

ITEM: 12
DATE: 9/25/18

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT FOR 2018/19

BACKGROUND:

The City Council has appropriated Local Option Sales Tax funds to finance the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). This year, \$50,000 was approved for neighborhood programs, with \$25,000 earmarked for the NIP and the remaining \$25,000 allocated for a broader array of neighborhood projects.

As you will recall, there are two main goals of the NIP: (1) to strengthen a neighborhood's appearance with the addition of permanent physical improvements, and (2) to promote a greater sense of community through resident participation in a neighborhood project.

Each project application is rated on the following 100-point system. A project must achieve at least 50 points to be considered:

Resident Involvement (30 points maximum):*

...the number of residents donating their time and/or labor to accomplish the project

...the number of residents donating funds to the project

*10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-50 people; 30 points over 50 people

Project Impact (30 points maximum):**

...the number of residents who will be positively affected by the improvement

**10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-100 people; 30 points over 100 people

Safety (10 points maximum):

...enhancement of safety in the neighborhood

Public Space (10 points maximum):

...promotion of social interaction by utilizing public space

Improved Housing (10 points maximum)

Environment (10 points maximum):

...support for the environment

An application has been received from the Spring Valley Neighborhood (Idaho Avenue, south of Utah Drive) for a Neighborhood Improvement Project Grant. The Review Panel, comprised of City staff members and two citizens, scored the application and unanimously recommended that the project be approved for funding.

The Neighborhood Improvement Project Review Panel is requesting approval by the City Council of the following project:

The residents of the southern end of the Spring Valley Neighborhood are proposing to remove stumps, plant one tree and two shrubs, lay sod, and plant perennial garden flowers around the sculpture (acquired through the Neighborhood Sculpture Program) in the 40-foot diameter circular area. The residents are hoping to make the area a focal point in the neighborhood and an area for neighbors to safely socialize. The neighbors are committed to maintaining the area by mowing, weeding, and watering the sod and plants.

The total cost of the project is \$2,020. Requested City funding is in the amount of \$1,010. The neighborhood residents are providing \$290 in cash contributions and \$720 in in-kind donations and labor.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can approve the expenditure of \$1,010 to fund the NIP grant project for the Spring Valley Neighborhood (Idaho Avenue, south of Utah Drive) to remove stumps, plant one tree and two shrubs, lay sod, and plant perennial garden flowers around the sculpture (acquired through the Neighborhood Sculpture Program) in the 40-foot diameter circular area.
2. The City Council can reject the project for funding at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Supporting projects that strengthen neighborhoods is in keeping with one of the City Council's goals. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, thereby approving a Neighborhood Improvement Program grant for the Spring Valley Neighborhood (Idaho Avenue, south of Utah Drive).

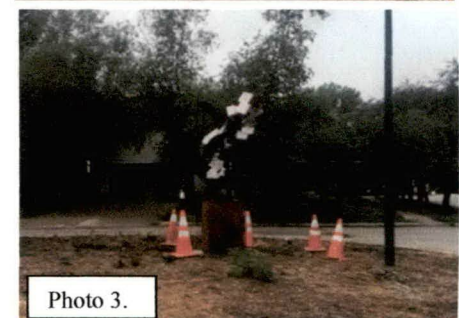
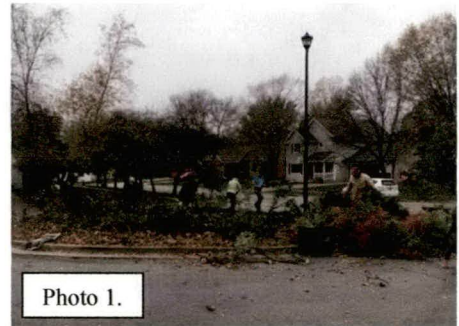
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION

1. Describe the Improvement Project for which you are seeking City financial assistance.

The southern end of the Spring Valley Neighborhood (Idaho Avenue, south of Utah Drive) was developed and several homes built in 1988. The planners included 40-foot diameter circular areas in selected locations in the north/south streets of the neighborhood. The homeowners who lived around the circles voluntarily planted and maintained them. Over the course of thirty years, homes changed ownership and the original planting in the 900 block of Idaho Avenue area became extremely overgrown with vegetation that blocked the view across the street and made it difficult to see oncoming traffic and children riding bikes in the street. The shrubs had become so large that they were frequently damaged by the snowplow. The area was an “eyesore” with overgrown shrubs, volunteer trees, thistles and other weeds and created an undesirable habitat for wildlife such as rabbits.

