From:
 Boesen, Connie S.

 To:
 Ed Fallon

 Subject:
 RE: FW: Triangle

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024 3:46:00 PM

It looks like Jeremy has gotten back to you. Let me know if you need anything else.

Connie

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

MAYOR

(515) 283-4944 | m: (515) 240-7929

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Watch DMTV on Mediacom channels 7 & 777 or online Stay connected via <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u>

From: Ed Fallon <ed@fallonforum.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 9:16 AM
To: Naber, Steven L. <SLNaber@dmgov.org>

Cc: Kathy Byrnes <kathy@birdsbeesurbanfarm.org>; Hoff, Jim M. <JMHoff@dmgov.org>; Boesen, Connie S. <connieboesen@dmgov.org>; Voss, Carl B. <carlvoss@dmgov.org>; Mandelbaum, Josh T. <JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org>; Coleman, Chris J. <ChrisColeman@dmgov.org>; Simonson, Mike W. <MikeSimonson@dmgov.org>

Subject: Re: FW: Triangle

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Steve - It's been over a week and no response from Jeremy. I'm starting to feel like we're having a bunch of road blocks and delays thrown at us because projects like Eat the Triangles aren't initiatives City staff support. I'd love to be proven wrong.

I'm cc:ing the mayor and council members who've expressed interest. Hopefully, they can help move things along. As Kathy and I indicated in 2023 when we first proposed this project, given the urgency of relocalizing food production, it's important to begin groundwork as soon as possible, i.e., April/May. That's increasingly right around the corner. Thanks, Ed

On Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 11:26 AM Naber, Steven L. <<u>SLNaber@dmgov.org</u>> wrote:

Hi Ed.

I just met with our City Manager's Office on this, and they are going to have Jeremy Caron, Sustainability Program Manager, be the City contact for this initiative. You should be hearing from Jeremy soon.

Thank you,

Steve

STEVEN L. NABER, P.E. | CITY OF DES MOINES

City Engineer | Engineering Department
Main 515-283-4920 | Direct 515-283-4563

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

From: Ed Fallon < ed@fallonforum.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 1:42 PM **To:** Naber, Steven L. < <u>SLNaber@dmgov.org</u>>

Cc: Kathy Byrnes < kathy@birdsbeesurbanfarm.org>

Subject: Re: FW: Triangle

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Steve - Circling back, how's it look to get together between Dec 3 and 6? Thanks, Ed

On Thu, Nov 21, 2024 at 9:29 AM Ed Fallon < ed@fallonforum.com > wrote:

Thanks, Steve. Lots of good questions. It'd be best to go over these in person. Kathy and I are pretty flexible. When would be a good time to meet with you and anyone else you want to pull together? Thanks,

Ed

On Wed, Nov 20, 2024 at 12:45 PM Naber, Steven L. <<u>SLNaber@dmgov.org</u>> wrote:

Thank you Ed,

Who would be doing the planting work?

Who would maintain this?

Who manages the health of the trees (varmints – this will attract a lot animals, insects)?

How is the harvest managed (is it a free-for-all, or at certain times, how will people know when certain foods are ready/ripe, etc.)?

My role at the City is overseeing the design and construction of City capital improvements, along with traffic & transportation and right-of-way management. Knowing the above answers will help me get the right folks involved to review. These other things to think about would still apply:

- The triangles are currently still considered Public Right-of-Way, so the triangle parcels would need to be vacated to allow some of the plantings identified below.
- Intersection Vision Clearances would need to be maintained at all intersections in accordance with Section 114-14 of the City Code -

https://library.municode.com/ia/des moines/codes/code of ordinances? nodeld=MUCO CH114TRVE ARTIINGE S114-14INSIDISTIN

- The plantings (with exception of allowable street trees) would need to stay within the vacated parcels and not be in the public right-of-way in accordance with Section 102-2 Maintenance of the Border Area -https://library.municode.com/ia/des_moines/codes/code of ordinances?
 nodeId=MUCO_CH102STSISKOTPUPL_ARTIINGE_S102-2MABOAR
- The clear zone must be maintained in accordance with the lowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications Chapter 5, which the total roadside border area, starting at the edge of the traveled way, available for safe use by errant vehicles. This area may consist of a shoulder, a recoverable slope, a non-recoverable slope, and/or a clear runout area. https://cdn-

wordpress.webspec.cloud/intrans.iastate.edu/uploads/sites/15/2020/03/5C-2.pdf

- Maintenance (weeding, watering) would need to be done outside the street right-of-way (and not include vehicles blocking or impeding traffic).
- No access would be allowed off of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway (it would need to be limited access of Cottage Grove Avenue).
- Permits will be required for any excavation or any obstruction in the rightof-way -<a href="https://www.dsm.city/departments/development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-and-development-services/permit-servi
- On-street parking is not and will not be available on Martin Luther King Jr.
 Parkway or Cottage Grove Avenue along the triangles.

Thank you Steve

STEVEN L. NABER, P.E. | CITY OF DES MOINES

City Engineer | Engineering Department
Main 515-283-4920 | Direct 515-283-4563

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

From: Ed Fallon < <u>ed@fallonforum.com</u>>

Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 10:13 AM **To:** Naber, Steven L. <<u>SLNaber@dmgov.org</u>>

Cc: kathy@birdsbeesurbanfarm.org; Boesen, Connie S. <<u>ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org</u>>; Prilipp, Adam P. <<u>APPrilipp@dmgov.org</u>>; Dakovich (Rouse), Jennifer L. <<u>JLDakovich@dmgov.org</u>>; Vlach, Thomas C. <<u>TCVlach@dmgov.org</u>>; Wageman, Phillip J. <<u>PJWageman@dmgov.org</u>>; Myers, Dwayne A. <<u>DAMyers@dmgov.org</u>>; Hoff, Jim M. <<u>JMHoff@dmgov.org</u>>; Christensen, Cody J. <<u>CJChristensen@dmgov.org</u>>; Johansen, Chris M. <<u>CMJohansen@dmgov.org</u>>

Subject: Re: FW: Triangle

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks, Steve. Good to talk with you as well. This work? - Ed

On Mon, Nov 18, 2024 at 6:04 PM Naber, Steven L. < <u>SLNaber@dmgov.org</u>> wrote:

It was a pleasure meeting both of you, Ed and Kathy, at the Council Meeting tonight.

As discussed, Mayor Boesen reached out to me about this a couple times, including this summer (please see the below chain).

As discussed after our Council Meeting - do you have a drawing / map you could please send to us?

Please also see some of my initial reactions/inquiries below (the drawing may answer some of these).

