

Agenda Report

January 6, 2014 City Council Meeting

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Item No. 6

ISSUE: University of Iowa's Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities Request for Proposals (RFP)

A resolution authorizing the City to submit a list of projects for a request for proposal

BACKGROUND:

The University of Iowa is seeking proposals from cities and towns in Iowa for students to work on sustainable projects. In the proposal, it asks that applicants submit 15-30 projects that would apply to coursework being studied at the University of Iowa. The following is a list of projects (in no particular order) that staff has come up with to put in the application for consideration. The more projects the better as the University of Iowa will decide what projects would best fit the need of the students.

This is a very competitive RFP. Cities that have been awarded this in the past have been in eastern Iowa for the most part and mostly bigger cities with the exception of a few small towns. Staff believes this is worth a shot as there are many goals in the Comprehensive Plan and Stormwater Plan that would be suitable with the intention of the proposal.

If there are any more ideas you have that you would like to see on this list please let us know. If there are any concerns with projects on this list please let us know as well. The list is a rough draft; we can have up to 30.

1. Wal-Mart study- parking lot improvements and bike hub off the bike trail
2. Streambank stabilization recommendations from Watershed Plan
3. City-wide sidewalk/walkability study- Comp Plan
4. Bellaire sub-watershed improvements- Watershed Plan
5. City Hall demonstration project- rain gardens, bio retention, parking lot improvements- Watershed Plan
6. City-wide catch basin retrofits
7. Creek steward program- Watershed Plan
8. Right-of-way stormwater retention program- Comp Plan
9. Citizens Marketing Committee study-Comp Plan
10. Rehabilitation program for residents for home improvements- Comp Plan
11. Incentive program for stormwater bmp's on private property
12. Matching grant programs for sustainable design when repairing/reconstructing streets- Comp Plan
13. Relocating/burying utilities- Comp Plan
14. Community gardens- Comp Plan
15. New recreational areas- Comp Plan
16. Streetlight retrofits- Comp Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council approve the resolution authorizing staff to apply for the request for proposal.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, City Administrator
Sheena Danzer, City Inspector/Zoning Administrator

CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IOWA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 14-0102

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS TO APPLY FOR A PROPOSAL THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA FOR THE IOWA INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES (IISC)

WHEREAS, The University of Iowa's Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities is seeking proposals from Iowa towns, cities, counties, and regional entities to become an IISC community partner for 1 year beginning in August 2014;

WHEREAS, The IISC expects to choose between 1-2 partners for the Fall 2014-Spring 2015 academic year of which the applicant will benefit from 20,000 to 40,000 hours of work for about 5-15 sustainability projects outlined in the application;

WHEREAS, the City has projects listed in the Watershed Management Plan and the Comprehensive Plan to identify potential projects to apply for as the City is an advocate on sustainability;

WHEREAS, The City strives to plan and implement for a sustainable future;

WHEREAS, the City will partner with the Walnut Creek Watershed Coalition and Cowles Montessori in applying for the proposal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS, that:

The City Council hereby supports and authorizes staff to apply for the proposal due on February 7, 2014.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6th DAY OF January 2014.

Steve Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Jeff Fiegenschuh, City Administrator