

## Hall, Renee

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**From:** Jennifer Adams <jennifer.adams212@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 5:51 PM  
**To:** Ibrahim, Abdelhafiz; ainhelder@msa-ps.com; City Council and Mayor  
**Subject:** 2023/24 Capustown Public Improvements

[External Email]

Hello Abdelhafiz, Andrew and Mr. Haila,

I watched the video online for the 2023/24 Campustown public improvements that mentioned your names as contacts. I also included the Mayor/City Council email.

I'm a 1998 ISU graduate living near Boston, MA and excited that my son is attending Iowa State this Fall! I was back in Ames this past February and again last week for orientation and while Ames overall continues to look vibrant, I'm concerned about Welsh Ave in Campustown. It's a first impression for everyone visiting Iowa State and it is looking very tired and run-down. I realize there were several infrastructure improvements completed last year, but more beautification needs to be done.

1) All of the beautiful trees that lined Welsh Ave are gone. There are only one or two that are inside the new black fencing. Are there any plans to add mature trees to each of these fenced areas between Lincoln Way and Chamberlain St?

2) The antique-looking street lamps on Welch Ave between Lincoln Way and Chamberlain St are gone and were replaced with glaring, silver, modern street lights that do not reflect the original feel of Campustown. Why were the charming vintage street lamps removed or not replaced? Can all street lights lining Welch Ave be at least painted black to create a better aesthetic that could include hanging flowers opposite the Iowa State flags?

3) The abandoned Post office building and adjacent, abandoned lot (210 & 329 Welsch Ave) are a blight to the area. I see the property is currently for sale; however, are there any plans to clean up the lots until a sale is completed? At a minimum, the plastic benches, metal sign pole and concrete front yards could be replaced with grass. What are the plans for the CVS that has been shuttered on the corner of Lincoln Way and Welch Ave?

4) The business storefront signage along Welch Ave is getting worse. Are there any restrictions in place or guidelines for signage? Has Campustown ever been considered as a local historical district? The large, plastic, oversized signage prevalent on Welsh Ave is not reflective of the Ames charm. Did any businesses take advantage of the 2022 Campustown Facade Improvement Program?

I spoke to several individuals who work inside Campustown and they, also, expressed concern as to the viability of this area after CyTown is finished. One person remarked that all the money is going to CyTown and that Campustown is already forgotten. Where are all the new trees in Campustown that we saw lined up to be planted in CyTown? If nothing is done to protect and improve Campustown, it's going to become a ghost town once CyTown is completed.

I would love to help improve Campustown and am eager to get involved. I have experience serving on local neighborhood organizations and as a board member of a local historical commission. Are there any city organizations that specifically deal with Campustown beautification?

Please let me know if I am directing my email to the appropriate contacts or if there are other individuals I should speak with.

I've uploaded a picture of Campustown from 2009 that showcases the trees and charming street lights lining Welsh Ave.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Adams