Thank you,

Steve

STEVEN L. NABER, P.E. | CITY OF DES MOINES

City Engineer | Engineering Department
Main 515-283-4920 | Direct 515-283-4563

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

From: Naber, Steven L. <<u>SLNaber@dmgov.org</u>>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Boesen, Connie S. <<u>ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org</u>>

Cc: Hoff, Jim M. < <u>JMHoff@dmgov.org</u>>; Davis, John A. < <u>JADavis@dmgov.org</u>>; Dakovich (Rouse), Jennifer L. < <u>JLDakovich@dmgov.org</u>>; Wageman, Phillip J.

<a href="mailto:kouse), Jennifer L. <a href="mailto:kouse), Wageman, Phillip J. <a href="mailto:kouse), Wageman, Phillip J. <a href="mailto:kouse) <a href="mailto:kouse)<a href="mailto:kouse) <a href="mailto:kouse)<a href="mailto:kouse) <a href="mailto:kouse)<a href="mailto:kouse)<a href="mailto:kouse) <a href="mailto:kouse)<a href="mai

Cody J. <<u>CJChristensen@dmgov.org</u>>; Ludwig, Michael G. <<u>MGLudwig@dmgov.org</u>>; Caron, Jeremy W. <<u>JWCaron@dmgov.org</u>>; Gano, Jonathan A. <<u>JAGano@dmgov.org</u>>;

McQuillan, Shane D. <<u>SDMcQuillan@dmgov.org</u>>; Smith, Adam R. <<u>ARSmith@dmgov.org</u>>

Subject: RE: Triangle

Thank you for sharing this Mayor,

Ed and Kathy mention a map - do they have a drawing / map they could send to us?

Without seeing a drawing, here are some things that need to be worked through:

- The triangles are currently still considered Public Right-of-Way, so the triangle parcels would need to be vacated to allow some of the plantings identified below.
- Intersection Vision Clearances would need to be maintained at all intersections in accordance with Section 114-14 of the City Code https://library.municode.com/ia/des moines/codes/code of ordinances

?nodeld=MUCO CH114TRVE ARTIINGE S114-14INSIDISTIN

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- The clear zone must be maintained in accordance with the lowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications Chapter 5, which the total roadside border area, starting at the edge of the traveled way, available for safe use by errant vehicles. This area may consist of a shoulder, a recoverable slope, a non-recoverable slope, and/or a clear runout area. <a href="https://cdn-
 - wordpress.webspec.cloud/intrans.iastate.edu/uploads/sites/15/2020/03/5C-2.pdf
- Maintenance (weeding, watering) would need to be done outside the street right-of-way (and not include vehicles blocking or impeding traffic).
- No access would be allowed off of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway (it would need to be limited access of Cottage Grove Avenue).
- Permits will be required for any excavation or any obstruction in the right-of-way -https://www.dsm.city/departments/development_services/permit_and_d evelopment center/index.php
- On-street parking is not and will not be available on Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway or Cottage Grove Avenue along the triangles.

Without seeing a drawing, here are some questions that come to mind:

- How will people access the edible plantings (there is no parking along the triangles)? We cannot encourage pedestrians to cross busy streets outside of designated crosswalks or to park on streets where parking is not allowed.
- Who will maintain this plan/plantings? The City does not have any landscaping staff.

Thank you, Steve

STEVEN L. NABER, P.E. | CITY OF DES MOINES

City Engineer | Engineering Department
Main 515-283-4920 | Direct 515-283-4563

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

From: Boesen, Connie S. < <u>ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org</u>>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 9:43 AM **To:** Naber, Steven L. <<u>SLNaber@dmgov.org</u>>

Subject: FW: Triangle

From: Ed Fallon < ed@fallonforum.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 9:40 AM **To:** Boesen, Connie S. < connieBoesen@dmgov.org **Cc:** Kathy Byrnes < kathy@birdsbeesurbanfarm.org

Subject: Re: Triangle

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This work (raw text)? I wasn't able to include the map, as I'm on the road with only my phone. Cc:ing Kathy. Thanks, Ed

EAT THE TRIANGLES

Edible and pollinator plantings at the MLK/Cottage Grove triangles

Submitted by Ed Fallon and Kathy Byrnes of Birds & Bees Urban Farm Drafted March 27, 2023 Updated April 22, 2024

In cities across the US, using public spaces for food production is gaining momentum. Given more frequent disruptions to food systems, especially with the impacts of climate change, City leaders must work with residents and area farmers to relocalize food production.

Since 2020, we have worked with City of Des Moines officials to place a higher priority on urban agriculture. In December, 2020, under the leadership of Carl Voss and Connie Boesen, the Council voted unanimously to support our proposal to establish a Food Security Task Force (FSTF).

We were honored to serve on the initial iteration of that task force and pleased that its work culminated in the creation of the FEEDDSM website. We are also pleased that the FSTF is continuing to meet to plan further actions.

One simple action that could and should be taken immediately is to create public-access edible landscapes at the four triangles at the junction of MLK, Jr. Parkway and Cottage Grove Avenue. We offer three specific and compatible suggestions:

(1) Create a living snow fence to permanently replace the plastic snow fence currently used in the winter. A hedge of thornless blackberries might be the perfect fit. Other options, such as raspberries and serviceberries, could also be considered.

(2) Plant clusters of fruit-producing shrubs and trees. Dwarf varieties are easier to prune and pick. Suggested types of fruit trees include apple, cherry, pear, plum, pawpaw, peach, apricot, and serviceberries.

A few thoughts on serviceberries: These small, dark red fruits are a lot like blueberries in terms of nutrition and use. National Institutes of Health say serviceberries are "an excellent source of manganese, magnesium, and iron, and a relatively good source of calcium, potassium, copper, and carotenoids (e.g., lutein)." They can also be frozen for winter use, and are very popular with birds, too.

(3) Plant pollinator-friendly plants and flowers such as aster, goldenrod, milkweed, bee balm, black-eyed Susan, and yarrow. That's the short list.

We also recommend planting trees like Linden, which are very popular with pollinators. Ideally, plantings would allow availability of nectar and pollen from April through October.

Nearly all of what we propose is compatible with existing activities on the triangles.

On Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 6:52 AM Boesen, Connie S. ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org wrote:

I found the old email but could not pull up the plan for the plantings, can you resend to me.

Thanks

Connie

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

MAYOR

(515) 283-4944 | m: (515) 240-7929

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Watch DMTV on Mediacom channels 7 & 777 or <u>online</u> Stay connected via <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u> From: Ed Fallon

To: Boesen, Connie S.; Prilipp, Adam P.; Dakovich (Rouse), Jennifer L.; Vlach, Thomas C.; Wageman, Phillip J.;

Myers, Dwayne A.; Hoff, Jim M.; Christensen, Cody J.; Johansen, Chris M.; Gano, Jonathan A.; McQuillan, Shane D.; Naber, Steven L.; Voss, Carl B.; Mandelbaum, Josh T.; Simonson, Mike W.; Coleman, Chris J.; Caron, Jeremy

W.

