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MEMO

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Brian Phillips, Assistant City Manager
Date: September 10, 2019
Subject: Potential Council Field Trips

At the July 23rd City Council meeting, the Council referred an email from Council Member Gartin suggesting that the Council explore several field trips in lieu of workshops in the coming months. Council Member Gartin suggested the following topics at the Council meeting and in the email:

1. Visits to human services agencies, specifically Emergency Residence Project and serving at Food At First
2. Visits to developments in the Cultivation Corridor, including Ankeny's police department building, new housing/commercial/industrial developments in the metro, recreation amenities, urban forestry, flat space, sustainability projects, and affordable housing projects
3. Tour of the Story County Jail
4. Meetings with peer city councils in metro communities

The Council directed staff to provide additional suggestions for field trips of this nature. Staff's recommendation is that any field trips should align with the goals the City Council has established for the year, thereby informing any policy decisions the City Council may make related to those goals. Therefore, staff proposes the following suggestions for field trips:

COUNCIL GOALS:	FIELD TRIP IDEAS:
Strengthen Downtown and Campustown	Visit downtown districts in metro communities and discuss strategies related to parking, plazas, and building renovation
Promote Economic Development	Visit industrial parks in the metro area
Expand Sustainability Efforts	Meet with ISU experts to review recent developments in the markets for recyclables and the outlook for the future. Meet with metro communities that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction goals and discuss action steps adopted.

	Meet with Boone County Landfill or Metro Waste Authority to discuss waste reduction and diversion initiatives.
Address Housing Needs	Visit affordable housing developments in metro communities
Promote a Sense of One Community	Consult experts from other university communities to discuss examples of connections between town and gown
Strengthen Human Services	Meet with Human Services Council to hear about opportunities and challenges related to human services delivery
Encourage Healthy Lifestyles	Meet with communities that have developed innovative park and recreation amenities

If the Council is interested in one or more of these concepts, it should identify which to pursue, along with the desired outcomes from each of the meetings. City staff can then be directed to contact the appropriate individuals to arrange for the meetings, tours, or activities.

The City Council’s workshop calendar does not include any proposed workshops in September, October, or November. It is anticipated that the December workshop date will be used for the second regular City Council meeting in lieu of holding that Council meeting on Christmas Eve. At some point in the next three months, staff anticipates holding a special meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan, but that meeting will likely not occur on one of the Council’s pre-designated workshop dates; a special meeting will be required.

Staff recommends that any workshops planned after January be discussed at the Council’s annual Goal-Setting Retreat, so they can be considered in the context of the City Council’s overall strategic goals for calendar year 2020.