

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **DEACCESSION OF MAIN STREET LIGHT COLUMNS**

BACKGROUND:

The City's Public Art commission (PAC) manages the inventory of public art throughout the Ames community. In the Main Street area, eight light columns were commissioned by the artist David Dahlquist in 1999-2000. These columns consist of laser pattern-cut high carbon steel, Lexan, and soda vapor lights. The columns are approximately 18" in circumference and are 8'3" in height, and are mounted on piers composed of brick and stone with glazed tile inserts. Each light column was acquired at a cost of \$2,500.

There are two columns located at the intersection of Main Street and Clark Avenue, four at the intersection of Main Street and Kellogg Avenue, and two at the intersection of Main Street and Duff Avenue (inventory photos attached to this report). The columns have experienced deterioration over their 23 years of exposure to the elements, including damage to the brick and tile, discoloration of the Lexan, and rusting of the steel.

Ames Main Street (AMS) contacted the artist to inquire about the costs to rehabilitate the work and re-fabricate components. The estimated costs to do so exceed \$90,000. **After discussions with Ames Main Street, on January 5, 2022, PAC approved a recommendation that the City Council authorize the deaccession of these eight works.**

Staff has obtained a quote to complete the demolition of each light column, and the removal can be accomplished for \$1,000 for each column (\$8,000 total). The City Council has included \$68,800 in the FY 2021/22 adjusted City Budget for streetscape amenities in response to a request from AMS in the budget adoption process. This amount includes \$8,000 for the removal of these light columns. **Therefore, funding is available in the Adjusted FY 2021/22 Budget to accomplish the removal.**

If approved, staff would authorize proceeding with the removal of the columns as soon as possible, which will allow the Main Street Paver Replacement Project to proceed and create a uniform look of the pavers. The locations where the columns are currently located will be explored by PAC and AMS as potential locations for future art installations.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the recommendation of the Public Art Commission to deaccession the eight Dahlquist light columns located on Main Street.
2. Direct PAC to develop plans to rehabilitate these light columns and retain them in the public art inventory.
3. Refer this request back to the Public Art Commission or staff for further information

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The eight Dahlquist light columns have been exposed to challenging conditions including ice, salt, water, and sunlight over the past 23 years. It is the desire of the Public Art Commission and Ames Main Street to deaccession these columns rather than rehabilitate them due to the costs involved with a potential rehabilitation.

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