Cc: Kathy Byrnes; Lee Tesdell; info@drakeneighborhood.org; Nick Holmberg; r.mccammon@mchsi.com;

hello@artterrarium.com; tanner@urbanambassadors.org

Subject: Eat the Triangles and other edible urban forests **Date:** Friday, December 13, 2024 6:50:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Folks - Carl Voss asked that Kathy and I provide examples of other edible urban forests around the US. There's lots happening, including:

- -- Beacon Food Forest (Washington)
- -- Boston Food Forest Coalition (Massachusetts)
- -- Cedar Creek Food Forest (Michigan)
- -- Louisville Grows Community Food Forest (Kentucky)
- -- Mission Solano Demonstration Food Forest (California)
- -- Northside Civic League Food Forest (Virginia)
- -- Project Food Forest (Kansas)
- -- Sheridan Food Forest (Wyoming)
- -- Unity Park Community Plaza (California)
- -- Urban Food Forest at Browns Mill (Georgia)

One of the older projects is <u>Beacon Food Forest</u> in Seattle. From the website: "People can take what they need and always leave some for others. This method depends on developing a relationship of trust within the community. We have never witnessed someone 'wiping out' a harvest."

A few years back, I had a woman with <u>Sheridan Food Forest</u> in Wyoming on my talk show. Looks like it's still going strong.

<u>Urban Food Forest at Browns Mill</u> is run by the city of Atlanta's Office of Sustainability and Resilience and Department of Parks and Recreation in partnership with Trees Atlanta. The project "integrates trees and shrubs with food production to create healthy and ecologically resilient landscapes. The aim is to select native trees and plants that produce nutritious foods while also providing resources to local wildlife and pollinator species, capturing stormwater and mitigating flooding, filtering air and water, and creating a more sustainable urban landscape."

In addition to City staff and elected officials included in earlier messages, I'm cc:ing this to our contacts with groups that have written a letter of support. Let's have this ready to roll come spring! Thanks. -- Ed

 From:
 Molly Cutler

 To:
 Boesen, Connie S.

 Cc:
 Scott Cutler

Subject: Goldfinch Lofts - First Council Appearance Dec 23

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 4:50:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Boesen,

Thank you again for coming to the Star Lofts ribbon cutting last month – we really appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to join us and give such kind remarks; it meant a lot to us that you were there. Thank you!

We mentioned at the ribbon cutting that we are working on the next project, which we've named the "Goldfinch Lofts" and will be located just down the road from Star Lofts at 3404/3416/3422 Ingersoll Ave (the site of the former Bank of America). We have been working to compile the funding for this project, and we wanted to give you a heads up that a preliminary HOME funding request will be coming to Council for a vote this coming Monday, December 23.

Would you like to schedule a quick phone call to discuss the project in more detail sometime this week? We are happy to meet in person, as well, but we just want to be sensitive of your time. We've included details on the project below. Please don't hesitate to reach out anytime if you have any questions or would like more information.

Thank you for your continued support of our projects – we really appreciate it.

Thanks, Molly

Goldfinch Lofts:

Building Specifics:

The building we are proposing would have commercial on the ground floor and apartments above. We are planning for 28 apartments, all between 30-80% AMI and with 4 units set aside for those individuals experiencing homelessness. All tenants will receive free all-access DART bus passes, and the new streetscaping project will add a covered bus stop directly in front of the building. The site will feature programmed greenspace with public art, as well as 50+ parking spots. The commercial and residential components of the project will be separate entities with no co-mingling of funds, so any funding associated with the affordability of the residential units goes only to the apartments entity.

Innovations:

The project received the Iowa Finance Authority's second-ever Innovation Set-Aside for the upcoming 9% LIHTC round based on the sustainability and affordability innovations of the project:

The building will be the first LIHTC-funded project in the country to achieve Zero

Carbon Certification (for reference, there are more than 40,000 LIHTC units placed into service across the country each year and so far none have been Zero Carbon Certified), and will be the first building in Iowa to achieve Passive House Certification.

The developer's fee will be used to fund two years of salary for an in-house developer to join Anawim Housing so that Anawim can restart the development portion of their non-profit. Further, all excess cash flows beyond debt service coverage ratio for the apartments on the project will be donated to Anawim Housing. This ensures there is no conflict of interest when requesting subsidy for the residential units.

Timeline:

We are early in the design phase now, and we anticipate breaking ground in Fall 2025, with project completion by Yearend 2026.

Council Appearances:

As mentioned above, we will be going for a preliminary funding approval for \$500k of City HOME funding at the upcoming December 23 council meeting. We will also be requesting funding from the Office of Economic Development, and that request will likely go before Council at the January 13 meeting.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the above specifics further.

Thanks, Molly

Cutler Development, LLC www.cutlerdevelopment.com 571-212-4188

From: Boesen, Connie S.
To: Molly Cutler

Subject: RE: Goldfinch Lofts - First Council Appearance Dec 23

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 10:15:00 PM

Give me a call and we can discuss...

Connie

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

MAYOR

(515) 283-4944 | m: (515) 240-7929

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Watch DMTV on Mediacom channels 7 & 777 or <u>online</u> Stay connected via <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u>

From: Molly Cutler <molly@cutlerdevelopment.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 4:51 PM

To: Boesen, Connie S. <ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org> **Cc:** Scott Cutler <scott@cutlerdevelopment.com>

Subject: Goldfinch Lofts - First Council Appearance Dec 23

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Boesen,

Thank you again for coming to the Star Lofts ribbon cutting last month – we really appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to join us and give such kind remarks; it meant a lot to us that you were there. Thank you!

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Would you like to schedule a quick phone call to discuss the project in more detail sometime this week? We are happy to meet in person, as well, but we just want to be sensitive of your time. We've included details on the project below. Please don't hesitate to reach out anytime if you have any questions or would like more information.

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The building will be the first LIHTC-funded project in the country to achieve Zero Carbon Certification (for reference, there are more than 40,000 LIHTC units placed into service across the country each year and so far none have been Zero Carbon Certified), and will be the first building in Iowa to achieve Passive House Certification.

The developer's fee will be used to fund two years of salary for an in-house developer to join Anawim Housing so that Anawim can restart the development portion of their non-profit. Further, all excess cash flows beyond debt service coverage ratio for the apartments on the project will be donated to Anawim Housing. This ensures there is no conflict of interest when requesting subsidy for the residential units.

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Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the above specifics further.

Thanks, Molly

Cutler Development, LLC www.cutlerdevelopment.com 571-212-4188

From:Sanders, Scott E.To:Sanders, Scott E.Cc:Hankins, Malcolm A.

