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City Administrator Report to Mayor & City Council

January 17, 2014, Edition No. 113

Weekly Update:

1. Community Gardens: Please see the attached information provided by the Community Gardens committee (Blue Zones).
2. Bi-State: Attached is the January 2014 Commission Packet. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2014.
3. Blue Zones: Attached you will find the Well Being Index that was discussed at the Community Policy Committee Meeting this past week. Please call Joni Axel if you have any questions. Joni Axel is the Blue Zones Project Community Program Manager and can be reached at 563-484-9477 or by email at joni.axel@healthways.com.
4. City Trivia Night: Please see the attached flier and join City Staff at the 2014 City Trivia night the evening of January 24th.
5. Legislative Day: I will be attending the February 4th Iowa League Legislative Day and staying overnight for an Iowa League morning board meeting on the 5th. The morning of the 4th is an opportunity to meet with legislators. I plan to bring forward the Council's resolution regarding the MFPRSI and information regarding our ATEs here in Muscatine. I will copy the Council on those two packets, but most if not all of the information has already been provided to the Council to date.
6. JC Penney: Greg Jenkins and I will be sending a joint letter to JC Penney per the 1/16 City Council discussion.
7. MCSD: Reminder that this issue will be coming forward - The Planning Commission received and briefly discussed a Muscatine Community School request to vacate 9th Street. The request was received and presented during their meeting on Tuesday, January 14th. The next step is to place the item on the P&Z agenda for discussion and possible action during their next meeting scheduled for February 11th. Notices will be mailed to all property owners within 200 ft of the area under consideration in advance of that date. Community Development have a (small) copy of a "concept" plan in their office if you would like to see it. Also, the District has held neighborhood meetings on this topic over the last several months. Once the Planning Commission makes a decision on the proposal, a recommendation will be forwarded to City Council. Once again, the City Council will be asked to schedule a public hearing on the vacation and conduct a public hearing prior to any formal action on the vacation request. If the City Council elects to proceed with the vacation, the vacation must be completed by ordinance which requires three additional meetings to complete. The City Council must then pass a resolution authorizing the sale and transfer of the property and approve a executed deed. Many of these steps also require publication of public notices...in short, nothing has really happened to date other than preliminary discussions and site plan concepts. Having said that,

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**

there was a variance for the building setback of the new Jefferson Elementary School by the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

8. City Hall: You are invited to compete in the 1st Annual City Staff Chili Cook-off, January 29th. Anyone who is an employee of the city can enter and compete for prizes and the title of Chili Cook-off Champion. Attached is a flyer with some information. Please sign up with Adam (Community Development) by Jan 24th if you would like to compete. Adam will have more detailed information for those competing. Contact Adam with any questions - Adam J Thompson, Planning & Community Development Coordinator, City of Muscatine, athompson@muscatineiowa.gov, or 563.262.4141. Hope you can participate or join in the competition! Mark your calendars!