



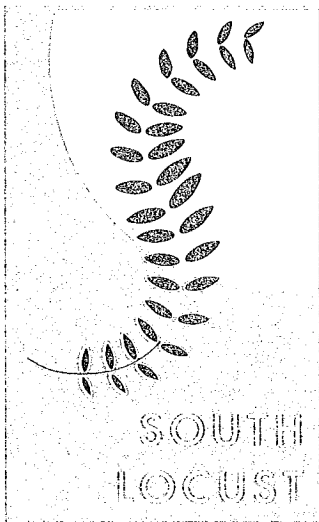
# Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)

**Wednesday, July 13, 2016**  
**Regular Meeting**

## **Item G1**

### **Grant Request**

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity



June 23, 2016

MEMO TO: Community Redevelopment Authority  
Chad Nabity, Director

FROM: South Locust/Fonner Park Business Improvement  
Districts  
by Cindy K. Johnson *Cindy*

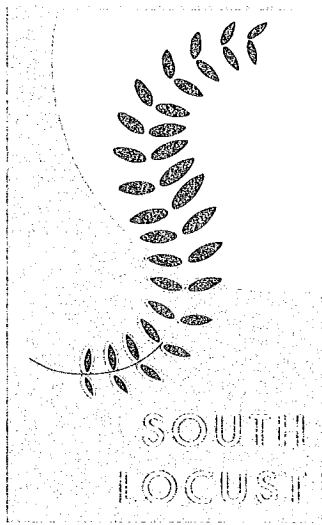
RE: Request for Landscaping Funding

The South Locust Street corridor and landscaping is one of two primary introductions to Grand Island. Visitors attending the Nebraska State Fair, any one of a number of livestock shows or other events formulate a first impression for our community based on our appearance. The Corridor should be inviting, attractive, and welcoming. It is essential that this entrance represent Grand Island well with high-quality landscaping.

The two Business Improvement Districts for South Locust Street are requesting assistance to redo the landscaping along the South Locust corridor, from Highway 34 to Fonner Park Road. It has been more than 15 years since the landscaping was originally installed. Over this time period, the landscaping has been significantly modified due to normal "wear and tear" and nature's elements.

The Business Improvement Districts (BID) were created to focus on landscaping maintenance and snow removal along the South Locust Street front footage. The Business Improvement Districts have done an excellent job of balancing expenses, including landscaping maintenance, sprinkler repairs and snow removal. Over the past ten years, the Boards identified a need to replace the mulch in the landscaping beds with rock. Although rock is the preferred option for these landscaping beds from a maintenance and aesthetic perspective, funds have not been available to complete a wholesale switch from mulch to rock. So, year after year, a significant portion of the BIDs budgets have been allocated to mulch. Unfortunately, the mulch gets blown or washed away during the course of the summer. Replacing the

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mulch with rock will reduce the annual expenditures for the mulch itself as well as for the maintenance and will provide a more attractive entryway to our community. Once the rock replacement occurs, the annual assessments, borne by the owners of property fronting South Locust Street, should be sufficient to maintain the District.

The BIDs are respectfully requesting assistance from the CRA in the amount of \$15,000 to assist with the beautification project. Grant funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust is also being solicited. The remaining funding will be the responsibility of the BIDs.

Thank you for your consideration.

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