



**To:** Mayor & City Council

**From:** Pa Vang Goldbeck, Assistant City Manager

**Date:** March 21, 2025

**Subject:** Campus & Community Discussion

At the March 11, 2025 meeting, the City Council requested that the Campus and Community Commission (Commission) be placed on a future agenda for Council discussion.

Resolution No. 17-097 established the Commission (see attachment). According to the Resolution, the Commission brings together individuals appointed by the City of Ames, Iowa State University (ISU), and Iowa State University Student Government to:

1. Provide a public forum to facilitate discussion of issues of common interest to the City of Ames, Iowa State University, and Iowa State University Student Government.
2. Offer an opinion or recommendation to the Council regarding issues brought forward to the Commission by the Council that are of common interest to the City of Ames, Iowa State University, and Iowa State University Student Government.
3. Subject to City Council approval, investigate issues of common interest to the City of Ames, Iowa State University, and Iowa State University Student Government which are brought forward to the Commission and currently not being considered by the Council.
4. Prepare and transmit to the Mayor and City Council from time to time, but not less often than once each year, reports describing its proceedings and other activities of the Commission

The Commission consists of eight members providing representation as follows:

- (1) Business Community Representative (3-year term)
- (1) Neighborhood Association Representative (3-year term)
- (1) City At-Large Representative (3-year term)
- (1) Iowa State University Administration Appointee (Indefinite term)
- (1) Main Street Cultural District Appointee (Indefinite term)

- (1) Campustown Action Association Appointee (Indefinite term)
- (2) Iowa State University Student Government Appointees (Indefinite term)

The Mayor, with consent from the City Council, appoints the Business Community Representative, Neighborhood Association Representative, and City-At Large Representative. The Iowa State University Administration Appointee, Campustown Action Association Appointee, and Iowa State University Student Government Appointees are appointed by their respective organizations.

The Commission is permitted to create task force(s) as needed to work on issues of common interest.

### **HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION:**

**The Commission was created in 2017 as the successor to the City's Student Affairs Commission. The Student Affairs Commission was created in 2007, but suffered from high turnover among members and difficulty meeting regularly to discuss issues. It was believed the structure and charge of the new Campus and Community Commission would improve its effectiveness. However, the Campus and Community Commission has been inactive for almost three and a half years, with its last meeting in December 2021. All meeting agendas and minutes are available online at: [Campus and Community Commission | City of Ames, IA](#)**

Attached is a timeline of the City Council directions to the Commission. Also attached is a report from the Commission to the City Council in March 2018.

### **OPTIONS:**

The Commission has been inactive for almost three and a half years. Therefore, the City Council may wish to consider one of the following three options:

1. Dissolve the Commission and establish task forces as Council identifies needs.
2. Continue the Commission, but suspend it further until an issue(s) is identified for the Commission to work on.
3. Continue the Commission and identify an issue(s) to be worked on.

### **STAFF COMMENTS:**

Since it has been almost three and a half years since the Commission met, if the Council chooses option #2 or #3, staff will need to ensure members seats are filled or can be filled by the appointing authority before the Commission is reconvened. Attached is the latest membership roster; however, it is unknown at this time if these individuals still intend to serve in their seats.

**Staff believes Option #1 is worthy of consideration as another attempt to improve the effectiveness in accomplishing the Council's overall goal. Under this option, the City Council could dissolve the formal Commission and shift to directing staff to establish task forces or convene community partners to work on issues identified by Council on an as-needed basis. This approach would allow for greater flexibility in the number and representation of participants for any future task force created. This approach also allows individuals to commit to participating based on topics of interest to them, rather than relying on a fixed commission membership that may or may not be vested in the specific issue(s) being addressed. In addition, this new approach could respond to a current problem where long delays between meetings results in members losing interest in serving on this commission.**

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[Resolution 17-097.pdf](#)

[3.27.2018 Campus and Community Commission Report.pdf](#)

[Timeline of Council Direction.docx](#)

[Campus and Community Membership Roster.docx](#)