

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor, Members of the Town Council DATE: April 3, 2013
FROM: ^{GT} Garrett Toy, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Discussion/consideration of a Street Mandala project

Recommendation

Discuss and consider the Street Mandala project proposed by Councilmember Hartwell.

Discussion

Attached is a proposal from Councilmember Hartwell regarding a Street Mandala project in downtown Fairfax. In essence, the proposal is to paint a mural on the street at the intersection of Bolinas and Broadway. Councilmember Hartwell has asked staff to compile a list of issues to consider with such a project. Some issues to consider are:

- Traffic would need to be detoured around the intersection. The organizers of the event and staff would need to meet to work out the details to ensure the safety of the volunteers. However, any plan would require barriers and signs as well as Town staff to divert traffic. We would need to determine if Police and/or Public Works staff needed to be present during the entire event. The barriers and signs would need to be placed prior to the painting activity beginning and removed when the painting is completed for the night. The length of the street closures and detours would need to account for all the set up, clean up, and drying time required for the mandala. The project would be responsible for compensating the Town for any overtime costs incurred by Police (\$100/hr) and Public Works (\$60/hr) staff for the event.
- Community support is required. Given the potential adverse impact on businesses and residents due to noise, light, and traffic detours, it would be prudent to have demonstrated support from the residents, businesses, and such organizations as the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.
- Intersection Safety. It is unclear whether the mandala would improve traffic safety or create confusion for drivers. Specifically, does a painting at the intersection cause drivers to be distracted from the crosswalks or does it act as a traffic calming measure which increases the safety at the intersection?
- Maintaining the street mandala. The intersection is very heavily traveled and it is unclear how well the paint will hold up under such conditions. A plan to maintain the mandala would be needed as well as an identified funding source to cover any maintenance costs.

Fiscal Impact

None at this time.

Attachments

Proposal from Councilmember Hartwell

AGENDA ITEM # 20

Street Mandala project

There is no planning precedence for a project like this so I am bringing it straight to council in the hopes of getting it done as close to midsummer's eve as possible. (June 21,2013)

I learned of intersection mandalas in 2006 while researching organizations that specialize in sustainability and place making. I found an organization called City Repair (<http://cityrepair.org/>) in Portland, OR. One of their many interesting projects was the community painting of intersection mandalas for the purpose of showing unique character, building community and slowing problem traffic areas. There are over 2 dozen intersection mandalas in neighborhoods throughout Portland and their beauty and purpose have inspired many more around the US. (<http://cityrepair.org/about/how-to/placemaking/intersectionrepair/>) The city of Portland has adopted this ordinance to support intersection mandalas- (<http://cityrepair.org/about/how-to/placemaking/intersectionrepair/>) .

At the recent Streets for People event we tried out a temporary mandala and found it a delightful process as well as a piece of beauty for the community to create together.

Our proposal now is to do a semi permanent one that will not wash off in the rain, but last through a number of seasons with the practice of repainting happening every few years. In order to avoid effecting any peak traffic times we are willing to do a midweek night time painting-with street closure from 11pm-5am or 12am-6am.

Here is the timeline of what would need to happen in order to do this:

1. Talk to staff and determine limitations, best practices and costs for the town.
2. Get approval from the town council to move forward.
3. Bring in support of businesses, citizens and collaborators like Chamber of Commerce, Fairfax Volunteers, Sustainable Fairfax, Cittaslow...
4. Raise funds, finalize basic design, recruit volunteers and pre-solve challenges.
5. Bring back to council for final approval and further public process.

Jen Jones is the artist in charge and has lent her skills many times to the community of Fairfax in the mural at the old Good Earth, Chamber of Commerce banners, and hand painted signs at

many businesses and festivals. She has rallied the support and help of other local artists to make this project happen.

Artists-Jen Jones, Jeffery Beauchamp, Surane, Rachael @ culture shock, Charlotte Fuller...

Location-

Our preference is to do the intersection at Bolinas and Broadway, centered in front of the parkade steps.

Dimension- A 30' by 30' mandala would fill the space nicely

Needs- (all costs will be provided for by the project but any donation of time by staff is appreciated)

Town-Police to help with traffic redirect, PW- to help direct volunteers with barriers and street closing

Nighttime lights- will look into buy in from Grilly's and Coffee Roasters for power

Paint-working with City Repair folks for best paint suggestions

People power!-we want every member of the community to feel welcome to participate.

Thank you so much. Here is a link to another org that has taken this on-

<http://www.paintthepavement.org/>