

City of Seward, NE

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

Regular Session

Item G14

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY SEWARD FIRST IMPRESSIONS COMMITTEE TO ERECT SIGN ON CITY PROPERTY - EAST HWY 34 - Gary Rolf

Administrative Report: On February 9, 2016, the First Impressions Working Group presented a request to place a lighted "Welcome to Seward" sign on City property located to the east of the Parade of Flags feature. (Excerpt of Minutes attached). At that time, the Council requested the Group consider placing the sign at the current sign location than requested.

The Electric Department provided the cost to run electricity from the North side of highway 34 to the old sign on the south side (replace old sign) - \$ 4,243.90.

The Group is back with their standing request.

Following review and discussion, Council to offer a motion or provide direction on the request.

Staff Contact:

Bonnie Otte

From: City of Seward Website <wordpress@connectseward.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 8:26 AM
To: info
Subject: City Council Agenda Item Request

Date: 8/2/16
Name: First Impressions Working Group
Address: Civic Center
Email: gary@cattlebank.com
Phone: 402 641-9766

Explanation of Request: Revisit our request to use land on North side of highway 34, East of the Parade of Flags.

Action requested: Approve standing request to use the location described.


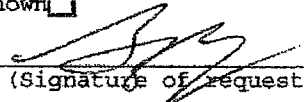
Will this agenda item require the expenditure of funds: Unknown

Printed Name: Gary Rolf

Signature: http://wp.connectseward.org/cityofseward/files/wpcf7_signatures/signature-209-1468934763.png

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This mail is sent via contact form on City of Seward <http://www.cityofsewardne.com>

	
City of	SEWARD
	P.O. Box 38 • 537 Main Street Seward, Nebraska 68434 Phone 402-643-2928 Fax 402-643-6491
PUBLIC REQUEST FOR COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION	
DATE:	<u>1/25/16</u>
NAME:	<u>Seward Chamber First Impressions Cante</u>
ADDRESS:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	<u>grolfe@neb.rr.com</u> TELEPHONE NO. <u>641 9765</u>
EXPLANATION OF REQUEST: <u>Re visit site location for Seward East Entrance</u> <u>"welcome" sign.</u>	
ACTION REQUESTED: <u>Consider our proposed location and approve it.</u> <u>See attached Memo.</u>	
Will this agenda item require the expenditure of funds? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
 (Signature of requester)	<u>Gary L. Roll</u> (Print Name) <u>Cante Chair</u>
Council meetings are held on the 1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays of every month. All requests for the Agenda must be submitted by noon on the Wednesday preceding the Council meeting, any item received after this time would have to be of an emergency nature. Once a request is received, Administration will review it and determine whether or not it requires Mayor/Council action, or whether it is an item that needs to be handled by staff.	
Received by: <u>Bonnellto</u> (City employee)	Date: <u>1/25/16</u>

January 8, 2016

Honorable Mayor Eickmeier

Members of Seward City Council

The First Impressions Committee is a subcommittee of the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce. Although it serves all Seward residents, the primary demographic it targets is visitors. Its mission is to facilitate changes in and around Seward that result in aesthetic improvements to the town's appearance. We are business owners, representatives of Chamber businesses, Chamber members and others interested in the committee's mission. Our projects include: award-winning annual Spring Cleanup Days for over 15 years; refurbishment of the Marxhausen mural; installation of the U.S. Highway 34 historical marker and pavilion; tree groves along the hiking and biking trail; update of city ordinance concerning stored, unlicensed vehicles; CASA sign repainting; partnership in the Kiwanis Parade of Flags; curtain hanging in downtown business windows; and demolition of the railroad's green water tower.

Since the committee does not have a budget, funding for our projects consists of grants; private funding; county and other organizational funding; and in-kind labor and donations.

For the past several years we have discussed the idea of constructing a Welcome to Seward sign to greet visitors and residents alike. We have unsuccessfully explored the entire length of south Nebraska Highway 15 looking for possible locations. Most of the properties are privately owned and we have not been able to connect with a private landowner interested in partnering with us.

As the Kiwanis Parade of Flags projects was evolving, the committee began to discuss dovetailing with it to install the welcome sign on east U.S. 34. A committee member drew up a design idea and received a quote for it from Love Designs in Columbus. We also met with Hughes Brothers who provided a quote for the sign's steel beams.

The committee then considered locations. A sub committee explored U.S. 34 starting approximately two miles east of the flags. Six locations were noted: corner of U.S. 34 and E. Seward Rd. east side; corner of U.S. 34 and E. Seward Rd. west side; entrance to old "Jones house" property; farm field to east of Valley View development; berm adjacent to Valley View development; and the city property just to the east of the Parade of Flags. The committee unanimously voted for the city property location for the following reasons:

- its city property location and ease of partnering with the city.
- the Parade of Flags is already highly popular with both residents and visitors.
- its flood zone designation which will ensure there will not be any development to the north of the sign to spoil the "backdrop" view.
- it is level and attractively backed up by a grove of evergreen and shade trees (also a First Impressions project).
- electrical power is nearby

7. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY SEWARD CHAMBER FIRST IMPRESSIONS COMMITTEE TO ERECT
A SIGN ON CITY PROPERTY - EAST HWY 34

Clarence Wattier addressed the City Council on behalf of the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce First Impressions Committee, as a follow-up to the October 6, 2015 City Council meeting request to install a "Welcome to Seward" sign on east Hwy 34, when the City Council requested the Committee investigate alternative locations. Mr. Wattier stated the Committee revisited other sites per the City Council request, but still believe this is the best site. He stated the sign and the flags would create a very good first impression, the proposed site is owned by the City, and there is electricity available at this location for the LED lighting.

Councilmember Singleton stated he would like to see the new sign placed in the current location (replace current sign) and would like the Committee to check into the easement and get approval from NDOR and then return to the Council with the updated request.

There was discussion around the uncertainty of owner of the current sign and landowner and arrangement for the sign. Recollection was it was paid for by the Chamber of Commerce and individual organizations who attached their names to the sign. There was also thought that the land in which the sign was constructed was on private land with some type of easement. There were additional comments that the current signage is out of the floodplain (proposed location is in floodplain) and that the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) may have to be involved as they approved placement of the original sign.

City Attorney Hoffschneider stated there may be a "monument easement" for the current sign, which could be determined through a limited title search.

Mayor Eickmeier asked if there were any other requests from the Council for this Committee, since this is the second time they have been before the Council with their request.

Councilmember Fritz requested cost estimates to provide electricity to the current sign location and Councilmember Wilken requested the current organizations attached to the sign be notified of the proposal to replace the sign, and that their organizations would not be represented on the current sign.

Councilmember Singleton moved, seconded by Councilmember Schmit, that a limited title opinion be ordered for the current welcome sign location on east Hwy 34 in consideration of replacing this sign with a new Welcome to Seward sign, as proposed by the Seward Chamber of Commerce First Impressions Committee.

Aye: Pike, Singleton, Schmit, Wilken, Beck, Kamprath, Fritz

Nay: None

Absent: Hans. Motion carried.