

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	October 20, 2014
	Agenda Item No.	51
	Roll Call No.	<u>14-1666</u>
	Communication No.	<u>14-506</u>
	Submitted by:	Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of the Amended Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

SYNOPSIS:

At the August 11, 2014 City Council meeting, Council Member Moore discussed City support of recognized neighborhood associations. This led to the City Council directing the City Manager to formulate a policy regarding prioritization of recognized neighborhood groups without eliminating non-recognized groups access to communication. The result of this effort is the proposed amendment to the City’s Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Following the City Council action on August 11, 2014, staff from Community Development brought the topic of City support of recognized neighborhood associations up for discussion at the September 3, 2014 Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) meeting. The topic for discussion was how best to formulate a policy that would provide recognized neighborhood associations with priority over non-recognized neighborhood groups when it came to City staff attending neighborhood meetings or neighborhood groups utilizing City facilities for meetings. The NRB appointed a sub-committee to discuss the issue and facilitate a solution.

The five (5) member NRB subcommittee held two (2) meetings in September to discuss the issue with City staff from multiple City Departments. The subcommittee agreed that the Neighborhood Recognition Policy was the most appropriate policy to amend by more clearly defining the benefits of becoming a recognized neighborhood association. Some of the changes to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy include:

This policy defines neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations that are recognized by the City of Des Moines for the purposes of:

- 1) Establishing official points of contact for the neighborhood to receive communication and notification from the City and community.
- 2) Delivering various City department services and programs.
- 3) Eligibility for the City’s Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

Recognized neighborhood organizations receive the following benefits, including but not limited to:

- Receives an official certificate of recognition from the Mayor and City Council, as well as annual recertification to maintain recognition status.
- Priority by City Leaders and Staff for attending regularly scheduled neighborhood meetings. For ad hoc meetings or special events, recognized neighborhoods will also receive priority by City Leaders and Staff over non-recognized neighborhoods or groups.
- Provide input on new and existing City programs and services on behalf of the collective neighborhood.
- Priority given for use of City Facilities according to department policies and City Code.
- Receive official communication and notification from City departments on a variety of programs, services, and development activities that directly impact the neighborhood(s).
- Opportunity to participate in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, such as but not limited to Spring Cleaning to Reduce Urban Blight (SCRUB), Neighborhood Based Service Delivery (NBSD), Neighborhood Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program (NIRP), Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC) lending, and other neighborhood planning services.

Annual Neighborhood Recertification

The City of Des Moines will issue a letter of recertification to all neighborhoods that are found to be in compliance with the Annual Survey and Neighborhood Recognition Policy. This will be done on or around July 1 each year. This recertification will show that the neighborhood is in good standing and will continue to maintain recognized status for the next year.

If the neighborhood organization does not return the annual neighborhood survey, the Neighborhood Development Division will advise the NRB and City Council that the recognized neighborhood is not in compliance with the Neighborhood Recognition Policy and recommend that the NRB and City Council no longer formally recognize the neighborhood. The loss of neighborhood recognition or “de-recognition” requires approval or vote of the City Council. This action does not prevent the neighborhood organization from reapplying in the future to again become recognized. To reapply, the neighborhood organization would have to submit a completed application and go through the necessary approval process.

As a follow-up to this evaluation, the NRB intends to reconvene this subcommittee to look at shared neighborhood areas, as well as neighborhood bylaws. The NRB feels that it is necessary to adopt a policy on how City services are delivered to areas that have shared or dual neighborhood representation. A review of neighborhood bylaws will ensure that new and existing neighborhood associations are functioning efficiently and representing the residents and property owners of their neighborhood to the best of their ability.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 11, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-1246](#)

Action: [Request](#) from Council Member Skip Moore, to discuss City support of recognized neighborhood associations. Moved by Moore to refer to the City Manager to formulate a policy regarding prioritization of recognized neighborhood groups without eliminating non-recognized groups access to communication. Motion carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Neighborhood Revitalization Board

Date: October 1, 2014

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Approved the amended Neighborhood Recognition Policy and forward a recommendation to the City Council to also approve the amended Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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