

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> August 14, 2017
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 70 <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>17-1428</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>17-583</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Hearing on the designation of the Trolley Loop at 49th and University as a local landmark.

**SYNOPSIS:**

- Des Moines Streetcar Friends represented by Earl Short in partnership with the Des Moines Historical Society has nominated the Trolley Loop at 49th and University as a local landmark in accordance with Chapter 58 of the City Code.
- The Landmark Review Board and the Plan and Zoning Commission recommend approval of the nomination.
- Staff recommends approval of designating the subject site as a local landmark.

**FISCAL IMPACT: NONE**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The subject property is located on the south side of University Avenue immediately east of the entrance to the Waveland Golf Course. It contains the remnants of the 49th & University trolley turnaround that was a part of the Line #3 route that ran in the years from 1901 to 1947.
- This turnaround was situated by the Waveland Golf Course intentionally to facilitate use of the course. In a news article printed on February 2, 1902, the Waveland Golf Course was noted as being the third municipal golf course to be established in the United States. Detroit and Boston were the first and second cities to establish golf courses.
- Streetcar lines played a significant role in the development of Des Moines. Prior to the streetcar era, Des Moines was a relatively compact City as walking and horses were the primary means of mobility. The streetcar allowed for development to occur further away from the center of the City.
- The subject site possesses the integrity necessary to be designated a landmark. The primary layout of the turnaround area is intact and made visible by the paved route that was installed to facilitate the switch from rail based cars to curbliners (a/k/a trolley buses), which utilized rubber tires. Pavement deterioration on the site and on University Avenue suggest that some of the rails are still in place under the pavement. It may be possible for rail remnants to be exposed at a later date to further identify the original nature of the site. The streetcar system clearly made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the City's history as noted by

the City's Community Preservation Plan. Most of the system has been demolished and/or covered by pavement. The 49th & University Trolley Loop is one (1) of the few remaining elements of this once extensive system.

- Any future efforts to identify or enhance the site by the Des Moines Streetcar Friends and the Des Moines Historical Society would be subject to review by the Landmark Review Board and approval by the City Council. Coordination with the Waveland Golf Course would be required as the turnaround is owned in common with the golf course by the City of Des Moines.

#### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: July 24, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-1241](#)

Action: [On](#) the designation of the Trolley Loop at 49<sup>th</sup> & University as a local landmark, (8-14-17). Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: January 9, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-0063](#)

Action: [From](#) Council Member Skip Moore to discuss the historic trolley turnabout in the 4800 block of University Avenue. Moved by Hensley to receive and file comments and refer to the City Manager to start the Landmark Designation process for this location. Motion Carried 7-0.

#### **BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Plan and Zoning Commission

Date: July 6, 2017

Resolution Number: 20-2017-4.03

Action: Recommend designating the "Trolley Loop at 49<sup>th</sup> and University" a local landmark, by a vote of 13-0-0.

Board: Landmark Review Board

Date: June 13, 2017

Resolution Number: 20-2017-4.03

Action: Recommend designating the "Trolley Loop at 49th and University" a local landmark, by a consensus vote of 9-0-0.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Administration Building, 400 E. Court Avenue Ste.116. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).