

★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

49

Date April 25, 2011

Communication from Historic East Village Neighborhood Association regarding Green Alley concept.

Moved by _____ to receive and file and refer to City Manager for review and recommendation.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Mayor

City Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO Mayor Cownie, City Council Members and City Manager
Clark

FROM Phil Parrott, Architect - Durrant, Chair of Historic East
Village (HEV) Action Plan & Design / Beautification
Committee, HEV Board Member, Operation Downtown
Board Member

RE Green Alley concept

DATE April 18, 2011

We have been advised that the City of Des Moines may soon take up the opportunity to lead in a new form of eco-friendly technology called "Green Alleys", which is already successfully being implemented in neighboring cities like Chicago. Our Board has reviewed the benefits that green alleys would offer and support their use. We suggest the two alleys that connect East 6th Street to East 4th Street between Grand and Locust as a good place to introduce this technology in Des Moines.

In the winter of 2009/10 the ice tracks on these two alleys were 7 inches thick, presenting a hazardous causeway for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Green alley technology has been proven to cut down on the ice buildup in colder months. During rainy periods the natural absorption of green alleys has also proved to be an effective way to reduce storm sewer stress. We understand that their maintenance is economical. Overlaying green alleys in the East village with brick would enhance the historic look of the East Village neighborhood.

Green alley technology is a win-win: the environment benefits through conservation, city budgets when due to less expensive alley maintenance and the affected areas benefit through beautification.

Councilman Moore is expected to speak to the HEV Board at our May meeting about options for initiating the start of these green alleys in the East Village.

Thank you for your time and consideration.