



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Councilors

From: Rich Olson, City Manager
Bobbi White, Parks and Recreation Director

Date: August 7, 2015

Re: Consideration – Authorization to Submit PeopleforBikes Grant Application

BACKGROUND:

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targets advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride bicycles in their communities. PeopleForBikes accepts grant applications from non-profit organizations, city or county agencies, and state or federal agencies working locally to support a specific bicycle program or project. Most of the grants focus on bike paths, lanes or trails, bike facilities, such as parks or end-of-trip facilities, such as bike racks, bike parking and bike storage. Each initiative should be designed to increase ridership. PeopleForBikes accepts requests for funding of up to \$10,000. They do not require a specific percentage match, but they do look at the leverage and funding partnerships very carefully. They also do not consider grant requests in which their funding would amount to 50% or more of the project budget.

The Grant Committee will evaluate each application based on project quality, scope of the project, the applicant's ability to complete the project successfully, benefits to the community, community support and partnerships, diversity and the ability for their funds to make a difference in the community.

The fall grant cycle opens in September 2015 with grant award notifications in December 2015. City staff applied for this grant in 2014; however, our application was not funded. Staff feels that we may have a better chance to receive a grant this year due to the amount of work the area has done on the Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan during the last year.

ANALYSIS:

Parks and Recreation Director Bobbi White, Community Development Manager Morgan Jethro, and River City Cycling Club member Deborah Malenfant have been working together to develop a project called Racks for Riders based on the need for bike racks in local parks and around the community. Staff has determined the need for 40 additional bike racks for the City and County parks as well as the downtown area of Elizabeth City. A list of proposed locations is attached. (Approval from several of these entities will be requested.)

The initial cost to purchase the 40 racks, which will hold from five (5) to eleven (11) bikes depending on location and need, will be \$12,463.00. The shipping charges will be approximately \$600.00. The total cost of purchase will be \$13,063. We estimate that it will cost \$500 to install all 40 racks. (The Parks and Recreation Department will install each bicycle rack and the installment costs will be absorbed by the Parks and Recreation maintenance budget.)

The City will request that Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. and River City Cycling Club partner with the City in applying for this grant.

These bike racks will not only promote good health, but will encourage riders to bicycle into town to see what our community has to offer them by the way of restaurants, museums, and shops, as well as City and County facilities such as the Courthouse, City Hall, the library, our parks and activities.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting of August 7, 2015. Upon motion made by Mayor Peel, seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to apply to the PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program for \$6,500 to purchase 40 bicycle racks to be placed in the locations described herein.

RCO/vdw