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MEMO

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Brian Phillips, Assistant City Manager
Date: July 2, 2020
Subject: Ames Main Street Design Committee Discussions

At the June 16 City Council meeting, the City Council directed staff to engage with the Ames Main Street Design Committee (AMS) regarding the paver project along Main Street and the wall at Tom Evans Plaza, and report back to Council.

Main Street Pavers:

City staff met virtually with AMS representatives on June 30 to discuss the paver project. Staff provided an update regarding the timeline for the first phase of the project (Clark to Burnett). Plans and specifications for the paver replacement are being developed and are anticipated to be presented to the City Council at the first Council meeting in August to set the bid due date, with an anticipated fall construction.

The plans and specifications being prepared will include bid alternates, with one alternate including a pattern that intersects at right angles, and one alternate that incorporates curves as with the existing pavers. Staff expects costs to be higher with the curved pattern. AMS also inquired about custom colors for the pavers. Staff has identified a standard color that it believes to be more readily available and therefore less costly and simpler to match in future phases or repairs. The bid alternate approach, as well as the color discussion, will be brought to Council by staff at the July 28 meeting.

Staff discussed the benches and large round planters with AMS. AMS expressed concerns regarding the condition of the decorative steel around the planters and the legs of the benches. The benches and planters will be temporarily moved to storage during the project and returned to their existing locations at the project's conclusion. Staff will explore having the steel sandblasted and repainted as part of the right-of-way maintenance budget.

AMS also expressed concerns about discoloration of the bollards on Main Street. Staff agreed to investigate whether the fading was an issue that is covered by warranty from when they were originally installed. However, the bollards are not intended to be replaced as part of the paver project. The bollards do not appear to be failing structurally; if the Council wishes to replace the bollards due to discoloration, it can direct staff to explore the costs and identify a funding source.

Tom Evans Plaza/Burnett Avenue Wall:

AMS discussed the wall at Tom Evans Plaza with the Public Art Commission (PAC) on July 1. PAC indicated that the wall was acquired in approximately 1999 at a cost of \$12,000. In 2009, an evaluation was conducted to determine costs for the wall's rehabilitation. The estimate at that time was that it would cost approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000 to rehabilitate the wall; PAC discussed the possibility of removing the wall, but no action was taken to formally deaccession the wall.

AMS has agreed to contact the wall's artist (David Dahlquist), to obtain an estimate regarding repairing the wall. PAC agreed to explore the decommissioning process for the wall, but has not yet committed to recommend decommissioning. PAC will hold a special meeting in mid-July to decide whether to make a recommendation to Council regarding decommissioning.

AMS also inquired with PAC regarding several light column and brick sculptures downtown that are in the public art inventory and need repair. AMS will contact the artist (Dahlquist) to get estimates regarding rehabilitation.

Next Steps:

Following PAC's special meeting in mid-July, staff intends to present several decision points to the City Council at the July 28 City Council meeting. These include:

- 1) Details regarding the bid alternates to be prepared for the paver pattern.
- 2) Final selection of the color of the pavers to be specified in the bid documents
- 3) If recommended by PAC, a discussion about whether to deaccession the Tom Evans wall, including funding source for the demolition.

Once Council direction is provided regarding these three items, staff will finalize the plans and specifications and return to Council on August 11 to set a bid due date.