

## Chautauqua Street Light Modernization Project

The CPOA has worked closely with the Chautauqua Utility District (CUD) and the Chautauqua Institution (CI) in gathering information, interfacing with manufacturers to provide technical and cost details and in securing financial support from CPOA members. The goal is to provide a modern lighting system with a common, consistent look to all the street lighting in Chautauqua regardless of ownership. Many years of discussions and negotiations with National Grid (NG) finally have yielded a draft purchase agreement, which when negotiated will enable the CUD to assume ownership and replace all of the outdated NG owned lights. **The CUD only will approve the final contract if it is of financial benefit to the property owners of Chautauqua.**

### Installation Plans:

- DOE Gateway Project – 10 lights on Pratt (Ames – Hurst)
- Regional - starts around Amphitheater and works outward
- 5 phases with 45-50 lights/phase @\$90-100K
- Installation period (1-5 years) depending upon equipment availability, installation resources (CUD will contract with a local street lighting company)

### Affordability Analysis:

- Replacement of 243 lights – installation of new lights in dark areas
- \$800,000 – maximum cost of project amortized over projected life of assets of 20-30 years
- Current cost of lighting paid to NG = \$55,000 annually (\$40K for leasing of lights and \$15K for electricity) funded by line item of Real Estate Taxes in February
- Immediate elimination of \$40K annual payment to National Grid
- Reduction of energy costs with full implementation to less than \$5K (\$10K saving)
- Initial maintenance costs should be no more than \$10,000 annually.
- This leaves \$40,000 annually to cover the amortization of the bonds
- Received donations from CHQ Property Owners to support first 15-20 lights
- Calculations indicate **NO NEED for a Real Estate tax increase!**

### Questions?

- Goal – Removal of antiquated existing lighting. Replace with warm color energy efficient 24-37 Watt (instead of 100 – 400 Watt) LEDs - reduced glare, dark sky compliant, little or no light trespass, projected life of 70,000 hours or 17 years and are architecturally in keeping with Chautauqua's early 20<sup>th</sup> century ambiance.
- Why not use these funds to improve infrastructure? These are funds that are currently being used to pay NG for very costly and inefficient poor lighting. This project will improve safety, ambiance, remove annoying and excess lighting in our windows and put the light on the ground where we need it most. The financial savings are expected to pay for the entire cost of the project without the need for a tax increase.
- Recent AMA white paper about LED street lighting – The Chautauqua experience was part of a report published by the Department of Energy in October 2013 which has set the standard for pedestrian friendly outdoor lighting. We are fully compliant with all of the standards recommended by the AMA, the International Dark Sky Association and others.
- This vote is to approve the expenditure of the funds, **but only if the CUD approves the final contract which is not yet available.**

**CPOA recommends that you vote YES for the Chautauqua Street Light Modernization Project on the second Tuesday in August (August 9, 2016) in the Colonnade: 1-4 PM**