



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: July 7, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Brimmer Park Sculpture / Dam & Mill Lighting

DISCUSSION:

During trips to Cedar Falls and exploring their downtown area, I noticed that they have some sculptures downtown that add a very nice artistic touch. After thinking about this for a while, I reached out to Joe and Judy Olsen to discuss what the City could consider for a sculpture in the downtown area. We met and talked about the idea, and Jim Gillespie from the Steve Brown Art Center also joined us. The location that seems to make the most sense is Brimmer Park, so we started discussing options there. Our idea was to remove the flagpole and light and replace them with a sculpture and new lighting to make the park more welcoming. We also discussed creating a sculpture to honor the naming of the Wapsipinicon River. Attached to this memo is a PBS article about the river's naming, and while we're not sure if it's entirely accurate, it seemed like a good direction to explore. Included with this item are three different AI-generated concepts of what the sculpture could look like.

Further discussion also raised the idea of lighting the dam, particularly if modifications to the lighting in Brimmer Park are required. This has been considered in the past as well. Attached are a couple of images showing what the dam could look like if lit, also generated by AI.

Significantly more work would be necessary, as there is currently no project planned or funding allocated for this purpose. The purpose of this agenda item is simply to initiate a discussion with the Council and gauge their interest in pursuing such ideas, both for their artistic value and the ambiance created by lighting the dam and the Mill.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.