



Source

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** City Manager and Staff   
**DATE:** January 24, 2008  
**RE:** ARC Parking Lot Additional Lighting

Mike Hood  


**Summary:** Park staff is seeking direction on how to proceed with the issue of adding three parking lot lights at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC). During the past construction season, the parking lot at the ARC was expanded to handle the on-going crowds. Lights on the new parking lot were not installed due to the uncertainty of the remaining use of the property and the thought that existing lighting could potentially be adequate. On Tuesday, November 13, 2007 an ARC patron was the victim of a car theft. Following this incident, a number of users requested additional lights in the parking lot. Staff has identified the following options for consideration:

Fiscal Impact

YES

NO

1. Dusk-to-dawn lights. Wooden poles with overhead wires installed by Water & Light.
2. Solar lights. Estimated cost: \$18,500 for materials and installation.
3. Match existing parking lot lights. Estimate cost: \$25,000-\$30,000 for materials and installation.
4. Do nothing. Lights are seen as detriment to crime, but not necessarily a guaranteed prevention of crime.

Other Info.

Park staff believes that additional lights should be installed and feel that the advantages of the solar lights are preferable to the other options. If either option 2 or 3 is approved by Council, funds will need to be appropriated from donated monies currently being held in reserve for future ARC improvements.

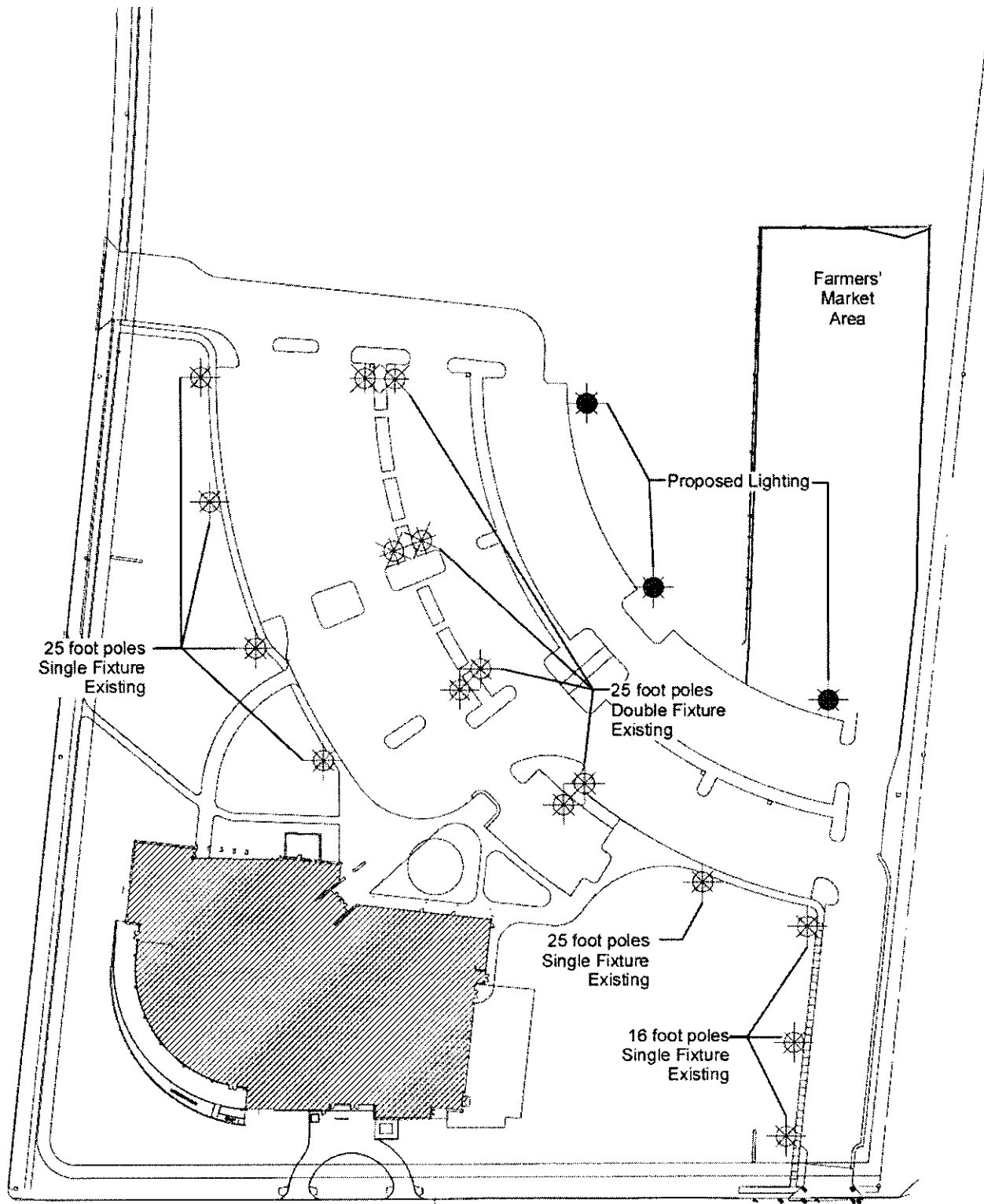
**Discussion:** Park staff is seeking direction on how to proceed with the issue of adding three parking lot lights at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC). During the past construction season, the parking lot at the ARC was expanded to handle the on-going crowds. Lights on the new parking lot were not installed due to the uncertainty of the remaining use of the property and consideration that the existing lighting could potentially be adequate. On Tuesday, November 13, 2007 an ARC patron was the victim of a car theft. Following this incident, a number of users requested additional lights in the parking lot. Staff has developed the following options for consideration:

