


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>19-391</b>	Meeting:	<b>September 9, 2019</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>50</b>	Roll Call:	<b>19-1417</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Chris Johansen, Community Development Director</b>		

### AGENDA HEADING:

Submittal of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 State of Iowa Certified Local Government (CLG) grant application for support in the creation of an Owl's Head Historic District book.

### SYNOPSIS:

The requested \$15,920 grant would assist the volunteer effort to develop a book that celebrates the stories and architecture of the Owl's Head Historic District. An in-kind match of \$15,300 would be provided by Sondra Ashmore, Historic Preservation Commission Member and other Owl's Head residents.

### FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The book would give a brief history of the first National Historic District in Des Moines, Owl's Head. The neighborhood began as a street car suburb for Des Moines residents, many who played a seminal role in the early development of Des Moines. Early residents included the Hubbell, Tone, Langan, Witmer and Gilcrest families, all of whom founded major businesses that have had an important impact on local and state economies. One (1) of the more famous Owl's Head homes, 2900 Grand Avenue, was the home provided to the Iowa Governor from 1944 until 1976.
- The houses were individually designed by several prominent regional architects of the time including Liebbe, Nourse & Rasmussen, Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson, Sawyer and Watrous, Kraetsch and Kraetsch, and C.C. Cross. Rawson and his family lived in Owl's Head in a home he designed. While most of the homes share characteristics of the early 20th century, they each enjoy their own unique character with styles such as late Victorian and colonial revival being represented.
- Owl's Head is a unique historic community in Des Moines that has over 100 years of stories to tell. This book would highlight the people, architecture, and traditions that make it an important treasure in Des Moines. Many of the long-term residents are starting to move away and our goal is to capture the information they have to share before it is lost.

- The book would be self-published with a company such as Lulu.com that prints on demand and would sell the book at the price it costs to publish the book. Therefore, no revenue would be generated by the book.

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

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Approval of a grant agreement if the application is successful.

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