

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	February 9, 2015
	Agenda Item No.	37
	Roll Call No.	<u>15-0225</u>
	Communication No.	<u>15-045</u>
	Submitted by:	Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 102-320 of the Municipal Code regarding Skywalk Committee member composition.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of revised process for nominating skywalk committee members, including first reading of the ordinance regarding Skywalk Committee member composition changes.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Skywalk Committee is a subset of the Urban Design Review Board (UDRB), with two (2) members from the UDRB, one (1) member who is a member of the Des Moines Skywalk Association, one (1) member who is an owner of an interest in property containing a skywalk corridor or an officer of a business, which owns such property, and one (1) member who is an owner of an interest in a business which leases property containing a skywalk corridor, or an officer of such a business. The Skywalk Committee is a public board with decision-making authority over the skywalk system. Its intent is to represent the interests of building owners, property managers, and tenants of the skywalk system. This Committee was created when the Skywalk Commission was dissolved. The Committee has never formally met because there has never been a quorum of members appointed to the Committee.

The Skywalk Commission was comprised of building owners, property manager, and skywalk tenants much like the Skywalk Association is today. The Des Moines Skywalk Association is a private, dues-paying association comprised of all property owners on the skywalk system with responsibilities for security, surveillance, maintenance, and repair of the system. In an effort to make sure there is clear representation of the building owners, property manager, and tenants on the skywalk system, City staff has proposed a change in the way that the members of the Skywalk Committee are nominated, such that the Skywalk Association would nominate three (3) members, and the UDRB would nominate two (2) of its members to serve on the Skywalk Committee. These nominated members would continue to be subject to approval by the City Council. This change will also help merge the efforts of the Skywalk Association with the Skywalk Committee for overall better representation of the interests of the building owners, property managers, and tenants on the skywalk system.

The Skywalk Association approved this change at their December 2014 meeting. The UDRB reviewed this request at their January 20, 2015 meeting, and strongly encouraged downtown resident representation on the Skywalk Committee.

The Skywalk Association considered this request at their January 29, 2015 meeting, to ensure their interests are properly represented. The Skywalk Association concurred with the proposal where the UDRB will nominate two (2) of its members for the Skywalk Committee and three (3) Skywalk Association members would be nominated. However, they would like to find an Association member that could best represent the downtown resident interest by being a property owner of a residential building or someone who manages a building on the Skywalk and also lives downtown.

The following revisions to the Municipal Code will place these changes into effect.

Sec. 102-320. Skywalk Committee/Urban Development Board.

- c. A five member skywalk committee is hereby created. The membership of the skywalk committee shall consist of two members ~~of~~ nominated by the urban design review board from its members, and three members nominated by the ~~one member who is a member of the Des Moines Skywalk Association, one ownership representative and one tenant representative.~~ The three members nominated by the Association shall consist of an ownership representative who shall be an owner of an interest in property containing a skywalk corridor, or an officer of a business which owns such property; ~~The a~~ tenant representative who shall be an owner of an interest in a business which leases property containing a skywalk corridor, or an officer of such a business; and an Association representative who serves on the governing board of the Association. All such nominations shall be subject to approval by the city council. In the event that any nomination is rejected by the city council or not approved within 60 days of receipt by the city clerk, the nominating body shall promptly proceed with nominating a qualified alternate candidate. The mayor shall recommend candidates to fill one position on the committee. The at large council members shall each recommend candidates to fill two positions on the committee.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 7, 2002

Roll Call Number: 02-2444

Action: Actions regarding reorganization of the Urban Development Board:

- (B) Final consideration of ordinance creating a new UDRB, and Skywalk Committee, to perform duties formerly performed by the Urban Development Board and Architectural Advisory Committee, (amended to delay effective date until quorum is appointed to the board). Moved by Coleman that this ordinance do now pass, and that the City Clerk withhold publication of this ordinance and Ordinance 14,135 until a quorum of members have been appointed to the Urban Design Review Board. Ordinance #14,147. Motion Carried 4-2-1. Nays: Cownie and Vlassis. Absent: McPherson.

Date: January 22, 2001

Roll Call Number: 01-248 and 01-249

Action: Amending the City Code to restructure City Boards, Commissions and Committees and changing manner of appointment. Moved by Flagg that this ordinance do now pass, #13,909. Motion Carried 7-0.

(A) Amending City Code to merge Skywalk Commission into Urban Renewal Board. Moved by Flagg that this ordinance do now pass, #13,910. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: UDRB

Date: January 20, 2015

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Reviewed city staff proposal to change the way that the Skywalk Association members to the Skywalk Committee are appointed. The proposal was that the Skywalk Association would nominate three (3) members to serve on the Skywalk Committee. These nominated members would be formally approved by the Mayor for appointment onto the Committee.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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