

REVISED

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO INSTALL TEMPORARY PARKLET AND TO WAIVE METER FEES

BACKGROUND:

The College of Design, Landscape Architecture Student Association, is requesting suspension of parking regulations and enforcement for the Campustown Business District for 9 hours a day from April 21-28 to install a parklet. The approximate estimated lost revenue to the Parking Fund from the waiver of enforcement is **\$18 for meter number 3.50/parking space 50 on Chamberlain Street.**

The students are working on a demonstration project of a parklet that will be installed in the parking space 50 next to meter 3.50 on Chamberlain Avenue. **A parklet is a parking space that has been converted to a "park" to provide enhanced amenities and/or green space for people in business districts where sidewalk space is limited like Campustown and Downtown Ames.** The Landscape Architecture Student Association is working on a design concept for bench seating in this space that will incorporate materials that are being reused.

The students have met with Public Works Engineering staff to ensure compliance with necessary regulations pertaining to the ADA, stormwater runoff and any other considerations to provide safety in the area during the demonstration. They will also meet with the Fire Department's Inspections Division to ensure that all other life safety codes are met with the project. Since the City does not currently have regulations in place for this type of a structure or feature, the students have provided City staff with a copy of the regulations developed for parklets in the City of San Francisco. Staff and the students are using these regulations as guidance for this project.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. The City Council can approve the placement of the parklet and the suspension of parking regulations and enforcement for meter number 3.50/parking space 50 on Chamberlain Street from April 21-28, 2013.**

However, realizing this is a demonstration project, under this alternative the City must reserve the right to order the parklet removed immediately by the Landscape Architecture Student Association if it is determined by the City that the existence of the parklet is causing a safety problem for the public.

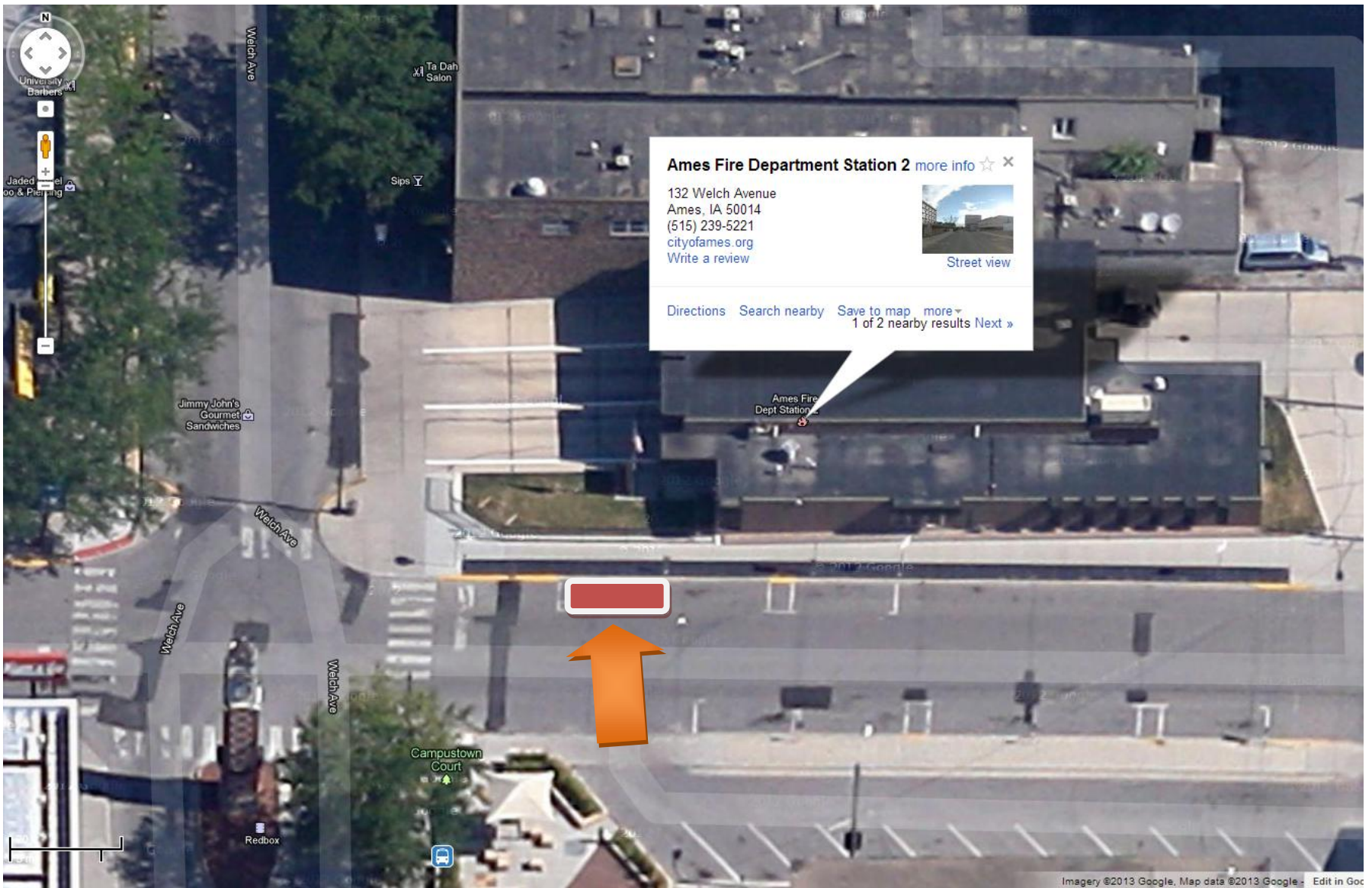
2. The City Council can deny approval of the parklet and the suspension of parking regulations and enforcement for meter number 3.50/parking space 50 on Chamberlain Street from April 21-28, 2013.

3. The City Council can consider the placement of a parklet at a different location and/or on different dates.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Landscape Architecture Student Association is excited to demonstrate this new concept in urban landscape design to the community of Ames and Iowa State University. This is a similar concept introduced in the recent staff report regarding outdoor cafes in Campustown and Downtown. This request offers a unique opportunity to preview this new concept. The only hesitation by the City Council could be allowing this parklet demonstration during VEISHEA.

As long as the City reserves the right under this authorization to have the Landscape Architecture Student Association remove the parklet if a concern for public safety arises, then it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1. This alternative also directs staff to suspend parking regulations and enforcement for *meter number 3.50/parking space 50 on Chamberlain Street from April 21-28, 2013.*



Aerial Photograph Courtesy of Google Maps



Streetview Courtesy of Google Maps

April 1, 2013

Mayor and City Council
City of Ames
515 Clark Ave
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

The Iowa State University chapter of the Student Society of Landscape Architects proposes to build and install a parklet (or small, public, gathering space) atop a single, metered parking space. We have selected the first space on Chamberlain St., between Welch Ave. and Stanton St., on the south side of Fire Station No. 2 (132 Welch Avenue). The installation would be in place from Sunday, April 14th until Sunday April 21st. At this time, the Student Society of Landscape Architects respectfully requests that the City Council consider waiving parking meter fees and enforcement during the time that the parklet is in place.

We ask that the Council refer this request to City staff for placement on the April 9 City Council agenda.

Sincerely,

Chelsea McCaw, Member
Student Society of Landscape Architects

