



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 12/05/05
695

Communication No.:05-

Agenda Item Type: Receive/ File
No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Richard A. Clark, Acting City Manager

SUBJECT—

Segway of Central Iowa

SYNOPSIS—

Segway of Central Iowa, Curtis and Laurie Linhart, 7678 Hickman Road, Windsor Heights, IA would like to open a business in the City of Des Moines to offers tours by Segway of the City. The Municipal Code currently does not allow the use of Segways on City Streets, Sidewalks or Recreational Trails.

This action would refer the request to the City Manager to examine possible exceptions to the Municipal Code that would allow for operation of Segways and to seek input from the applicable City Boards and Commissions.

FISCAL IMPACT—

None

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

Segway of Central Iowa has proposed a business that would offer tours of City of Des Moines sights using Segways and potentially offer Segways for sale. Their ability to pursue this opportunity is

inhibited by the City of Des Moines Municipal Code, which prohibits the use of Segways in the following sections.

- Section 74-115 of the City's Municipal Code specifically prohibits the use of motorized devices on the City's multi-use trails.
- Section 102-41 does not allow any vehicles to utilize sidewalks. The definition of vehicle says only, "vehicle means every self-propelled device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway or street, excepting devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks" and would include Segways. The only exceptions provided are for devices for users with disabilities.
- Chapter 321 describes permissible vehicles for use on City Streets and Segways clearly do not qualify.

Staff has spoken with Mr. Linhart and recommends that the City Council refer his request to the City Manager's Office to determine if it is appropriate to amend the applicable ordinances to allow a limited exception for Segway operation. Staff will explore this item further, including experiences of other Cities. After preliminary discussions, it is likely that staff will pursue a specific designation to allow for Segway tour routes. Once a recommendation is complete, staff will seek input from City Boards and Commissions, including the City's Park and Recreation Board, the Recreational Trail Committee, and the Youth Advisory Board.

The Linharts would like to move forward with their business plan in the spring. It will be the intent of Staff to bring a recommendation back to the City Council by March 6, 2005.