Boc: Boesen, Connie S.; Coleman, Chris; Gatto, Joe P.; Mandelbaum, Josh T.; Simonson, Mike W.; Voss, Carl B.;

Westergaard, Linda C.

Subject: Operating Budget

Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 5:10:00 PM

Mayor and Council,

I have now had the opportunity to talk with all of Council about the Operating Budget. Please continue to give me your feedback.

The staff in Sustainability will not be informed about their potential layoffs until after the Holidays; early in January. I ask that conversations about those cuts stay among the Council as it would not be good for the community to be discussing it prior to the staff hearing about it.

I will let you know when that conversation has occurred.

Thanks, Scott

From: Hankins, Malcolm A.

To: Sanders, Scott E.

Subject: RE: Operating Budget

Date: Thursday, December 19, 2024 9:47:48 AM

You asked me to share this policy with you.

Policy5.07

MALCOLM A. HANKINS, M.A. | CITY OF DES MOINES

Assistant City Manager | City Manager's Office (515) 283-4239 | F: (515) 237-1300 | C: (515) 500-7255 DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

From: Sanders, Scott E. <SESanders@dmgov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 5:11 PM
To: Sanders, Scott E. <SESanders@dmgov.org>
Cc: Hankins, Malcolm A. <MAHankins@dmgov.org>

Subject: Operating Budget

Mayor and Council,

I have now had the opportunity to talk with all of Council about the Operating Budget. Please continue to give me your feedback.

The staff in Sustainability will not be informed about their potential layoffs until after the Holidays; early in January. I ask that conversations about those cuts stay among the Council as it would not be good for the community to be discussing it prior to the staff hearing about it.

I will let you know when that conversation has occurred.

Thanks, Scott

From: Caron, Jeremy W.

To: Boesen, Connie S.

Subject: Automatic reply: Monthly Update – December 2024

Date: Thursday, December 26, 2024 4:02:46 PM

I will be out of office 12/24/24 - 12/27/24. Response times may be delayed during this timeframe.

If this an emergency please contact the City Manager's Office at 515-283-4141 or citymanager@dmgov.org. If this is related to sustainability please contact the Sustainability Office at sustainability@dmgov.org and a staff person from our team will follow up.

Jeremy Caron LEED AP O+M; BOC Level 1 Sustainability Program Manager City of Des Moines - Office of the City Manager 1551 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

PH: 515.248.6348 | E: jwcaron@dmgov.org

Pronouns: He | Him | His

From: Schulte, Jen L.

To: Sanders, Scott E.

Subject: FW: CMO Leadership Meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 8:04:05 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

Fyi-

From: Mandelbaum, Josh T. < JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org>

Date: Monday, January 6, 2025 at 10:18 PM

To: Hankins, Malcolm A. <MAHankins@dmgov.org>

Cc: Anderson, Matthew A. <MAAnderson@DMGOV.ORG>, Schulte, Jen L.

<JLSchulte@dmgov.org>, Hoff, Jim M. <JMHoff@dmgov.org>

Subject: RE: CMO Leadership Meeting

This is really helpful. I plan to meet in person tomorrow morning.

Would be interested in Jeremy walking through some of this. I'm also interested in getting a better understanding of the funding that has been awarded and that are currently pending (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for monitoring and EV fleet, Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Community Change grant program, Urban and Community Forestry Grant). I think there may also be potential ICLEI dollars to be allocated in the coming months as well – would like to hear about that.

A separate but related question that is more facilities and Jim's area, with the addition of the .9 MW solar, do we have an estimate of how much that is saving offsetting from previous utility bills? And how has that been captured in budgeting?

Josh Mandelbaum Des Moines City Council Member Phone: 515-250-3384 (cell)

joshmandelbaum@dmgov.org



Please note: I recognize that each of us work in different ways. While I have sent this email at a time that works for me, I do not expect you to read, respond, or take action on this email outside of your normal working hours.

From: Hankins, Malcolm A. <MAHankins@dmgov.org>

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 7:17 PM

To: Mandelbaum, Josh T. < JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org>

Cc: Anderson, Matthew A. <MAAnderson@dmgov.org>; Schulte, Jen L. <JLSchulte@dmgov.org>;

Hoff, Jim M. <JMHoff@dmgov.org> **Subject:** CMO Leadership Meeting

Council Member Mandelbaum,

The Sustainability Office is working on an Annual Report Executive Summary which will cover the progress of activities in 2024. In the meantime, Jeremy provided the attached 35x35 Priority Tactics Status Report.

Let me know if you have questions about this information. Jeremy is available to walk through these items in the AM if you believe that would be beneficial.

Thank you,

MALCOLM A. HANKINS, M.A. CITY OF DES MOINES

Assistant City Manager | City Manager's Office (515) 283-4239 | F: (515) 237-1300|C: (515) 500-7255 DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

From: Mandelbaum, Josh T. < JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org>

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 8:08 AM **To:** Schulte, Jen L. < <u>JLSchulte@dmgov.org</u>>

Cc: Hoff, Jim M. < <u>JMHoff@dmgov.org</u>>; Anderson, Matthew A. < <u>MAAnderson@DMGOV.ORG</u>>;

Hankins, Malcolm A. < MAHankins@dmgov.org>

Subject: RE: CMO Leadership Meeting

Here are the items that I want to discuss tomorrow:

- Could I get an update on ADAPT DSM implementation? What has been done in the last year? What is in progress?
- Ingersoll Art shelters what is causing the delay? Emailed engineering about this with no response
- Library social worker the first social worker left, what is the status of the replacement?
- Public restrooms downtown what is the status of efforts to find permanent restrooms?
- Porta potty for primary health care there has been a request, are we following up to provide?
- Could I get an update on the Safe Communities grant we received and what projects will be moving forward on what timeline based on that funding?
- Court Ave parking issue staff is making changes so that the ParkMobile and the

parking vending will not allow parking payment at stalls during no parking/tow away times. Is that completed? Are there other locations where we need to consider a similar change?

• Haven't seen an update on Public Works LLC and 21CP reports for a while. I thought that was going to be quarterly. Could I get an update?

•

Josh Mandelbaum

Des Moines City Council Member

Phone: 515-250-3384 (cell)

joshmandelbaum@dmgov.org



Please note: I recognize that each of us work in different ways. While I have sent this email at a time that works for me, I do not expect you to read, respond, or take action on this email outside of your normal working hours.

