

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: January 13, 2014
	Agenda Item No. 38 Roll Call No. <u>14-0062</u> Communication No. <u>14-009</u> Submitted by: Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Receipt of a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant award from the State Historical Society of Iowa to the City of Des Moines and North of Grand (NOG) Neighborhood Association.

SYNOPSIS:

The State Historical Society of Iowa solicited applications in late summer 2013 for the 2014 CLG grant program. The applications were submitted August 2013 with an award announcement made in December 2013. The NOG Neighborhood Association led the effort with support from Community Development staff and the Des Moines Historic Preservation Commission. NOG Neighborhood Association proposes to conduct an architectural and historical reconnaissance survey of the area that was once called the “Center-Soll” area, a name combination of two (2) streets within the neighborhood boundaries. Center-Soll stretches from Center Street to Ingersoll Avenue and from 35th to 38th streets. The funding comes from the CLG program, designed to help promote historic preservation at the grassroots level.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: The proposed project will combine funding from the CLG grant and a contribution from NOG Neighborhood Association. The project budget is \$10,355 and the breakdown includes:

- \$5,900 CLG Grant (*Awarded*)
- \$2,700 cash contribution from NOG Neighborhood Association (*Committed*)
- \$1,755 in-kind donations and volunteer hours

Funding Source: No City funds are impacted.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In partnership with the City, NOG Neighborhood Association will hire a professional architectural historian to identify significant historic properties, and with the help of volunteers, collect photos, census records, maps, and building permits or property transaction records related to Center-Soll. The long-term goal is to determine whether there is a historic district in this section of North of Grand. The project could open the door for financial incentives if property owners choose to rehabilitate historic buildings. It is another economic development option for one of Des Moines’ most vibrant, mixed-use neighborhoods.

In April 2013, North of Grand partnered with the City of Des Moines, Polk County, the State Historic Society of Iowa, among others to list the Greenwood Park Plats Historic District (39th to 42nd, Grand Avenue to I-235) on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2000, the Middlesex National Historic District (31st to 35th, Woodland to Pleasant) was also listed on the National Register.

Center-Soll existed before cities had neighborhood associations and was recognized in a 1924 Better Homes & Gardens article entitled, "Getting Neighborliness in Your Neighborhood." With the help of volunteers, the search is now on to discover more about this era with the hopes of having it listed as the third National Historic District within the North of Grand neighborhood. As the local CLG, the City will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant funds.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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