In the fall of 2017, homeowners around the circle met and decided it was time to clean up the area and start over. We applied for, and received, a piece of art for the circle through the Ames Neighborhood Sculpture Program. In October, 2017, 11 neighbors spent two weekends with chainsaws, loppers, chipper machines, shovels and rakes and removed all of the overgrown shrubs and hauled the debris away prepare the area for the new sculpture (Photos 1 and 2). Work could not proceed on the circle until city workers identified the location, poured the concrete pad, and installed the sculpture. Throughout the spring and summer 2018, while waiting for the sculpture to be installed, neighbors sprayed the area to eliminate the weeds. The sculpture was installed on August 3, 2018 (Photo 3).

We are seeking assistance through an Ames Neighborhood Improvement Grant to complete the renovation of our circle: remove the stumps, prepare the soil, plant one tree, two shrubs, lay sod, and plant perennial garden flowers around the sculpture. Since the area is so prominent on Idaho Avenue, we would like it to become a focal point in the neighborhood and an area for neighbors to safely socialize. The neighbors are committed to maintaining the area by mowing, weeding, watering the sod and plants as needed.



Fall is an optimum time for planting trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and sod so the **desired completion of this project is October 15, 2018**, enabling the plants to become established before the ground freezes.

2. List the NAMES and ADDRESSES of those people who will benefit from this improvement.

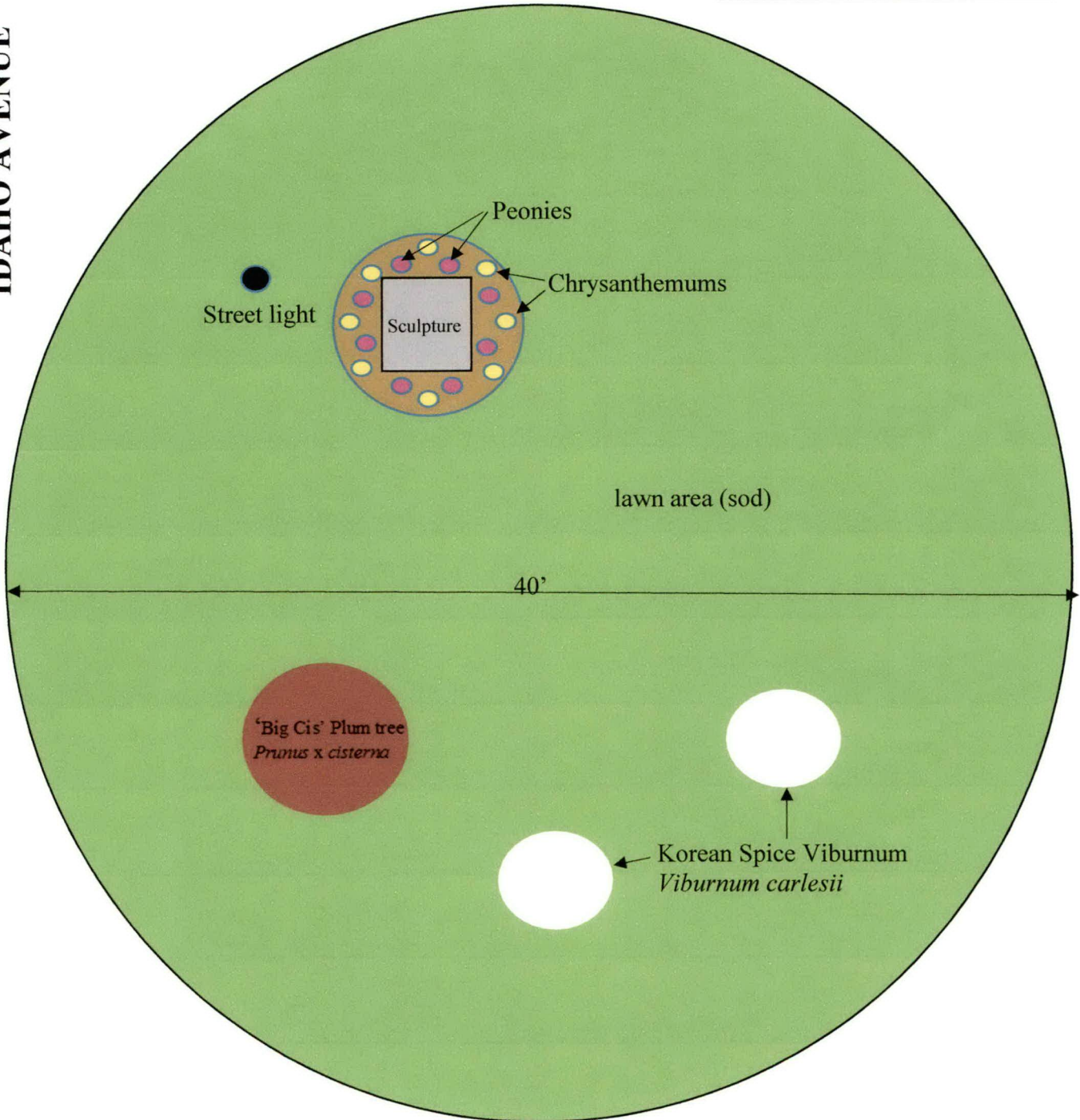
Neighbors in the immediate area around the circle:	
Tom and Betsy Moorman	914 Idaho Avenue
Randy and Linda Naeve	908 Idaho Avenue
