



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

Planning Division

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 4, 2025
To: Linette Rhodes and John Vogt, Community Development Division
From: Linda Horvath, Planning Division
Re: Community Development Block Grant Funds for Hawthorne-Truax Neighborhood Plan

The Hawthorne-Truax Neighborhood Plan includes \$250,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to implement projects prioritized by the community. The projects are included in Resolution No. 85812, Enactment No. Res-24-00690, adopted by the Common Council on 11/26/24, and show that up to \$5,000 would be used to replace LED lights at various locations in the Hawthorne Neighborhood.

The Hawthorne Neighborhood has since changed their focus for these funds following a series of meetings, conversations, a poll and other community input:

- Some neighbors suggested replacing light bulbs while others wanted beautification, so the neighborhood conducted a survey/poll on December 12, 2024. Community Art received the most votes;
- Angela Lopez, Hawthorne Neighborhood Association President, sent Linda Horvath an email on December 30, 2024 sharing the survey results;
- Community Art suggestions were: Picnic Table with artwork burnt into it/ park bench with artwork, fence art. After looking into options though, it was clear that Madison Park regulations were too complicated;
- The neighborhood shifted to public art on the fence between the Rise Apartments and Hawthorne School. However this did not work as the "The Rise" decided to replace its chain link fence with a more aesthetic style.
- The neighborhood moved to the idea of creating public art along the path between The Rise and Hawthorne School Open Space and sent another update email to Linda Horvath. The neighborhood met with Eva Presser Dudley, the school art teacher, and determined the path length was much longer than originally thought may not be attainable.
- The neighborhood switched to the idea of painting the path along the east side of the school starting at Concord Avenue and ending at the bus drop off.
- Eva suggested the neighborhood collaborate with school liaison, Antonio Cruz-Rodriguez as he was working with artist Rodrigo Carapia to replace the mural on the east side of the Hawthorne School building. Antonio didn't have the full funding to cover the mural project so the neighborhood thought they could pool resources and create both the mural and path art. They met with Rodrigo, and he was willing to work with them. The group realized though that the path is in bad shape and shifted to focusing solely on the mural.
- The neighborhood had originally planned on starting the project in May but learned that the CDBG funding was being put on hold.
- If the \$5,000 of CDBG funds are still available to the neighborhood, they would like to pursue the mural on the school, working with artist Rodrigo Carapia.