

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council

From: Downtown Group

Date: March 18, 2014

Re: Flower Baskets in the Downtown

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to seek Council funding for up to \$1,000 to put 10-12 hanging flower baskets on downtown streetlight poles and at the Post Office.

Background and Discussion: At our last Downtown Group meeting many group members were supportive of hanging baskets in the downtown. Noreen Nolan has contacted her longtime friend and associate Toni at Osage gardens and described what the Group envisions. Toni calculated that she could provide 12 baskets (14 inches in diameter) planted in the way that she and Noreen thought would be most effective for attractiveness in the downtown. Noreen and Toni explained that the time is now to plant these baskets so that they will be ready for hanging just before Memorial Day.

Nancy Noffsinger (Garden Club) identified four streetlight poles near our irrigated planters so that irrigation can be brought to the baskets (a critical point). Two baskets could hang from each pole. Noreen said that the Post Office has hooks for hanging baskets and that these may be better than a railing flower box (given the condition of the railing).

The maintenance plan is:

- Public Works Team installs hangers on streetlight poles;
- Toni plants baskets and stores them in her greenhouse so that they are ready for hanging just before memorial day;
- Downtown Group hangs baskets and installs irrigation so that it is watered appropriately (Public Works can help with irrigation line);
- Garden Club maintains hanging baskets with the help of Noreen and PO staff for PO baskets.

The cost breakdown:

- \$80/pole for hanging bracket hardware – assuming 4 poles = \$240
- \$50/basket – assuming 12 baskets = \$600
- Irrigation supplies = \$160
- Total estimated cost = \$1,000

Recommendation: The Downtown Group supports this expenditure as a way to add color and life to the downtown. For as long as we remember Noreen Nolan has been adding flowers and color to the downtown (at her own cost) and this will be a great way to expand on her work.