Mark and Deborah Blaedel	900 Idaho Avenue
Rod and Ingrid Place	830 Idaho Avenue
Steve and Mary Hernstadt	909 Idaho Avenue
Andy and Jill Paullus (and children)	831 Idaho Avenue
Neighbors who can see and/or drive past the circle to reach their homes:	
Mike and Cathy Filmore	806 Idaho Avenue
K'Lynn Lynn	811 Idaho Avenue
Lou and Cosette Scallon	812 Idaho Avenue
Russ and Kathy Laczniak	818 Idaho Avenue
Fred and Linda Vogtlin	819 Idaho Avenue
New residents	824 Idaho Avenue
Karl and Jean Morz	825 Idaho Avenue
Tom and Louisa Eckhart(and children)	917 Idaho Avenue
Kevin and Diana McHenry (and children)	920 Idaho Avenue
New residents	926 Idaho Avenue
Kelly and Cappy Dobyns	4804 Utah Drive
Peter Orazem and Patty Cotter	4941 Utah Drive
Numerous other homeowners in Spring Valley and surrounding neighborhoods who walk and/or ride bikes past the circle.	

3. Proposed plan for the circle in the 900 block of Idaho Avenue

Scale: 1.75 inches = 10 feet



IDAHO AVENUE



4. **What is the total estimated cost of the proposed project?** (Refer to FORMS A and B on pages 5 and 6, respectively.)

Materials	\$ 990
Labor (includes in-kind and paid services)	\$1,030
Total	\$2,020

How much funding are you requesting from the City? \$1,010

How will you provide a "match" for the project? Cash \$290
In-kind \$720
TOTAL \$1,010

5. List names and addresses, with signatures, of those individuals who will contribute (in the form of cash donations, materials or volunteer work) towards this project. (Refer to FORM C on page 7.)

6. **Explain how the project will enhance safety in your neighborhood.**

By removing the overgrown vegetation, homeowners around the circle will have clear visibility of cars and bicycles on Idaho Avenue and those on the street can see if someone on the other side of the circle is backing out of their driveway.

