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Kellogg asks city to close street

Company: Turning part of Jackson Street into park space would benefit employees

Barrett Newkirk
The Enquirer

The Kellogg Co. has formally requested that the city of Battle Creek close a portion of Jackson Street to benefit hundreds of Kellogg employees coming downtown.

The closure of a small segment of Jackson Street west of McCamly Street will aid Kellogg's efforts to create a "campus-like environment" downtown, said Tim Knowlton, the company's vice president of corporate social responsibility.

Knowlton said Kellogg plans to transform the piece of Jackson Street into a landscaped park space.

By this fall, Kellogg wants to complete the relocation of some 600 employees from its Porter Street site to 67 W. Michigan Ave., also known as the Fifth Third Building, and the neighboring Battle Creek Tower.

The request for the Jackson Street closure came this month in a letter signed by Knowlton and a representative of The Hinman Co., which owns the Fifth Third Building and the Battle Creek Tower.

Battle Creek city commissioners can't vote on the street closure until after the city holds a public hearing, which is scheduled for Feb. 16. Commissioners will vote Tuesday to approve the hearing date.

City Manager Ken Tsuchiyama said the vote on the closure could also happen Feb. 16, but will most likely come at a later meeting.

Along with the closure of Jackson Street, the city would vacate sidewalks and grassy spaces along Jackson and McCamly and a piece of Hamblin Avenue that weren't transferred when the company's headquarters was built in the 1980s.

"All we're trying to do is clean up the records" so they "reflect what is treated like Kellogg Company property now," Tsuchiyama said.

To create another access point to Jackson Street, the city is considering creating a street through the plaza on Michigan Avenue commonly referred to as Horse Park.

Tsuchiyama said the future of the spot's metal horse sculpture hasn't been decided.

"We'll have to figure that out," he said.

Barrett Newkirk can be reached at 966-0692 or bnewkirk@gannett.com.

Additional Facts

If you go

- **WHAT:** Battle Creek City Commission meeting.
 - **WHEN:** 7 p.m. Tuesday.
 - **WHERE:** City Hall, room 301, 10 N. Division St.
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