

William Bauer

## **If I Were Mayor**

Imagine this- you go to visit your family in Fairfield, Iowa. You want to do some shopping downtown, so you make your way over to the square. On your trek, you run into uncut curbs and uneven sidewalks, making it hard to navigate in your wheelchair. Unfortunately, this is reality here in Fairfield. If I were Mayor, I would focus on revitalizing our square and making our town easier to navigate. I would do this by providing a money incentive for small businesses to set up shop around our city, repairing and repainting the gazebo, and making sure everyone can walk around our town.

First of all, Fairfield's shopping facilities are very lackluster. If we look at another small college town, like Orange City, you can find small shops lining the square. Having more stores would improve the look of downtown and bring in more tax dollars for Fairfield. If I were Mayor, I would propose a money incentive for small businesses to set up shop around our city.

The second thing I would do as mayor would be to improve our city square. As it stands, our city center is a bland square of grass and sidewalk with a single gazebo marking the center. As Mayor I would

introduce a full makeover. I would dot the grass with more flowers, shrubs, and trees. I would also repair, repaint, and make the gazebo ADA accessible, making it look as good as it did 40 years ago.

In Fairfield, there are many walkways and intersections that are not pedestrian friendly. Lots of sidewalks are in disrepair, and in some places you can't even see into the road. In multiple spots there are uncut curbs, making it difficult for people in wheelchairs to navigate our city. We can make our town more walkable by widening and repairing our sidewalks, improving visibility and making more areas ADA compliant. As for positive outcome, improving Fairfield's pedestrian friendliness would bring more customers to businesses, make our town safer, and connect more people.

Incentivizing small businesses, improving the aesthetics of downtown, and making everywhere more walkable will make Fairfield more welcoming and encourage connection. It will also make our community a happier place for everyone.