1. Dusk-to-dawn lights. Water and Light Department would install three lights using overhead wires. Low installation cost and future flexibility are the benefits while aesthetics of wooden poles and overhead wires are drawbacks.

2. Solar lights. Private contractor would install three solar lights similar to those that are currently at Stephens Lake Park. Estimated cost: \$18,500 for materials and installation. These lights would be mounted on poles that are 18-feet above ground and will use shoebox light fixtures. The amount of footcandles are dependent on the voltage stored. Benefits include emphasis on “green” design, operating cost, and since wires aren’t needed, lights may be relocated depending on future use of land. Disadvantage is that some patrons may feel that the solar lights may not provide adequate footcandles.
3. Match existing parking lot lights. Private contractor would install three lights that match the styles of those that are currently in use at the ARC. Estimate cost: \$25,000-\$30,000 for materials and installation. The ARC has two heights of poles: 25-ft and 16-ft. The taller poles are located away from the nearby residents with the shorter poles being located near the residents. Since the proposed poles are located away from the residents, staff is recommending use of the 25-ft poles. Matching the existing lights and footcandle levels are the benefits. High construction cost (requires trenching across Farmer’s Market parking lot and subsequent repair) and the potential of the underground wires to be a problem for future development are the key negatives.
4. Do nothing. Lights are seen as detriment to crime, but not necessarily a guaranteed prevention of crime. On the same day as the ARC incident, another motorist was approached by possible car thieves at Hy-Vee on Broadway in an area that is well lit and contains security cameras. However, doing nothing may not be viewed as a positive reaction by some patrons. Plus, park staff is planning on adding security cameras and they will not be able to view dark areas.

Park staff believes that additional lights should be installed and feel that the advantages of the solar lights are preferable to the other options. Funding for either option 2 or 3 will need to be appropriated from donated monies currently being held in reserve for future ARC improvements. If so directed by Council, staff will return to Council with a request for authorization of the project, a public hearing, and appropriation of the funds.

**Recommended Council Action:** Council may direct staff to proceed with any of the following options: (1) Authorize staff to request a public hearing and authorization to install solar lights as indicated in Option #2; (2) Authorize staff to request a public hearing and authorization to install lights that will match the existing light poles and fixtures at the ARC as indicated in Option #3; or (3). Another option based on Council recommendations.



ARC Parking Lot Lighting