

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: April 25, 2011
	Agenda Item No. 19B Roll Call No. <u>11-0667</u> Communication No. <u>11-232</u> Submitted by: Phil Delafield, Community Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution approving the Neighborhood Revitalization Board’s recommendation of Charter Status for the South Park Neighborhood effective January 1, 2012.

SYNOPSIS:

The South Park Neighborhood has experienced substantial housing and infrastructure investment and redevelopment since it became a Designated Neighborhood in 2006. The Neighborhood Revitalization Board and staff recommend the South Park Neighborhood be graduated to Charter Neighborhood status effective January 1, 2012.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Neighborhoods involved in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) are periodically evaluated. These evaluations examine if the goals from the neighborhood plan have been achieved and determine if the neighborhood is ready to graduate to charter status. The South Park Neighborhood was selected to participate in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program in May 2006. The South Park Neighborhood plan was approved by the City Council in August 2008.

Based on the finding from the evaluation, staff recommends conditionally moving the South Park Neighborhood to Charter status as of January 1, 2012. The conditions include:

- Continuing to work with the NFC and South Park Neighborhood Association as needed to develop ways to promote NFC activity in the neighborhood.
- Completion of scheduled Jordan Park improvements.

On March 15, staff met with the South Park Neighborhood Association Board to discuss this evaluation. A summary of the neighborhood’s comments are included in this evaluation. Along with this, a letter from the South Park Neighborhood Association was submitted by the neighborhood. The NRB voted unanimously to approve the recommendation at their April 6 meeting.

The City's Public Works Department evaluated all streets, curbs, and sidewalks in the South Park Neighborhood. Based on that evaluation and input from the neighborhood association, a NIRP work plan was developed and approved by the planning committee. That work plan outlined \$689,560 of infrastructure improvement for the neighborhood. In addition, CDBG funding was received to install new sidewalks along SE 5th Street.

The recession and housing crisis have had an impact on the South Park Neighborhood. According to the Polk County Assessor, neighborhood home sale prices, including foreclosures and short sales, have decreased 8.7% since 2007. While this number is alarming, it is considerably less than the 18.2% decrease in home sale prices throughout the City as a whole.

The NFC has had very limited success in South Park Neighborhood. As of 2/28/11, only 22 loans were originated in the South Park Neighborhood. This is the fewest number of loans generated in any Designated Neighborhood. The NFC and the South Park Neighborhood have attempted several activities to create interest, but none have been very successful in generating loan activity. NFC lending will continue in South Park once the neighborhood becomes Designated. Because of this, the neighborhood, City and NFC are committed to continuing to work with the neighborhood to explore new ways to generate interest.

The neighborhood association has continued to grow. Since the plan has been approved, several members of the South Park Neighborhood have attended the Neighborhood Resident Leadership Classes. The neighborhood has held quarterly meetings and hosted an event on National Night Out. In addition, the neighborhood sign at McKinley and SE 14th St. has been enhanced.

SE 14th St. is a major commercial corridor that is need of enhancements. While the South Park Neighborhood runs along this corridor, because of the scope of the issue, the neighborhood plan deferred most action on commercial corridors to the Southside Revitalization Plan that was completed in 2006.

Parks and Recreation Department staff is working with a consultant and the neighborhood to adjust and finalize proposed locations for bike and trail facilities in the neighborhood. The proposed trail will likely run along McKinley and connect the neighborhood to Ewing Park and will be added to bike and trail master plan for phased implementation at a future date.

There is currently funding programmed in the FY12-FY17 CIP budget for improvements to the Jordan Wading Pool. The Parks Department will work with the neighborhood to plan improvements with funding becomes available. The Parks Department will come out to the neighborhood association in 2011 to discuss if there are ways to work with the neighborhood association to enhance the park in small ways. One project discussed in the plan, creating a park at Weeks Middle School, is not currently funded in the CIP.

Staff commends the South Park Neighborhood Association for their hard work and dedication to improving their neighborhood. The neighborhood association has far greater capacity than it did when it was admitted to the program in 2006. While not all of the goals outlined in the plan are completed, staff recommends moving the South Park Neighborhood to Charter status as of January 1, 2012.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 11, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-1416

Action: [Approving](#) the South Park Neighborhood Plan and adopting the plan as an amendment to the Des Moines 2020 Community Character Plan. ([Council Communication No. 08-471](#)). **Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.**

Date: July 10, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-1346

Action: [Designation](#) of five new neighborhoods to the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Program (Douglas Acres, Drake, Merle Hay, South Park and Waterbury). ([Council Communication No. 06-427](#)) **Moved by Kiernan to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.**

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: April 6, 2011

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Recommend approval of the South Park Neighborhood Plan Evaluation and recommend moving the neighborhood to Charter Status as of January 1, 2012.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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