAX computer,
replace terminals, replace network servers, and add internet server
with firewall security software has also been completed. Training
cost for the new system is included.

Fiscal Impact: Staff estimates cost to upgrade from the current
computer system to a PC network to be $358,847.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission approve
Resolution No. 96-4 that directs staff to proceed with the
procurement process for upgrading MERC's Computer Management
Information System.