7. **Explain how the project will promote the usage of public space as a gathering place for your neighbors.**

The circle is surrounded by seven homes. Residents on opposite sides of Idaho Avenue could not see each other due to the height and spread of the overgrown vegetation. When these residents informally met and socialized, they often did so in the street. By maintaining lower vegetation in the circle and a lawn area between the homes, neighbors are likely to congregate in this area rather than the street. Working together to improve and maintain the circle will continue to strengthen and increase communication among neighbors.

8. **Explain how the project improves housing in the neighborhood.** Not applicable to the focus of our project.

9. **Explain how the project will benefit the environment (if applicable).** Our project will not only improve the appearance of the neighborhood, it will making the area easier to maintain and reduce nesting sites for unwanted wildlife. It will also provide a better location for piling snow in the winter.

Applicant:

Name: Linda Naeve

Address: 908 Idaho Avenue
Ames, IA 50014

Home phone (cell): 515-231-3617

E-Mail: lnaeve@mchsi.com

Project Leader:

Name: Linda Naeve

Address: 908 Idaho Avenue
Ames, IA 50014

Home phone (cell): 515-231-3617

E-Mail: lnaeve@mchsi.com

Form A: Worksheet for itemized purchased materials and services

Description of Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Extended Cost
Materials				
Sod Shattuck Turf Farm (515-331-4900)	1,260	ft ²	.36	\$453
'Big Cis' Plum Tree	1		\$138	\$138
'Korean Spice' Viburnum	2		\$64	\$128
Assorted Chrysanthemum plants	8	Plants	\$10	\$80
Mulch	8	Bags	\$4.38	\$35
Fertilizer	1	12 lb bag	\$16	\$16
<i>Subtotal for purchased materials = \$850</i>				
Paid services (labor)				
Stump removal by Emma Jo's Tree Service Story City, IA (515-291-2164)	15	Stumps	(estimate)	\$375
Sod delivery				\$75
<i>Subtotal for purchased services = \$450</i>				
Cost of purchased materials and services				\$1,300

DONATED MATERIALS

Description of Item donated	Quantity	Unit	Unit Value	Extended Value
Peonies	8	Plants	\$10	\$80
Landscape Fabric	1	Roll	\$15	\$15
Landscape fabric pins	1	Bag	\$5	\$5
Water to establish plants and sod (estimate)	675	Cubic ft.	\$.059	\$40
TOTAL Cost of Materials donated (in-kind contributions)				\$140

Total Cost of materials and services for the project: \$1,440

Form B: Worksheet for calculating in-kind labor

Description	Neighbor Hours	\$/hour	Extended Value
Design plan, organizing neighborhood work schedule, obtaining service estimates, budget & grant preparation, purchasing plants and supplies	18	x \$10	\$180
Soil preparation (raking, fertilizing, staking plant locations, etc)	8	x \$10	\$80
Laying landscape fabric, planting perennial flowers	4	x \$10	\$40
Tree and shrub planting	2	x \$10	\$20
Unloading sod, laying sod, clean up, spreading mulch	20	x \$10	\$200
Regular watering and maintenance until sod and plants are established	6	x 10	\$60
TOTAL In-Kind Labor			\$580

FORM C: List individuals who will contribute to your project.

Make copies of this form as needed.

Name	Address	Signature	Donation
Linda and Randy Naeve	908 Idaho Ave.	Linda Nave	labor materials cash
Andy and Jill Paullus	831 Idaho Ave.	J Paullus	labor materials cash
Steele & Herrstadt MARK	909 IDAHO AVE		labor materials cash
MARK & DEBORAH BLAEDEL	900 IDAHO AVE	*	labor materials cash
Tom and Betsy Moorman	914 Idaho Ave	TB Moorman	labor materials cash
Peter Orszem Patricia Cotter	4941 Utah Drive	Peter Orszem	labor materials cash
Rod and Ingrid Place	830 Idaho Ave	*	labor materials cash
			labor materials cash
			labor materials cash

* on vacation, but verbally committed to the project.