

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM AMES COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL TO USE MUSIC ON THE MOVE MOBILE MUSIC STAGE ON CERTAIN SIDEWALKS

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Community Arts Council (ACAC) has acquired a mobile music stage for a program called "Music on the Move." The stage is constructed on a customized, small trailer, on which a musician can perform. The stage is pulled by a bicycle, which can be pedal-driven, or the electric assist can be engaged to move at up to 15 miles per hour. Combined, the trailer and bike are approximately ten feet long. The mobile music stage was financed in part through a grant from the Commission on the Arts (COTA).



ACAC intends to house the mobile music stage at Stephens Auditorium, and ride it to a different neighborhood every two to three weeks through the end of October. The musician would meet up with the mobile music stage in the neighborhood, then ride through neighborhood streets for 10-15 minutes and stop for a 20–30-minute performance in an appropriate place (e.g., park, cul-de-sac, or driveway). The bike and stage would then return to Stephens Auditorium by dusk.

Because the mobile music stage is housed at Stephens Auditorium, many of the neighborhoods can only be easily accessed by traveling along major arterial roads (e.g., Lincoln Way or University Boulevard). **Neither City staff nor ACAC believe it would be safe to ride the mobile music trailer in the street along these roads, due to traffic speeds and volumes.**

However, Section 4.8(4) of Municipal Code prohibits the operation of this vehicle on bike paths or sidewalks: “No person shall operate any motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, motor scooter, ‘mo-ped’ or motorized bicycle, when under power, upon any sidewalk or bike path separated from the roadway [...].

Therefore, ACAC is requesting that the City Council waive enforcement of Section 4.8(4) to allow the operation of the mobile music stage on bike paths to travel to and from the neighborhoods where performances take place. Once the driver has arrived in the neighborhood where the performance will be, the stage will be operated upon the streets. This waiver would be in effect for performances through October 31, 2021. For future seasons, ACAC would be required to obtain City Council approval prior to using the mobile music stage for performances.

If approved, staff would expect the stage operator to give way to approaching or passing bicyclists and pedestrians using the same path or sidewalk.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive enforcement of Section 4.8(4) of Municipal Code for the purpose of allowing Ames Community Arts Council to operate its mobile music stage on City sidewalks and bike paths to travel to and from neighborhood performances during daylight hours through October 31, 2021.
2. Do not authorize a waiver of enforcement of Section 4.8(4) of Municipal Code, and require ACAC to operate its mobile music stage on City streets rather than sidewalks or bike paths.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Music on the Move initiative supports the City Council’s value of a fun, vibrant community that attracts and retains people. The City has financially supported the project through COTA grants. Allowing the mobile music stage to use bike paths and sidewalks as an alternative to busy arterial roadways is a safer alternative to convey the stage to and from its neighborhood performances.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.

From: Koolbeck, Tammy [IASTC] <tkool@iastate.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Phillips, Brian <brian.phillips@cityofames.org>
Cc: Director ACAC <director@amesart.org>
Subject: Music on the Move

[External Email]

Hi Brian, the Ames Community Arts Council will like to seek permission for our mobile music stage pulled by an electric pedal-assist bicycle to use city streets/sidewalk/paths to bring performing arts into city neighborhoods.

Music on the Move was funded by a COTA Grant and ACAC is excited to debut this new project that gives local artists an opportunity to perform and gives citizens a fun activity in their neighborhoods.

We are looking at taking out the bike every two to three weeks through October 31. Bike and stage would be ridden to the chosen neighborhood from Stephens Auditorium. Musicians would meet us at the neighborhood and set up in the "stage" trailer and we would pedal around the neighborhood for 10-15 minutes and then stop for a 20-30 minute performance at a safe place in the neighborhood whether it's in a park, a driveway and cul-de-sac. The bike and stage would then head back to Stephens. We would plan to have the bike back to Stephens by dusk.

We will find our neighborhoods through the following ways: 1) word of mouth; 2) referral; 3) publicity efforts (social media, media releases) and 4) contact Julie Gould, City of Ames Neighborhood Liaison. We have interest already in three neighborhoods: Green Hills, Northcrest and Somerset. If approved, our first Music on the Move performance will be the week of August 16 in Green Hills.

Please let me know if I might provide additional information.

Tammy Koolbeck
Board President
Ames Community Arts Council