From: Schulte, Jen L. < JLSchulte@dmgov.org Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 6:58 PM

To: Mandelbaum, Josh T. < <u>JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org</u>>

Cc: Hoff, Jim M. < <u>JMHoff@dmgov.org</u>>; Anderson, Matthew A. < <u>MAAnderson@DMGOV.ORG</u>>;

Hankins, Malcolm A. < MAHankins@dmgov.org>

Subject: CMO Leadership Meeting

Councilman Mandelbaum,

You are scheduled to have your CMO check-in with CMO leadership next week. If you have any specific questions or concerns you would like to cover during the meeting, please send them to me

in advance to assure we have the answers for the meeting.
_
Thanks
IIIdiiks
lon
Jen

JEN SCHULTE | CITY OF DES MOINES

Assistant City Manager | City Manager's Office

(515) 318-9814

dmgov.org | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309



From: Schmitt, Madeline M.
To: Sanders, Scott E.

Subject: Accepted: Sustainability Follow up

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

Hi Scott!

Happy to meet tomorrow. I noticed that the location just says MSC I, so I went ahead and reserved the Greenwood Conference Room. Let me know if there is anything that you would like for me to pull up prior to this conversation.

Thanks,

MADELINE SCHMITT

Sustainability Program Specialist

City of Des Moines - Office of the City Manager

1551 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway | Des Moines, Iowa 50317

PH: 515.248.6336 | CELL: 515.979.4662

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From: To:

Boesen, Connie S.; Voss, Carl B.; Simonson, Mike W.; Coleman, Chris J.; Westergaard, Linda C.; Mandelbaum,

<u>Josh T.</u>; <u>Gatto, Joe P.</u>

Subject:[EXTERNAL]5702 Grand rezoning requestDate:Sunday, December 22, 2024 8:50:11 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello -

It is my understanding that the rezoning of 5702 Grand will be a matter before the City Council at the January 27th meeting.

There are numerous reasons to oppose this project and I am sure you will hear many. I just wanted to focus on a couple.

I live at and have for 20 years. The concerns I will express do not directly affect me as I live but I am speaking up because I have concerns about the safety and welfare of my neighbors across Grand.

As you may be aware, this is a fairly steep hillside. We are part of the watershed down towards Walnut Creek, near 63rd and Grand. The parcel of land in question is one of the steepest, sloping from the south to the north and also from the east to the west. The driveway onto this property is a bridge because of that slope. I believe you would be hard pressed to find a less ideal property in Des Moines for this sort of development.

The developer had indicated that he would be removing most of the mature oaks on this property (there are 11 that are likely around 200 years old), to make way for his rowhomes. It is my belief that these oaks and their roots provide structural integrity to this hillside. Removing them will likely destabilize the hillside and will also undermine the root system of nearby oaks on the 9 parcels of land that border this property, making those oaks less

structural sound in wind storms. That will endanger the property and safety of those neighbors.

The current green space on this property allows for the storm runoff to slow and absorb before hitting the downhill properties. The developer believes he can install a storm water retention system to mitigate this. I do not believe that this will be effective over the long term, especially as storms intensify. From my experience, you can not retain this flow, you must work with it and constantly adapt to it.

I have seen the last 20 years of weather of this hillside and can attest to the ferocity of the runoff. We have easily spent \$50,000 over these 20 years, just trying to slow the flow through our property, both for our sake and the sake of our downhill neighbors. And that is with no one having removed oaks and green space, and added roofs and concrete, in a substantial way above us.

There are 25 low-density properties from the western edge of the 5702 parcel of land, downhill, before the commercial area begins closer to 63rd and Grand. Those 25 properties have an average market value of \$225,000. Those are the properties that are in jeopardy of significant damage if this development goes through and the storm water mitigation does not match our weather. Those are the taxpayers who will pay the price for \$500,000

Those are the taxpayers who will pay the price for \$500,000 rowhomes above them and I don't believe these homeowners can pay that price, nor should they have to.

I believe PlanDSM was a thoughtful, comprehensive, balanced, and proactive way to figure out how to add higher-density housing for our city for years to come. The taxpayers of Des Moines paid around 2/3rds of a million dollars for this plan. This

proposed development project flies in the face of that. It is opportunistic development, not in keeping with the plan's principles of sustainability and respect for neighborhoods. This project does not seek to amend PlanDSM, it seeks to disregard it completely.

One other point I would like to make is more general. I have read the tree preservation and mitigation ordinance. While the principles behind it are sound, it really does not ensure that any developer or homeowner has to try very hard to preserve the tree canopy in this city. The ordinance has no teeth. The mature trees give us more than just beauty. They are ecologically necessary. They are an attractive resource to recruit future residents to our city. They have been gifted to us from previous generations for safe keeping and we need to be stewards of them for the generations to come. Please put some thought and effort into beefing up this ordinance before it is too late. Neighborhoods should not have to individually fight this battle over and over with developers.

One last quick thought: the taxpayers of Des Moines have spent a lot of money re-beautifying Fleur and Ingersoll as they are major routes into downtown Des Moines. Grand is too. We will not have to spend money to re-beautify it in the future if we just don't mess up this corridor in the first place.

I urge you to vote against this rezoning request.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. (It ended up longer than I had intended! Sorry about that!)

Happy Holidays,

Get Outlook for iOS

From:

To: Boesen, Connie S.; CityClerk; Voss, Carl B.; Simonson, Mike W.; Coleman, Chris J.; Westergaard, Linda C.;

Mandelbaum, Josh T.; Gatto, Joe P.

Subject: 5702 Grand Ave.

Date: Sunday, December 22, 2024 11:19:56 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello! My name is and I am writing to you regarding the rezoning of 5702 Grand Ave. and the request to develop a townhouse complex in its place. My home is located at properties from the proposed rezoning.

Some of you may know me, as I am the

I am also a very active volunteer with Hanawalt Elementary school and have dedicated volunteer time to the city through planning the 50 year Greenwood Park Anniversary event. I tell you all of this because this community and the city of Des Moines mean a lot to me.

Firstly, I appreciate many of your desires to continue to diversify and grow the city of Des Moines. I understand your commitment to fill housing needs and create new opportunities for different types of families. I agree with you that major corridors like Grand in general seem to be an appropriate place to add density, but I urge you to consider the reasons below as to why this specific property is NOT appropriate for this kind of density.

The Westwood community is home to many different types of housing as of now. The city has mentioned several times that our neighborhood lacks diversity in density, but we have several condo/apartment complexes on 44th street and a great amount of duplex and triplexes located throughout Westwood. I also drove around the surrounding communities to compare similar new townhouse complexes like the one being proposed- for example the new townhouses at Ingersoll and on Grand/42nd St. The two common threads I find between all of these properties is that 1. They are already surrounded by multi family homes/businesses and 2. They are end caps on those blocks and/or do not interfere with the surrounding properties back property lines. 58th Street and 56th Street have homes that go all the way down these streets right up to the end of Grand Ave. This means that when developing this property, it will be sandwiched in between the property lines of many other houses. I encourage and welcome you to step into my back yard to understand the impact that these properties will experience and the other old growth trees that will be compromised on bordering property lines with intertwined root systems.

