

Karen James - Dec 23rd agenda item

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12/23/13

**From:** "Garrett Smith" <garretts@jollytime.com>  
**To:** <kjames@sioux-city.org>  
**Date:** 12/13/2013 11:17 AM  
**Subject:** Dec 23rd agenda item  
**CC:** "Mark Monson" <mark@mudflap.com>, <corncrew2@aol.com>

Karen

I would like to be put on the agenda for the Board of Supervisor meeting on December 23<sup>rd</sup> to present The Shepherds Garden. The Shepherd's Garden will be a spiritual park and community garden on the quarter block at 6<sup>th</sup> and Jackson, site of the old YWCA. The project fund raising is well on its way as we have raised \$600,000 of the needed \$800,000. We are currently writing an application for a Vision Iowa grant which is due on January 15<sup>th</sup>. In order to get their approval, we need to show support from both the City and County. The City has committed getting water to the site for two different water features which will be part of the Garden and also new sidewalks along Jackson and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. So, I will be asking the Board for their support, as well. Please let me know what additional information you need and what time I should be at the courthouse.  
Thank you,

Garrett K. Smith  
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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: September 26, 2013  
Contact: Mike Smith, 712-255-8919

### **Shepherd's Garden Project Revitalizes Former YWCA Site Project Supports Spiritual Respite and Reflection**

**SIOUX CITY, Iowa** – A group of community and religious leaders have come together to promote the reinvestment in a long-neglected downtown location and convert the abandoned site into a green space specifically designed for spiritual respite and reflection.

Located at the intersection of Sixth and Jackson Streets and known locally as the former site of the YWCA, the new park will be known as Shepherd's Garden and is being created to facilitate and encourage spiritual respite and reflection by developing a permanent Christian green space in downtown Sioux City. With "golden shovels" in hand, project organizers held a groundbreaking ceremony this morning at 10:00 AM.

The Rev. Matthew Miller of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Sioux City who has been instrumental in the development of the project said, "We see this as the perfect location to create an open, sacred space in the heart of Sioux City where anyone and everyone can find rest, reflection, and renewal in the spirit of Christ our Good Shepherd." The new development has been conceived to be ecumenical in nature and welcome visitors of diverse faiths.

In addition to creating a new green space in the heart of the downtown district, the project also aims to revitalize the site, increase neighborhood ties and enhance the sense of safety, promote a greater sense of community and social cohesion, create positive outcomes for both the public and private sectors, and reduce incidents of criminal behavior.

Garry Smith of the American Pop Corn Company who is leading the project's fundraising committee added, "I am excited about the investment in and beautification of a downtown area that has been neglected for far too long. Shepherd's Garden complements the study recently completed by the International Economic Development Council which encouraged our community to increase the number of downtown green spaces. I am convinced that this unique and special space will be an asset for our downtown for years to come."

With a three phase plan to complete the reinvestment in the site, organizers announced that initial \$150,000 fundraising stage has been completed and that they are well into the \$600,000 second phase of the project. The final stage includes a \$60,000 community garden bringing the total project cost to an estimated \$810,000.

Siouxland Chamber of Commerce President Chris McGowan welcomed the Shepherd's Garden project and praised the vision of the leaders associated with making this new green space a reality in the downtown district. "This is another exceptional example of private individuals joining forces and demonstrating the initiative and creativity necessary to make our community a better, safer and more attractive place for all."

Local landscape architect Karl Van Cura of the Midwest Design Group has been retained to create the schematic design concepts. A website is under development and will be running soon at [www.shepherdsgardensiouxcity.org](http://www.shepherdsgardensiouxcity.org). Shepherd's Garden is a not-for-profit 501c3 corporation and donations are welcomed and encouraged at Shepherd's Garden, 608 Nebraska St., Sioux City, Iowa 51101.

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