

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2011/12 NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT

BACKGROUND:

The City Council annually appropriates Local Option Sales Tax funds to finance the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). As listed in the approved Capital Improvements Plan, \$50,000 has been approved for neighborhood programs, with \$25,000 earmarked for the NIP and the remaining \$25,000 allocated for a broader array of neighborhood projects to be determined by the City Council.

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

The below-referenced grant application for FY 2011/12 was received on May 4, 2012. It was scored by the Review Panel on May 16, 2012, and received enough points to be recommended for approval by the City Council.

CHILTON CROSSING LANDSCAPING PROJECT: Residents of the Chilton Crossing Neighborhood Association have requested grant funds to plant trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers in an area on the northeast corner of Burnham Place and Chilton Avenue and in an area on the northeast corner of Roxboro Drive and Chilton Avenue. There is a bike path that runs through the Burnham parcel. The improvements would, therefore, be enjoyed by anyone using the trail. Benches will be placed in each of these common areas for those wishing to rest or visit.

Seven trees and one section of flowers will be planted in the Roxboro/Chilton parcel. Twelve trees and two flower gardens will be added in the Burnham/Chilton parcel. Residents of the area have committed to watering, staking, weeding, and maintaining the areas. A neighborhood get-together will occur on the tree planting day so neighbors can get acquainted with each other.

Tree species to be planted will be consistent with the City's Street Tree Policy. There are utility easements in the area. The applicant has met with staff from the Public Works Department, who ascertained that the easements will not present an issue for this project.

The total cost of the project is \$10,000. Requested City funding is \$5,000, with the neighborhood providing \$4,000 in cash and \$1,000 in labor and in-kind donations (water).

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can approve the expenditure of \$5,000 to fund a NIP grant for the Chilton Crossing Landscaping Project.
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 in the amount of \$5,000 for the Chilton Crossing Landscaping Project.