

Jonathan Smith

From: Jonathan Smith
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 3:52 PM
To: robert@rudysmarket.com; 'James Schneider'; 'Sarah Schneider'
Subject: Placemaking on Mill Street
Attachments: Placemaking Alley Example.jpg

Hello Robert, James and Sarah –

While time is short, I'm considering applying for a **Placemaking Grant** for \$50K currently being offered by General Motors to create a new social space in our downtown. The grants are intended to develop spaces in downtown Main Streets and commercial districts that people will gravitate to and enjoy. They define placemaking as the development of quality public spaces that build on the community's assets, inspiration, and potential while also contributing to people's health, happiness, and well-being. My thought was to redevelop Mill Street, the city-owned road and parking between The Fed and Rudy's, permanently closing it to replicate some of the alleys that have been redeveloped recently in Detroit. I'm sure you're familiar with them but attached is a photo of one I like. We would need to remove the asphalt and install some nice concrete or other material and then add seating, planters and lighting. Yes, we would lose 7 parking spaces, but we would gain two back when we extend the curb across the existing driveway.

The deadline for applying is next Wednesday, so I would need to move quickly. We have a Council meeting on Monday where I was planning on discussing the idea with Council. But equally importantly to me is **your** feedback. **If you don't want this, I'll drop the idea altogether.** So please think about this and let me know your thoughts - - for or against.

Thank you!

Jonathan Smith

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