



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 6/7/04

Communication

No.: 04-271

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call

No.:

Submitted by: Larry Hulse, Community Development Director

SUBJECT—

Resolution adopting the recommendation of the Landmark Review Board to issue a certificate of appropriateness for an alteration to Esther Hall (aka Hawthorn Hill) to accommodate the 10th Street reconstruction project.

SYNOPSIS—

On April 6th, 2004 the Landmarks Review Board reviewed an application from the City of Des Moines Engineering Department for an alteration to Esther Hall, a local landmark at 921 Pleasant Street as part of reconstructing 10th Street. The re-grading of a portion of Hawthorn Hill site and installation of the 10th Street reconstruction will include a new sidewalk and an ornamental railing installed at the top of the existing stairs to prevent pedestrians from falling.

FISCAL IMPACT—

This work is part of an approved CIP project.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

City Engineering is reconstructing 10th Street, the western edge of the Esther Hall property. The road re-grading work crosses over into the legal boundaries of the Esther Hall local landmark site revealing approximately two feet of the foundation of an existing brick staircase. In October of 2002 the Historic District Commission issued the building owner, Mission Hills L.P. c/o Bernie Van Til a certificate of appropriateness for a large number of alterations to Esther Hall, as part of

a renovation plan, including the removal of the brick stair. This certificate expired in October 2003. (Certificates of appropriateness expire after one year). It is not in the interest of the building owner to renew the certificate of appropriateness to remove the stairs at this time due to the lack of financial means to renovate the property. Therefore, City Engineering is proposing to place an ornamental iron structure at the top of the steps to improve the appearance. There is currently a wood board across the top of the stairs to prevent people from falling. The project also involves adding a sidewalk to the Esther Hall site.

The Landmark Review Board approved the application as presented by a vote of 15-0. There was no discussion.