

TO: Muscatine City Council

FROM: Muscatine Sister Cities, Inc.

DATE: September 11, 2014

RE: Our request of Council for the establishment of an International Friendship Park

We hereby make a formal request for the dedication of the City-owned property on the southwest corner of 8th and Cedar Streets as an International Friendship Park.

We further request that Muscatine Sister Cities, Inc., be allowed to provide the City, for its approval, a site plan for the 75' x 40' lot to include landscaping of low maintenance shrubs, native grasses, and prairie plants that will compliment the placement of a tall pole sign acknowledging our Sister Cities around the globe (see Phoenix, AZ, sign provided at tonight's Council Meeting).

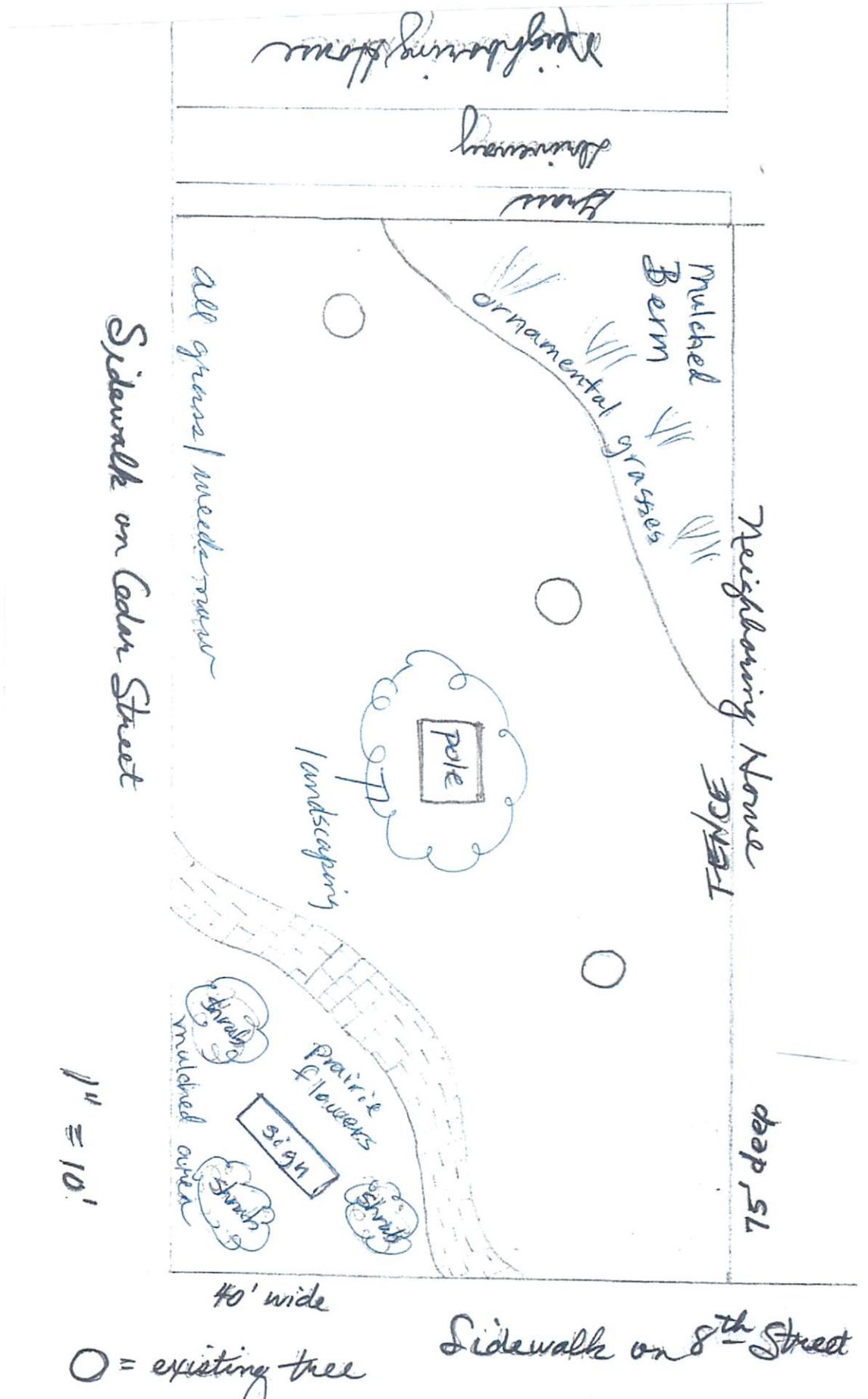
We agree to be responsible for the funding of all improvements to this property related to the creation of an International Friendship Park, along with the supervision of such work and timely communication with the City in regard to the work schedules and completions. The transformation into a park will be done in Phases as funding is made available, hopefully within an eighteen-month period of time, beginning Fall 2014 and ending Spring 2016.

Phase I will be the installation of the pole sign near the center of the lot and surrounding landscaping for which we currently have sufficient funding. Phase II is projected to be the installation of a berm and ornamental grasses in the southwest corner of the lot. Phase III is projected to be the installation of plantings at the corner of the lot nearest the 8th and Cedar Street intersection. (Phases II and III may be reversed.) Phase IV could be the installation of benches in selected parts of the area and/or a winding brick wall from the Cedar Street side of the park to the 8th Street side (see design below).

We understand that the City will continue to do seasonal maintenance of the Park after its creation and that such maintenance will not be the responsibility of the Muscatine Sister Cities organization.

We will be encouraging volunteer participation in the development of this park, including Boy Scouts for Eagle Scout Project(s) and Master Gardeners needing volunteer hours. Local businesses will be used for aspects of the project that require the purchase of services/products, such as soil for the berm and landscape plantings.

This type of formal recognition of our Sister Cities is to replace the flags from those cities that previously hung on poles along Mississippi Drive with a more informative display in an area that visitors to our city could enjoy. An additional aim is to help beautify our city at one of the main thoroughfares to the downtown.



Contact person for this project is: Linda Meloy, 299.5262, meloy@machlink.com
 John DaBeet and Dan Clark, Committee Members