

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING MEETING
INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETSCAPE SUB-COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010 at 6:30pm

- **Drake NIRP Program for 2010 was finalized at the last meeting.**
- **This meeting we will discuss the Drake Area Streetscape Project.**

I. Overview of City Streetscape Process

- City Council adopted process in Aug. 2009
- Road map for successfully planning and implementing a streetscape project

II. Review Drake Area Streetscape Conceptual Plan and Cost Estimates

- Genus Landscape Architects completed plan in 2007
- DNA, DABA, Drake University, and City of DM participated

III. How to move the streetscape project forward

- Public fundraising
- Private fundraising
- Set goals and next steps

Kyle Larson, City Planner, provided an overview of the City Assisted Streetscape Process. The City Council adopted the streetscape process in August 2009 in response to an increasing number of requests for streetscape improvements. The purpose of this document is to provide a road map to successfully planning and implementing a project, as well as identify the responsibilities of the City and the community group.

Other streetscape projects, such as Ingersoll Avenue, have involved a combination of public and private funding sources for design and construction. This will hold true for the Drake project with private funds needing to be raised to match the public funds. Kyle mentioned some potential funding sources such as Polk County, Prairie Meadows, Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, and the State of Iowa as a few possibilities. The City of Des Moines has put in applications the past two years to the Des Moines Area Metro Planning Organization (MPO) for streetscape funding. These applications have netted \$280,000 for the project. The City of Des Moines plans to submit another application to MPO in the Fall of 2010.

Kyle then moved on to talk about the Drake Area Streetscape Conceptual Plan that was prepared by Genus Landscape Architects in 2007. This project involved a coalition that included the Drake Neighborhood Association, Drake Area Business Association, Drake University, and the City of Des Moines. The streetscape plan identifies opportunities for streetscape improvements along University and Forest Avenues. The plan also provides cost estimates on a per block basis. Because the plan covers a large area, it is likely that streetscape improvements will need to be broken into several phases for construction.

After some discussion the committee suggested that the coalition of DNA, DABA, and Drake University meet in the next month or so to discuss the project and how to move forward. Some questions this group will need to resolve are: Where to construct the first phase of the project? What is a feasible project budget and potential private fundraising goals? A goal will be included in the Drake Neighborhood Plan to support the streetscape project and to participate with the coalition in future planning and implementation of the project.

This Infrastructure and Streetscape Committee has accomplished its task of providing input on the allocation of the Neighborhood Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program (NIRP) funds for street, curb, and sidewalk improvements to begin in Spring 2010. And with the streetscape project now going to the coalition to move forward, this committee no longer needs to meet regularly and will not meet going forward unless an unforeseen issue(s) were to arise in the future.