Secondly, this proposed development is not "missing middle." At 500k+ per townhome, they do not serve the income of "missing middle" and at more than one story, they do not serve future residents ability to move into them as they age considering many elderly neighbors will need one story homes. Additionally, at 500k+ they are already worth sometimes twice as much as nearly every home located on 56th and 58th st. There are currently 2 properties for sale on 58th Street and both are under 300k that have been sitting for months and several more in different price ranges and sizes throughout the neighborhood- if we are in a housing crisis and lacking housing prices and types in Westwood, why have these homes not been scooped up? Additionally, the developer has many in process projects that he has not only not finished, but hasn't even started. Similar complexes nearby, at similar prices, have been sitting on the market for months.

Thirdly, I do understand that in its current status of being a single family home that a new property owner could legally come and remove all of the trees at their desire. However, I think the likelihood of that happening, unless it was Adam Sieren himself doing it in spite, is highly unlikely. One of the greatest reasons people move into this neighborhood is because of the nature that encompasses this neighborhood. It is pretty rare for a new property owner to come in and destroy all of the trees to build a home in its place. I would also argue to say that over the 10 years of living in this neighborhood, and seeing proof of the current homes in the neighborhood, that many also find a lot of value in revitalizing homes and even when it does not make financial sense, they prioritize revitalization over demolition. Contractor friends have been inside of 5702 Grand Ave., and have claimed that it is not in a state of needing to be demolished. I know each of you deeply care about the environment and sustainability and I urge you to consider what message this will send and the impact it will have on the existing ecosystems that will be destroyed. Is this truly the only and most appropriate property that can be used to add density to the area?

Next, I personally have a huge problem with how this property was acquired. Steve Johnson had fallen on hard times and it is clear from the outside of the home that he could not financially keep up with the maintenance especially after the small fire, but it is also clear that the developer took advantage of this situation when approaching him to purchase the property. Is this the way we want to grow Des Moines? By finding people who have fallen on hard times and taking advantage of that? This home never went to market, and Steve Johnson was not aware of his plans for his property at the time of the contract. Steve Johnson has stated to several neighbors that he is deeply saddened by the plan for this property. Additionally, there are several people who have said that they would've loved to purchase and renovate this property.

Next, per realtors, homes on 58th st. are already worth 20% less than similar homes in other parts of the neighborhood and in Waterbury. Homes in general that are located next to multi family homes are worth more than 30% less than similar homes that are not. So I ask you, what is the city's financial responsibility to the surrounding home owners who will feel this impact down the line? My home is my largest investment and this impacts my livelihood as I rely on the equity in my home to support future remodels and future decisions to move. What is the city's financial responsibility when developing this property and tearing down the trees impacts neighboring trees on other properties due to killing intertwined root systems?

Lastly, the city seems to highly value the density growth of Westwood, but does not invest into the residents who already live and invest here. I grew up in Urbandale, and my entire family lives in the suburbs. I sought out Des Moines and specifically the Westwood neighborhood because I truly love this community. It is becoming more difficult every day to justify living in my 100 year old home with not enough space for my family of 5 and with less opportunities for my kids when I could move to the suburbs and have a larger home, pay lower property taxes, better school ratings, and give my family better access to modern buildings/resources. I have invested nearly 100k into updating and revitalizing my home and it is extremely difficult to watch the city incentive projects that the current residents do not want and give current home owners in our neighborhood nearly zero resources to help them maintain their homes specifically in the middle income areas of our neighborhood like 58th and 56th street homes. Invest DSM is an amazing program and I have enjoyed learning about it and seeing the impact in other neighborhoods but have been extremely saddened that our neighborhood does not qualify simply because other areas of Westwood are higher

income.

I have gathered more than 600 signatures in opposition to this project and the Westwood meeting was unanimous with voting against this project. I encourage you to listen to the residents of this neighborhood that have put their trust in the city. It is extremely disheartening to hear that a development that won't acquire property taxes for 10 years has more pull than the neighbors who will continue to pay into the support and growth of the city.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

From: Boesen, Connie S.

To:

Subject: RE: 5702 Grand Ave.

Date: Sunday, December 22, 2024 11:36:00 PM

I appreciate your input, I believe we need to look at each area and how it fits in each neighborhood. I was glad to see it was cut back but am still concerned about the amount of units in this space.

Connie

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

MAYOR

(515) 283-4944 | m: (515) 240-7929

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Watch DMTV on Mediacom channels 7 & 777 or online Stay connected via <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u>

From:

Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2024 11:19 PM

To: Boesen, Connie S. <connieboesen@dmgov.org>; CityClerk <cityclerk@dmgov.org>; Voss, Carl B. <CarlVoss@dmgov.org>; Simonson, Mike W. <MikeSimonson@dmgov.org>; Coleman, Chris J. <ChrisColeman@dmgov.org>; Westergaard, Linda C. <LindaW@dmgov.org>; Mandelbaum, Josh T. <JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org>; Gatto, Joe P. <JoeGatto@dmgov.org>

Subject: 5702 Grand Ave.

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Thank you for your time and consideration,

From:

To: Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]cityclerk@dmgov.org Date:

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 1:27:03 PM

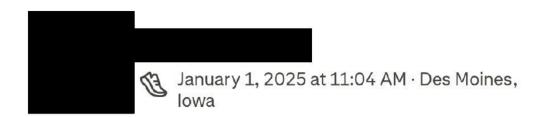
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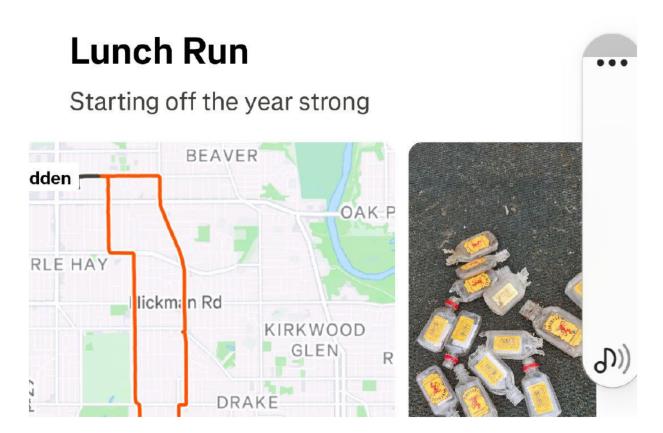
Thanks for getting back to me Mayor Boesen! I look forward to hearing from you or your staff and would be open to any kind of assistance in making sure nips are no longer lining our streets. I've attached a picture to illustrate this issue. Jan 1st i ran 8.75 miles from my house near merle hay, through beaverdale and back. In 8.75 miles I collected 11 Fireball nips!

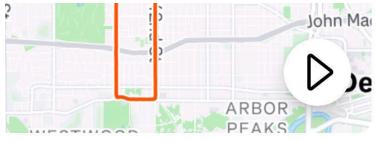
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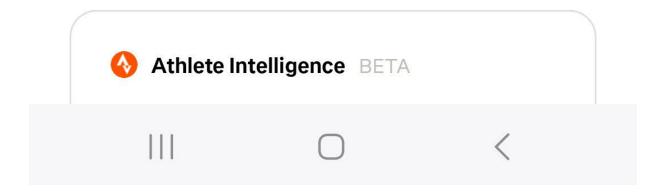
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On Tue, Jan 7, 2025, 9:48 PM Boesen, Connie S. <<u>connieboesen@dmgov.org</u>> wrote:

It would be great if everyone would care about litter and make more efforts to clean things up. I will forward this to staff and see what we can do with your idea.

Thanks

Connie

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

(515) 283-4944 | m: (515) 240-7929

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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From:

Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 6:21 PM

To: Boesen, Connie S. < connieboesen@dmgov.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]cityclerk@dmgov.org

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Boesen,

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explore ho		_	ighted to discuss the idea further and ontact me at your earliest one at
	ncluded a link to my S ation of this troubleson		ere you can find some of my prior
Sincerely,			

From: <u>Boesen, Connie S.</u>

To: Subject: Date:

RE: 5702 Grand rezoning request Sunday, December 22, 2024 9:09:00 PM

Thank you for you input.

Connie

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

MAYOR

(515) 283-4944 | m: (515) 240-7929

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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From:

Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2024 8:50 PM

To: Boesen, Connie S. <ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org>; Voss, Carl B. <CarlVoss@dmgov.org>; Simonson, Mike W. <MikeSimonson@dmgov.org>; Coleman, Chris J. <ChrisColeman@dmgov.org>; Westergaard, Linda C. <LindaW@dmgov.org>; Mandelbaum, Josh T. <JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org>; Gatto, Joe P. <JoeGatto@dmgov.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]5702 Grand rezoning request

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Hello -

It is my understanding that the rezoning of 5702 Grand will be a matter before the City Council at the January 27th meeting.

There are numerous reasons to oppose this project and I am sure you will hear many. I just wanted to focus on a couple.

I live at and have for 20 years. The concerns I will express do not directly affect me as I live but I am speaking up because I have concerns about the safety and welfare of my neighbors across Grand.

As you may be aware, this is a fairly steep hillside. We are part

of the watershed down towards Walnut Creek, near 63rd and Grand. The parcel of land in question is one of the steepest, sloping from the south to the north and also from the east to the west. The driveway onto this property is a bridge because of that slope. I believe you would be hard pressed to find a less ideal property in Des Moines for this sort of development.

The developer had indicated that he would be removing most of the mature oaks on this property (there are 11 that are likely around 200 years old), to make way for his rowhomes. It is my belief that these oaks and their roots provide structural integrity to this hillside. Removing them will likely destabilize the hillside and will also undermine the root system of nearby oaks on the 9 parcels of land that border this property, making those oaks less structural sound in wind storms. That will endanger the property and safety of those neighbors.

The current green space on this property allows for the storm runoff to slow and absorb before hitting the downhill properties. The developer believes he can install a storm water retention system to mitigate this. I do not believe that this will be effective over the long term, especially as storms intensify. From my experience, you can not retain this flow, you must work with it and constantly adapt to it.

I have seen the last 20 years of weather of this hillside and can attest to the ferocity of the runoff. We have easily spent \$50,000 over these 20 years, just trying to slow the flow through our property, both for our sake and the sake of our downhill neighbors. And that is with no one having removed oaks and green space, and added roofs and concrete, in a substantial way above us.

There are 25 low-density properties from the western edge of the 5702 parcel of land, downhill, before the commercial area begins closer to 63rd and Grand. Those 25 properties have an average market value of \$225,000. Those are the properties that are in jeopardy of significant damage if this development goes through and the storm water mitigation does not match our weather. Those are the taxpayers who will pay the price for \$500,000 rowhomes above them and I don't believe these homeowners can

pay that price, nor should they have to.

I believe PlanDSM was a thoughtful, comprehensive, balanced, and proactive way to figure out how to add higher-density housing for our city for years to come. The taxpayers of Des Moines paid around 2/3rds of a million dollars for this plan. This proposed development project flies in the face of that. It is opportunistic development, not in keeping with the plan's principles of sustainability and respect for neighborhoods. This project does not seek to amend PlanDSM, it seeks to disregard it completely.

One other point I would like to make is more general. I have read the tree preservation and mitigation ordinance. While the principles behind it are sound, it really does not ensure that any developer or homeowner has to try very hard to preserve the tree canopy in this city. The ordinance has no teeth. The mature trees give us more than just beauty. They are ecologically necessary. They are an attractive resource to recruit future residents to our city. They have been gifted to us from previous generations for safe keeping and we need to be stewards of them for the generations to come. Please put some thought and effort into beefing up this ordinance before it is too late. Neighborhoods should not have to individually fight this battle over and over with developers.

One last quick thought: the taxpayers of Des Moines have spent a lot of money re-beautifying Fleur and Ingersoll as they are major routes into downtown Des Moines. Grand is too. We will not have to spend money to re-beautify it in the future if we just don't mess up this corridor in the first place.

I urge you to vote against this rezoning request.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. (It ended up longer than I had intended! Sorry about that!)

Happy Holidays,

Get Outlook for iOS

From: <u>Page, Benjamin R.</u>

To: <u>Boesen, Connie S.; Sanders, Scott E.; Hoff, Jim M.</u>

Subject: RE: Adopt a policy and program for organic management of our community's parks and public spaces!

Date: Monday, January 6, 2025 7:08:46 AM

Mayor Boesen,

I get these type of notes 2-3 times a year, and here is what I typically share.

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns regarding the management of our parks and public spaces. I appreciate your passion for creating safe, healthy, and sustainable environments for our community.

We have taken significant steps in recent years to reduce the use of chemicals across our park system with the help of the Urban Conservation committee, a sub-committee of the Park and Recreation board. However, we have not eliminated the practice entirely. When we piloted the elimination of chemical usage for turf management, we experienced a substantial loss of turf grass, which led to increased complaints from park and cemetery patrons as well as safety concerns. Maintaining healthy turf grass is critical to ensuring these spaces are safe, usable, and enjoyable for all visitors.

We now mow less than 20% of the 4000 acres we manage, as over time we have transitioned much of the acreage we manage back to natural areas.

That said, we remain committed to minimizing our reliance on chemicals through sustainable practices. Here some examples of the successes we are proud of:

- Planting rain gardens throughout the park system to improve water quality and reduce chemical runoff.
- Increasing prairie acreages that require minimal maintenance and eliminate the need for chemicals.
- Implementing woodland restoration projects to encourage native ecosystems.
- Utilizing prescribed fire techniques as a natural way to manage invasive species and rejuvenate landscapes.

These efforts demonstrate our commitment to protecting biodiversity, supporting pollinators, and fostering healthy ecosystems. While we have not yet transitioned fully to organic land management, we continue to explore opportunities to expand these practices in ways that balance environmental sustainability with the needs and expectations of our community.

Thank you again for your thoughtful input. We share your vision of creating safe and sustainable public spaces, and we welcome continued dialogue as we advance these efforts.

BEN PAGE | CITY OF DES MOINES Director | Parks and Recreation

(515) 237-1453 | m (515) 333-8072

dmparks.org | 1551 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway | Des Moines, Iowa 50317

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----Original Message-----

From: Boesen, Connie S. <connieboesen@dmgov.org>

Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 6:04 PM

To: Page, Benjamin R. <BRPage@dmgov.org>; Sanders, Scott E. <SESanders@dmgov.org>; Hoff, Jim M.

<JMHoff@dmgov.org>

Subject: FW: Adopt a policy and program for organic management of our community's parks and public spaces!

Have we ever considered doing this type of program for lawn care?

Connie

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

MAYOR

(515) 283-4944 | m: (515) 240-7929

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 9:17 AM

To: Boesen, Connie S. <connieboesen@dmgov.org>

Subject: Adopt a policy and program for organic management of our community's parks and public spaces!

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Dear Mayor Connie Boesen,

I am writing to urge you to use your leadership in the new year to require as a matter of policy and practice the organic management of our community parks and public spaces. My concern about the management of public spaces—used by children and families, those with health vulnerabilities, pets, and wildlife—stems from the hazardous nature of the petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers commonly used. The adverse health and environmental effects are captured on two factsheets, 40 Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides (https://bp-dc.org/40commonpesticides). With this information, we urge you to advance a policy and management decision to stop the use of these hazardous chemicals and transition our parks to organic practices.

The factsheets document, with scientific citations, a wide range of diseases and ecological effects linked to pesticides. The underlying analyses identified in the factsheets are based on toxicity determinations in government reviews and university studies and databases.

Of the 40 most commonly used lawn and landscape pesticides, in reference to adverse health effects, 26 are possible and/or known carcinogens, 24 have the potential to disrupt the endocrine (hormonal) system, 29 are linked to reproductive effects and sexual dysfunction, 21 have been linked to birth defects, 24 are neurotoxic, 32 can cause kidney or liver damage, and 33 are sensitizers and/or irritants. Regarding adverse environmental effects, 21 are detected in groundwater, 24 have the ability to leach into drinking water sources, 39 are toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms vital to our ecosystem, 33 are toxic to bees, 18 are toxic to mammals, and 28 are toxic to birds.

In adopting organic land management, our community can make an important contribution to solving the threat that petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers pose to biodiversity collapse and the climate crisis. The 2022 United Nations Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) warns that we must adopt policies and practices that reflect the value of Nature's biodiversity, including pollinators, in supporting human life and activity. This starts with the management of soil and landscapes in our community.

As the climate crisis causes increasingly erratic weather, more frequent flooding, and widespread fires, organic soil management draws down atmospheric carbon, which reduces the threat of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate disasters. Organic management of our parks enables our community to contribute to solving this existential crisis and elevates our role in climate action.

Please take advantage of Beyond Pesticides' offer to assist you and the land managers of our community parks in the adoption of organic land management practices through its Parks for a Sustainable Future program. You can contact them at sustainableparks@beyondpesticides.org.

I look forward to your reply and working with you in the new year!

From: Boesen, Connie S.

To:

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]cityclerk@dmgov.org
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 9:48:00 PM

It would be great if everyone would care about litter and make more efforts to clean things up. I will forward this to staff and see what we can do with your idea.

Thanks Connie

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

MAYOR

(515) 283-4944 | m: (515) 240-7929

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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From:

Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 6:21 PM

To: Boesen, Connie S. <connieboesen@dmgov.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]cityclerk@dmgov.org

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Dear Mayor Boesen,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is a not a not a not a proud resident of Des Moines. I am reaching out to propose a unique initiative that combines community engagement, environmental responsibility, and civic pride.

As an avid runner, I frequently witness the unfortunate accumulation of litter along our beautiful streets and trails, particularly miniature liquor bottles ("nips"). To address this issue, I would like to offer a partnership opportunity in which I incorporate litter pickup into my running routine, specifically targeting these problematic items.

As part of this initiative, I propose designing a custom "Des Moines Cleanup Crew" singlet to wear during my runs. This singlet could feature a simple, eye-catching design and the city's logo to highlight the partnership and raise awareness about the importance of keeping our community clean. It would also serve as a conversation starter, encouraging others to join the effort and promoting civic pride.

In exchange for sponsorship or support from the city, I would dedicate my runs to both raising awareness about proper waste disposal and actively collecting litter during my routes. This initiative could be an excellent opportunity for the city to promote sustainability, fitness, and community pride while directly addressing the issue of litter.

I envision this partnership as a public-private initiative where I can serve as a visible advocate
for keeping Des Moines clean, potentially inspiring others to take similar action. With the
city's support, I believe this effort can have a meaningful and lasting impact.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I would be delighted to discuss the idea further and explore how we might collaborate. Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience via email at or phone at the convenience or phone at the convenien

I've also included a link to my Strava account below where you can find some of my prior documentation of this troublesome issue for our city.

Sincerely,

From: Boesen, Connie S.

To: <u>Geiger, Kenzie R.</u>; <u>Harris, Emilee L.</u>; <u>Zemansky, Peter K.</u>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]cityclerk@dmgov.org
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 9:50:00 PM

I do not know how we can incorporate some of these ideas (see below) along with the "Plant a Seed" theme for May could we should include the idea of clean up our city...

Connie

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

MAYOR

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From: <u>Boesen, Connie S.</u>
To: <u>Page, Benjamin R.</u>

Subject: RE: Adopt a policy and program for organic management of our community's parks and public spaces!

Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 10:01:00 PM

thanks

CONNIE BOESEN | CITY OF DES MOINES

MAYOR

(515) 283-4944 | m: (515) 240-7929

DSM.city | 400 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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----Original Message----

From: Page, Benjamin R. <BRPage@dmgov.org>

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 7:09 AM

To: Boesen, Connie S. <ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org>; Sanders, Scott E. <SESanders@dmgov.org>; Hoff, Jim M.

<JMHoff@dmgov.org>

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