

**Memorandum
Community & Economic Development Department**



To: Thomas E. Thomas, City Manager
Subject: Disposition of City Right of Way
Date: July 22, 2014

Staff has been working with Alma and Doug Womack regarding the purchase of a small section of city right of way located to the south of their property at 919 8th Street. According to the file, a 20' x 54' section of a vacated alley was not part of the site plan design when Habitat Park was created in 2006.

The Womacks would like to acquire the right of way section to build a new garage. They also plan to add a fence around their property. When completed, the new garage investment will total about \$38,000. Please refer to the provided location map and letter of request from the Womacks.

City property disposition policies state a letter must be sent to the property owner located on the opposite side of the city parcel to see if there is any interest in the property. The adjacent property owner to the south was contacted and expressed no interest in the property.

Staff recommends the disposition of this land as it will return an unbuildable section of property to active use and to the tax rolls. The Womacks are prepared to cover all of the involved closing costs associated with acquiring the property estimated at \$800.00

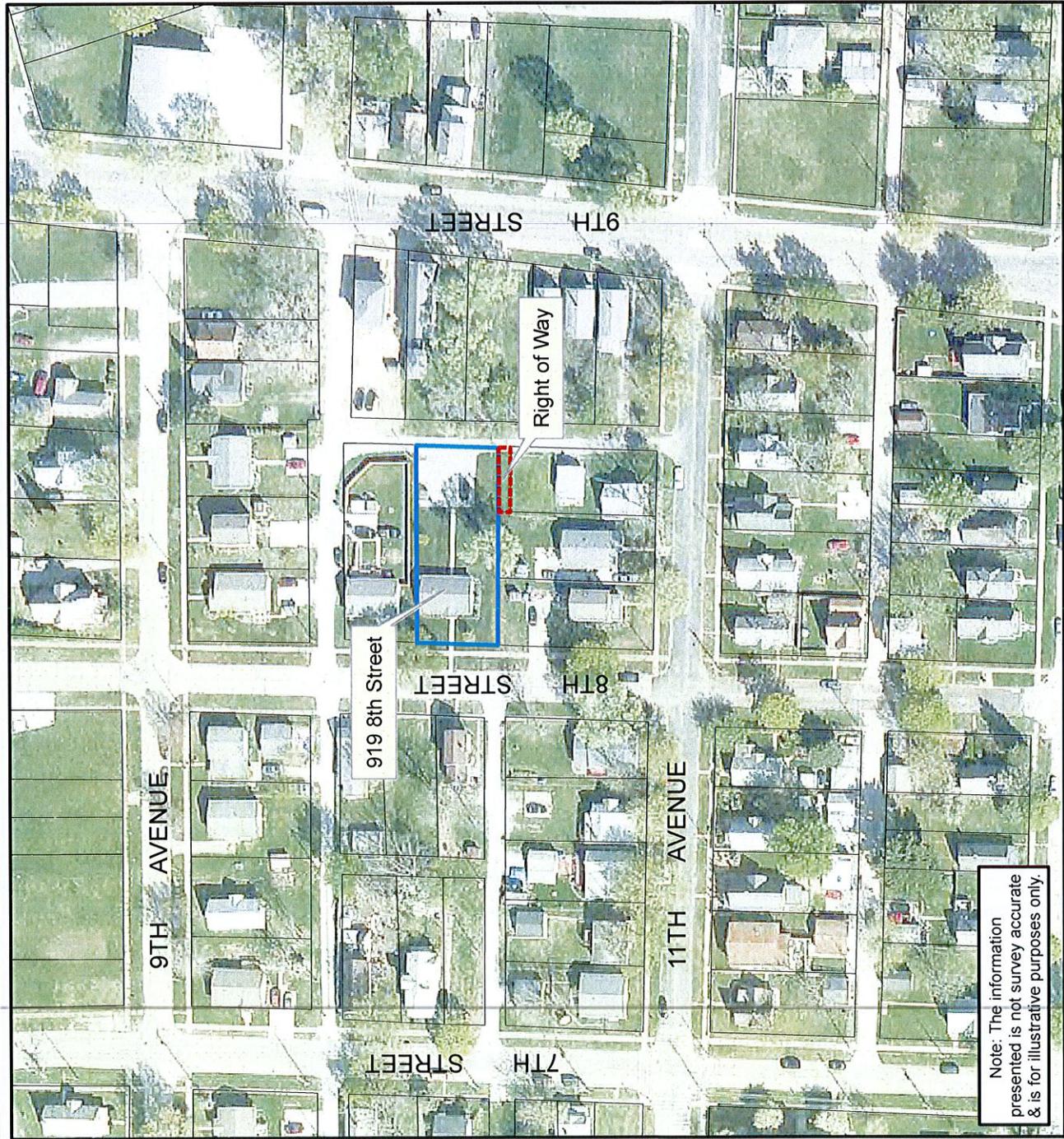
Recommendation

The CED Department recommends that City Council approve the disposition of the city right of way adjacent to 919 8th Street to the adjacent property owners based on the above conditions, authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents and refer to the City Attorney for an ordinance.

Submitted by: Mary Chappell, Development Programs Manager
Jeffery A. Eder, Assistant City Manager / CED Director

Approved: Thomas Thomas, City Manager

LOCATION MAP



LOCATION MAP

919 8th Street

Legend

-  Subject Property
-  Parcels



0 20 40 80 120 160 Feet

City of Rock Island

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Planning and Redevelopment



Note: The information presented is not survey accurate & is for illustrative purposes only.

May 30, 2014

Greetings;

We are Doug and Alma Womack, residing at 919 8th St. in Habitat Park. Over the last year or so, we have debated about either moving to a better neighborhood or staying and trying to improve our home and current neighborhood. After reviewing the pros and cons, we decided that the area around Habitat Park is slowly improving, and we want to take an active part in that process. We have already made a small start by cleaning up the area across the alley in back of us (with the owner's blessing), cutting trees and brush, planting wildflowers, installing bird feeders, and creating a Monarch butterfly weighstation.

We have decided to invest in a garage, deck and privacy fence on our property. In our planning, we found that in the past our Habitat neighborhood was a park called Turtle Park. There was an alley going east-west through the park, and when the city decided to remove the alley, they gave 1/2 of the alley to the properties on the south side of the alley, but did not give the other half to the north side (currently our property), so it appears that the city still owns the other half of that old alley.

We mow, fertilize and care for the property up to a fence to the south of the property, and are asking the city to donate what they currently own to us so we can improve it with the garage, deck and fence. We are proud of our home and property, and spend a lot of time, effort and money making it the premier property in the area. Our neighbors have taken notice, and we are now helping them improve the look of their property. That's how a neighborhood changes; someone taking the lead and others follow!

We have discussed our plans with our Alderman, Ivory Clark, and he is very supportive of our plans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug & Alma Womack
919 8th St.