



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 08/08/05
449

Communication: No.:05-

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Richard Clark, Acting City Manager

SUBJECT—

Communication from the Acting City Manager regarding streetscape improvements for the Court Avenue District.

SYNOPSIS—

The Court Avenue area has experienced significant new investment including new housing, the Science Center of Iowa, and commercial development. In addition, the Court Avenue Partners should be starting construction soon on the renovation of the Spaghetti Works building, as well as a new apartment building, and a new condominium building. Development is also expected on the City-owned site south of Court between 4th and 5th. And a study is nearly complete that addresses the conversion of Court Avenue from a one-way street to a two-way street.

A key design objective of Court Avenue development is to create a street level environment that is pedestrian friendly, lively, and conducive to encouraging new investment appropriate to the area. To achieve this goal, two actions are necessary.

First, with all of the new development in the area, a review of the streetscape amenities throughout the area together with a commitment to making the necessary improvements is necessary. Therefore, it is recommended that Council authorize staff to prepare a strategy for upgrading the streetscapes in the Court Avenue area.

Second, a key part of the street level environment is the mix and quality of restaurants in the area. And a key part of the Court Avenue Partners vision for the area has been a Latin restaurant to be located in the ground floor of Court Avenue Partners' proposed new building at 4th and Court. Accordingly, staff will be working with Harry Bookey and Paul Rottenberg for a City assistance package to evaluate the

financial shortfall that may occur with the restaurant and to recommend an appropriate strategy for dealing with it.

FISCAL IMPACT—

There is no fiscal impact from this action. Any commitment of City funds will require further action by Council.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval