

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> August 29, 2011
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 76 <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>11-1530</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>11-584</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Authorizing submittal of Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 State of Iowa Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Application for an intensive level historical/architectural survey and potential nomination to the National Register of Historic Places to create a new National Historic District in the River Bend Neighborhood.

**SYNOPSIS:**

The State Historical Society of Iowa is soliciting applications for CLG grants for FY 2012. The applications are due August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The River Bend Neighborhood Association would like to partner with the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Historic Preservation Commission, and Polk County to conduct an intensive level historical/architectural survey and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places to create a new National Historic District. The proposed survey and nomination would continue the positive changes that have been taking place in recent years and further the historic preservation objective of the River Bend neighborhood.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: The proposed project will combine funding from the CLG grant, Polk County Grant, as well as cash and in-kind contribution from the River Bend Neighborhood Association. The project is contingent on receiving both the CLG and Polk County funding requests. The project budget is \$25,507 and the breakdown includes:

- \$14,625 CLG Grant (Requested)
- \$3,000 Polk County Grant (Requested)
- \$7,882 cash and in-kind contribution from River Bend Neighborhood Association (Committed)

Funding Source: No city funds are impacted.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Funding is requested to hire a professional historical consultant to conduct an intensive level historical/architectural survey and potential for a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places to create a new National Historic District in the River Bend Neighborhood. The survey will assess the historical development patterns, historic contexts, key historical structures and a representative sample of typical homes throughout the neighborhood. This survey supports activities associated with the River Bend neighborhood plan, as well as the neighborhood revitalization and historic preservation efforts that the neighborhood has been leading for a number of years.

In addition to the professional survey, neighborhood volunteers will be organized and trained to conduct some of the background information gathering for this survey. This will build neighborhood capacity, as well as organize and educate residents on the economic advantages of maintaining their historic homes. The survey could potentially lead to the nomination of a new district to the National Register of Historic Places, which is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture. This would be beneficial for homeowners within the area by providing access to state historic tax credits for home improvements.

The River Bend Neighborhood Association, with limited assistance from City staff, will be responsible for soliciting proposals for a qualified consultant and selection of the most appropriate candidate. Volunteers will be recruited by the River Bend Neighborhood Association and may include other interested residents and former residents. Volunteers will be carefully selected and trained by the project consultant and project leaders from the neighborhood association. They will assist with conducting property research, photography and on-site documentation. Their work will be under the oversight of the consultant and project leaders from the neighborhood association.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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