

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT FOR 2019/20

BACKGROUND:

The City Council has appropriated Local Option Sales Tax funds to finance the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). This year, \$50,000 was approved for neighborhood programs, with \$25,000 earmarked for the NIP and the remaining \$25,000 allocated for a broader array of neighborhood projects.

There are two main goals of the NIP: (1) to strengthen a neighborhood's appearance with the addition of permanent physical improvements, and (2) to promote a greater sense of community through resident participation in a neighborhood project.

Each project application is rated on the following 100-point system. A project must achieve at least 50 points to be considered:

Resident Involvement (30 points maximum): *

...the number of residents donating their time and/or labor to accomplish the project

...the number of residents donating funds to the project

*10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-50 people; 30 points over 50 people

Project Impact (30 points maximum): **

...the number of residents who will be positively affected by the improvement

**10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-100 people; 30 points over 100 people

Safety (10 points maximum):

...enhancement of safety in the neighborhood

Public Space (10 points maximum):

...promotion of social interaction by utilizing public space

Improved Housing (10 points maximum)

Environment (10 points maximum):

...support for the environment

A Grant Application has been received from the Sunset Ridge Property Owners' Association for funding in the amount of \$5,000. The Review Panel, comprised of City staff members and two citizens, scored the application and unanimously recommended that the project be approved for funding.

The Neighborhood Improvement Project Review Panel is requesting approval by the City Council of the following project:

The Sunset Ridge Property Owners' Association is partnering with the City's Parks and Recreation Department to build a neighborhood park. Council has allocated \$80,000 in the FY 2018/19 CIP for developing the Sunset Ridge Park. The park will include a shelter, drinking fountains, playground, small walking path, benches, and a large open area. The Property Owners' Association deeded the land to the City of Ames with the agreement that the land will be used for a neighborhood park. The City Council accepted the donation of the land on August 13, 2019. Developer Hunziker and Associates is donating the labor to grade and seed the land for the park. The Ames Foundation is providing the trees and shrubs. Neighborhood residents will spread the mulch on the playground and will be responsible for watering the trees and shrubs.

The total cost of the project is \$103,790. Requested City funding is in the amount of \$5,000. The neighborhood residents are providing \$16,263 in cash contributions and in-kind donations and labor of \$5,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can approve the request of the Sunset Ridge Property Owners' Association for the allocation of \$5,000 in Neighborhood Improvement Project Grant funds to be used towards the construction of the Sunset Ridge neighborhood park.
2. The City Council can reject the request for funding at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Supporting projects that strengthen neighborhoods is in keeping with one of the City Council's goals. The development of a neighborhood park has been planned for a number of years and was included in the CIP in FY 2018/19 in the amount of \$80,000. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, thereby approving the request of the Sunset Ridge Property Owners' Association for NIP funds in the amount of \$5,000.