

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL ON LIBRARY PREMISES DURING  
AFTER-HOURS FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ames Public Library Board of Trustees received a request from the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation to grant use of the Library to stage a fundraiser on Friday, October 14, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The event is planned as a celebration of new art installations throughout the library building. All proceeds would be used to enhance library programs and services. As part of the event, the Friends Foundation would like to serve alcohol.

At its July 21, 2016, meeting, the Library Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution granting permission for the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation to host the gala event at the library and affirming support of an application for a temporary license to serve beer and wine on the premises during the event.

While it is within the authority of the Board of Trustees to grant permission for use of the library building and consumption of alcohol on the premises, authority to approve licenses for alcoholic beverage service in Ames lies solely with the City Council. **Due to the planning required for this type of event, the Library Board of Trustees is seeking City Council support in advance of the Friends Foundation's request for an alcoholic beverage control license. If the City Council determines that it is not interested in supporting approval of a temporary license that would allow the consumption of beer and wine in the Library, the Friends Foundation will need to re-evaluate this fundraising event.**

A similar request from the Library Board of Trustees was approved by the City Council in April 2014 for a gala event which was held in conjunction with the Ames Public Library grand re-opening in September 2014. As a result of the City Council indicating its support for an application for a liquor license, the Friends Foundation purchased dram insurance and submitted an application for a Special Class C Liquor License which was approved on May 27, 2014. All of those involved in serving alcohol completed the City's required training. The event was a success, and the organizers were pleased with the responsible behavior of all attendees.

At the time of the 2014 request for support to apply for a liquor license, it was indicated by one Council Member that a key consideration in supporting the request was the fact

that the Library would not yet be open to the public at the time of the event. It is not evident from the minutes whether that philosophy was shared by the remainder of the Council. The request to apply for a license was approved 6-0 by the City Council.

Since the 2014 event was safe and successful, the Friends Foundation would like to conduct a similar event after the Library has closed for the day. It is the expectation of the Friends Foundation that making alcohol available at fundraising events is not to become a regular occurrence, but would instead be reserved for rare occasions to mark significant events in the Library, such as the grand re-opening or the installation of the new artwork throughout the facility.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The City Council can express support for the Friends Foundation's application for a temporary license to serve beer and wine on Library premises at an after-hours event.
2. The City Council can indicate that it is not supportive of this request.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Ames Public Library Friends Foundation regularly organizes and conducts major fundraising efforts initiated or endorsed by the Library Board of Trustees. The Board actively supports a celebration of its recent art installations and has indicated its willingness to allow the consumption of beer and wine on Library premises at an after-hours event on Friday, October 14. The Friends Foundation demonstrated its ability to responsibly manage this privilege when it organized a successful similar event in 2014 and all feedback received from the public was positive.

Assuming the City Council is supportive of allowing alcohol to be served on rare occasions as part of a celebration of a significant event, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby indicating that the Council would support an application for a temporary license to serve beer and wine on Library premises at an after-hours fundraising event.