



KEEP MUSCATINE BEAUTIFUL
C/O Community Foundation of Great Muscatine
Attn. Christina Boar/Brenda Christensen
208 W. 2nd Street
Muscatine, IA 52761

July 29, 2020

City Council / Mayor Diana Broderson
City Hall
215 Sycamore Street
Muscatine, IA 52761

RE: City Public Property Improvement Approval and Support

As most of you know, in 2019 Keep Muscatine Beautiful (KMB) hosted several community events called Almost Friday Fest on the Muscatine Riverfront. These events were held on the fourth Thursday of the month from June to September. The event has been very successful and KMB plans are to continue the event in 2020 with social distancing precautions in August and September.

One of the issues discovered during the event in 2019 was lack of lighting in the area of the Riverfront where the event is held. Lighting is needed for the safety of the public during the event and departing from the event. KMB also determined that electrical power for vendors was not available on this area of the Riverfront, so generators were needed.

After discussion with multiple City and community leaders, KMB began investigating a lighting and electrical project on the area of the Riverfront where the Almost Friday Fest is held. Musco Lighting and Muscatine Power and Water (MPW) were contacted and brought in on discussions for a project to remedy the lighting and electrical issues in that area of the riverfront. A project was developed and as an added bonus, electrical options for the future Band Shell are included. The Band Shell is currently a Leadership Muscatine Project in 2020.

The total cost of this Riverfront Lighting Project, sponsored by Keep Muscatine Beautiful, Musco Lighting, and Muscatine Power and Water is \$138,000. With in-kind donations of approximately \$70,000 from Musco Lighting and MPW, and donations received to this point, the project dollars left to raise are approximately \$33,000.

At the August 6, 2020, City Council meeting, KMB is asking the City of Muscatine for approval to move forward with a public property improvement project on the Muscatine Riverfront. In addition, we are asking that the City provide for half of the gap of the remaining funds needed, which is \$16,000. A public improvement request letter, dated February 12, 2020, was sent to the City Administrator asking for City involvement/funding for this project, along with additional email requests for a response. KMB assumes that the City would want to be involved with this project that will provide improvements to the Riverfront and hopefully kickstart people's interest in additional Riverfront improvement projects in the future. Keep Muscatine Beautiful will commit to raising the final \$17,000, hoping that lighting will be installed for the first Almost Friday Fest on September 29, 2020.

Thank-you for your time and consideration. Brenda & Chris