

Martin, David

From: Dan Culhane <dan@ameschamber.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:38 PM
To: Haila, John; Beatty-Hansen, Bronwyn; Corrieri, Amber; Junck, Rachel; Betcher, Gloria; Martin, David; Gartin, Tim; Whitlock, Nicole
Cc: Schainker, Steve; Abraham, Keith; Karin Chitty (karin.chitty@amescampustown.com); dan@ameschamber.com
Subject: RE: Lincoln Way Campustown Median Beautification
Attachments: Brick chips bulk.jpeg; buck skin rock.jpg; trap rock 2.jpg; Campustown Lincoln Way Median ppt_CS - February 2021.pdf

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Good Evening Mayor Haila and Members of the Ames City Council,

I write to you again this evening, on behalf of Karin Chitty and myself, seeking your approval to beautify the medians on Lincoln Way through Campustown from Beach Avenue west to Sheldon Avenue.

I am pleased to share that the necessary funding has been secured privately to do the project without direct financial assistance from the City of Ames or Iowa State University. Rather, generous donations from Kingland Systems, The Ames Foundation, Campustown Action Association, and the Ames Chamber of Commerce will fund the improvements outlined in my last correspondence on this topic, which is below. You will recall that the cost was just over \$56,000.

We have received constructive feedback from City staff and I recently met with Keith Abraham where he outlined the concerns over the size of the river rock, which was proposed as an accent in the beds along with mulch. City code does not allow landscape rock any larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. I have met with Dan's Custom Landscape and they are proposing an alternative smaller than river rock - brick chips that are $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch, or smaller in size, or buck skin rock or trap rock. You will see photos attached of each alternate rock being proposed. Any of these would provide the accent effect and fall beneath the maximum size of rock that can be used.

Karin and I are respectfully asking for permission to proceed with this project given all of the initial costs will be covered privately. We will work with City of Ames staff to make sure that necessary protocols are followed and will coordinate the project so that any maintenance will be shared between Campustown Action Association and the City. Other than permission to proceed we would ask that the City commit to necessary watering of the plants as needed throughout the spring and summer season.

Along with the photos of the various types of rock, I am also attaching the original plan, which was previously provided to you. We would ask that this be referred to city staff so that we can work through any remaining issues and get the project moving sometime in late April or early May.

We recognize there may very well be a larger, more permanent plan for these medians in the future. In the meantime we believe this will be a positive and striking improvement that will enhance this major corridor through Campustown and the Ames community.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Dan

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From: Dan Culhane <dan@ameschamber.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:33 PM

To: John Haila <jhaila@city.ames.ia.us>; bronwyn.beattyhansen@amescitycouncil.org; amber.corrieri@amescitycouncil.org; rachel.junck@amescitycouncil.org; gloria.betcher@amescitycouncil.org; David Martin <david.martin@amescitycouncil.org>; Tim Gartin <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>

Cc: 'sschainer@city.ames.ia.us' <sschainer@city.ames.ia.us>; Abraham, Keith <keith.abraham@cityofames.org>; Karin Chitty (karin.chitty@amescampustown.com) <karin.chitty@amescampustown.com>; Dan Culhane <dan@ameschamber.com>

Subject: Lincoln Way Campustown Median Beautification

Good Evening Mayor Haila and Members of the Ames City Council,

Karin Chitty, Director of the Campustown Action Association, and I write to you this evening with a financial request for a beautification project along the Lincoln Way corridor as it runs through Campustown adjacent to the Iowa State University campus. We are speaking specifically to the City of Ames medians and how to make them more aesthetically pleasing. Currently they are mostly barren and with the major investment made by the City of Ames to modernize the underground infrastructure and refresh Welch Avenue it seems fitting that a partnership could be developed to beautify Lincoln Way as it leads to Welch Avenue from the west and east. Sheldon Avenue would be the western end and Beach Avenue the eastern end.

Attached you will find a variety of renderings of what the medians could look like if the project were to proceed. The plan was designed by Dan's Custom Landscape and funded by the Ames Chamber of Commerce. The total project is just over \$56,000 and nearly half of the necessary funds have been raised to date, which you will see within the attached document. We are respectfully asking for a \$25,000 contribution from the City of Ames to help this project move forward this coming spring. The funding from the Ames Chamber of Commerce, Campustown Action Association, and a small portion of the private funding has been raised. Karin and I are currently awaiting a decision from the Ames Foundation on a contribution from that group as well as a few other private funders. Of course, we would not proceed with the project without all of the necessary funds raised.

This plan has been shared with City staff and concerns have been raised about the public safety aspects of the plantings in the medians. At one time, several years back, a plan was discussed between the City and ISU to install some form or barrier in the median to keep pedestrians from crossing Lincoln Way in the middle of a block. We can certainly understand that concern, yet believe plants and materials can be selected and installed to avoid any of them being an obstruction to site lines for pedestrians and vehicles. If at some point in the future the City and ISU come to some agreement and/or arrangement for installing some form of permanent barrier, quite possibly the landscaping being proposed could remain, or removed in favor of the more

permanent solution. In the near term this would brighten and freshen up this corridor to add to the beauty of the ISU campus and the major investment on Welch Avenue where we are aware that trees and other landscaping will be completed this spring. The Campustown Action Association will also be replacing all of the banners on the light poles this spring as well.

In addition to the \$25,000 contribution we would also ask the City of Ames to water the plantings once installed to get them started. According to Dan's Custom Landscape watering would not likely be required all that frequently once the plants got established. Any weeding and/or litter removal would be spearheaded by the Campustown Action Association with support from the Ames Chamber of Commerce, similar to the work we are doing in downtown Ames with Ames Main Street.

We are aware that you are currently working through the budgeting process, which is why we make this request today. This is a relatively inexpensive opportunity to greatly improve the aesthetics of this corridor and we are hopeful you will consider investing with the other funders to enhance this corridor, which in many ways is the front door to the ISU campus.

Karin and I stand ready to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Dan

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