

ITEM # 14  
DATE: 06-24-14

## **COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:** REQUESTS FOR AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK BRIGADE

### **BACKGROUND:**

On Sunday, August 17, the Ames Public Library plans to host a book brigade to symbolically begin the process of moving from the temporary Library location at 620 Lincoln Way back to the permanent location at 515 Douglas Avenue. The event will occur from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A chain of volunteers will stretch from 620 Lincoln Way up Grand Avenue to 5<sup>th</sup> Street, east on 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Clark Avenue, south on Clark Avenue to Main Street, east on Main Street to Douglas Avenue, and then north on Douglas Avenue to the Library.

Volunteers will pass a set of specially chosen books one at a time through the brigade. Participants will use the sidewalks for the entirety of the route, except on Main Street from Clark Avenue to Douglas Avenue, where volunteers will be in the street. To facilitate this activity, organizers have requested closure of Main Street from Clark Avenue to Douglas Avenue. Although this portion of Main Street has on-street metered parking spaces, the event will occur during non-metered hours, so there is no revenue loss to the Parking Fund.

At the crossing of Lincoln Way at Grand Avenue, the book brigade will use the pedestrian crosswalk signals, so vehicle traffic will not be interrupted. Volunteers will be provided a crossing guard stop sign to alert motorists turning against the red light of the crossing pedestrians. Children participating in the book brigade will be stationed away from Grand Avenue due to the Lincoln Way crossing and the steep embankments under the railroad.

The closure on Main Street and Douglas Avenue will be used to facilitate space for the participants to spread out and for entertainers. Once the books have been deposited in the book drop, participants will be invited to move to Band Shell Park for a celebration.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the street closures as requested to facilitate the Ames Public Library Book Brigade from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on August 17.
2. Do not approve the request.

### **MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The proposed Book Brigade will mark the beginning of the process to move back into a newly renovated Ames Public Library. This celebration is planned to have substantial

community participation. The Library staff is considering applying to have this Book Brigade listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest book brigade.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the street closures as requested to facilitate the Ames Public Library Book Brigade from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on August 17.



June 18, 2014

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

Dear Honorable Mayor Campbell and City Council Members,

Ames Public Library is planning to hold a ceremonial BOOK BRIGADE on Sunday, August 17, 2014 as a kick off to a variety of celebrations for our move back to the RENEWED LIBRARY on Douglas Ave. This event will coincide with the closing of the Library's temporary location in Lincoln Center and will be a way to rally the community around this incredibly important project. The brigade will only involve a small number of specially selected books (approx.. 14) that will be passed along a line of participants from Lincoln Center, up Grand Ave. to Main St. and on to the Main Library. The brigade will be from 4:00-5:30 at which time the participants will be directed to an event of food and entertainment at Bandshell Park which will run from 5:30-7:30. APL requests the Council to approve two requests:

1. APL requests the closure of Main St. between Clark Ave. and Douglas Ave. from 3:00-6:00 pm on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> in order to accommodate what we anticipate to be a large number of participants.
2. APL requests the closure of Douglas Ave. from Main St. and 6<sup>th</sup> St.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. APL is looking forward to our return to the RENEWED LIBRARY and hope to create an atmosphere of fun and excitement for what has been a vital project for this community. We hope that you will all be available to join in the fun that afternoon and perhaps be a part of a record setting event!

Sincerely,

Sarah Bohlke  
Chair, APL Book Brigade Committee



June 20, 2014

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

Dear Mayor Campbell and City Council,

The Main Street Cultural District (MSCD) supports the Ames Public Library Book Brigade event and the street closures in the central business district. The APL is an important asset to Downtown Ames and the entire community. We are extremely excited to have them back up and running better than ever in their new space.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cari Hague". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Cari Hague  
Executive Director