

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUESTS TO INSTALL TEMPORARY PARKLETS AND WAIVE PARKING METER FEES

BACKGROUND:

The Student Society of Landscape Architects (SSLA) at Iowa State University is requesting permission to install two parklets this summer in three metered parking spaces from April 25 through September 5, 2015. **A parklet is a parking space that has been converted into a “park” to provide enhanced amenities and/or gathering space for people in business districts like Downtown and Campustown where sidewalk space is limited.**

Parklet I will be placed in front of Chocolaterie Stam (230 Main Street) Downtown. Because of the angled parking on Main Street, this parklet will require the use of two parking spaces (number 296 and 297). This parklet is of a design that has been used before in Campustown. Parklet II will be placed in parking space 50 adjacent to Fire Station No. 2 on Chamberlain Avenue. This space has been used before to host a parklet, although Parklet II is a new design.

Both parklets have been reviewed by Public Works staff to ensure that storm water and fire hydrants will be unimpeded and that the structure will not present an undue hazard in the parking space. Additionally, staff from Inspections has reviewed the plans to ensure compliance with applicable life safety codes. A certificate of insurance has been filed with the City Clerk’s Office.

To facilitate this project, SSLA requests approval for the following from April 25 through September 5, 2015:

- A Temporary Obstruction Permit for parking spaces 50, 296, and 297.
- Closure of parking spaces 296 and 297 Downtown and 50 in Campustown
- Waiver of parking meter fees (\$661.05 in lost meter revenue)

As in prior years, City staff recommends that, if approved, the City Council should retain the right to order the parklets to be removed should they become a hazard to the public.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the requests to close parking spaces 50, 296, and 297 to install two parklets from April 25 to September 5, 2015, and waive the parking meter fees. The City would retain the right to remove the parklets should they become a hazard.

2. Approve the requests to close parking spaces 50, 296, and 297 to install two parklets from April 25 to September 5, 2015, but require reimbursement of the lost parking meter revenue. The City would retain the right to remove the parklets should they become a hazard.
3. Do not approve the requests.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The installation of these parklets is an excellent partnership with the SSLA organization. It demonstrates the City's connection with Iowa State University students, provides an amenity for the public to use, and provides a practical learning opportunity for the builders and users of the parklets. The SSLA has a proven track record of installing parklets in a safe and responsible manner.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the requests to close parking spaces 50, 296, and 297 to install two parklets from April 25 to September 5, 2015, and waive the parking meter fees. The City would retain the right to remove the parklets should they become a hazard.

April 7, 2015

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

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

The Student Society of Landscape Architects (SSLA) at Iowa State University proposes to once again, build and install two parklets (or small, public, gathering spaces) in two locations, totaling three metered parking stalls. The first location we have selected is on Chamberlain Avenue, closest to the intersection of Welch Avenue on the north side of the street, alongside the fire station. The second proposed space is located on the south side of Main Street, in front of Chocalaterie Stam in the first two stalls west of the crosswalk. The installations would be in place from Saturday, April 25, 2015 through Saturday, September 5, 2015. 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 parklets are in place.

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

Sincerely,

Hannah Luloff - Parklet Chair

Student Society of Landscape Architects



April 8, 2015

City of Ames

Dear City Council members,

The ISU Student Society of Landscape Architects has proposed a parklet on Main Street outside of Chocolaterie Stam this spring and summer and ending this fall. Around the country parklets have been shown to create fun, dynamic streetscapes for the public to enjoy. This adds to a positive atmosphere, especially in areas such as downtown Ames for example.

As owners of Chocolaterie Stam located at 230 Main St. we fully support ISU SSLA placing their parklet just outside Stam during their proposed period.

Please let us know if you need any additional information from us.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry D. Stark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Terry and Anne Stark

Main Street
CULTURAL DISTRICT
■ ■ ■ ■ Ames, Iowa ■ ■ ■ ■

March 26, 2015

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 construction of a Student Society of Landscape Architects "parklet" on Main Street in a parking space in front of Chocolaterie Stam. This addition of green space will be an asset to Downtown Ames and the entire community. It also helps to further support the education of students from ISU and the partnership between them and the Main Street Cultural District.

Sincerely,



Cindy Hicks
Executive Director



campustown
action
association

Honorable Mayor Campbell and City Council
Ames City Hall
515 Clark Avenue
Ames, IA 50010

April 10, 2015

RE: SSLA Parklet in Campustown

Dear Honorable Mayor Campbell and City Council,

Campustown Action Association has been asked by the Iowa State University Student Society of Landscape Architects (SSLA) to support their installation of a new parklet for the district in 2015. The past two years, a similar parklet that they constructed has been in the district at the location just south of Fire Station 2. CAA is very much in support of unique ways of introducing outdoor seating to our district, including this proposed new parklet.

We are always looking for unique ways to improve the customer experience in Campustown, which we feel additional outdoor seating provides. Campustown Action Association is excited to have a parklet back in our district as we feel the parklet will add to the overall environment in Campustown and provide a place for the Ames public to enjoy all summer.

Thank you for your continued support of Campustown and the Campustown Action Association.

Sincerely,

Kim Hanna

CAA Director