


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-141	Meeting:	March 22, 2021
	Agenda Item:	20	Roll Call:	21-0463
	Submitted by:	Erin Olson-Douglas, Development Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving a fiscal year (FY) 2021 State of Iowa Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Agreement to partially fund the development of a City-wide historic preservation plan and authorizing the City Manager to issue a request for proposals (RFP) seeking professional services to assist in the endeavor.

SYNOPSIS:

Historic preservation is a key component in the City's efforts to strengthen neighborhoods and revitalize downtown. Des Moines last prepared a City-wide historic preservation plan in 1995. Much progress has been made in implementing this plan and much has changed in Des Moines over the past 26 years. As a result, a new effort is needed for the City to continue to move forward in a manner that acknowledges, takes advantage of, and protects the City's historic resources. The State of Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has awarded the City a \$25,000 CLG Grant to assist in the development of a new plan. Goal CCN24 of "PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow" identifies the development of a new City-wide historic preservation plan as an implementation activity. A consultant would be selected to facilitate this effort.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$80,000 (\$25,000 CLG Grant and \$55,000 City match)

Funding Source: State of Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and DS001000/521020

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- This effort would be managed by the Planning and Urban Design Division who would oversee all work of the selected consultant and would ensure that successful communication and public input occur throughout the process. An advisory committee comprised of City officials, associated professionals, Des Moines Historic Preservation Commission members, representatives of partner organizations, and community leaders would provide guidance and support. Members of the Des Moines Historic Preservation Commission would assist with community outreach and provide substantial input throughout the process. A variety of input opportunities including focus groups, digital surveys, meetings with partner organizations and neighborhood associations would be used.

- A qualified consultant who meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications would be hired to undertake this project. They are expected to be knowledgeable of historic preservation planning principles and have experience developing citywide preservation plans. Familiarity with both traditional best practices and innovative solutions that have been developed in similar communities are skills that would be sought. A demonstrated commitment to inclusivity, experience engaging diverse audiences via multiple communication strategies/languages, and the ability to strengthen existing partnerships and activate new ones is expected. The selected consultant would be expected to advise and incorporate topics currently at the forefront of historic preservation planning. These include accessory dwelling/commercial units, conservation districts, substantiality, archaeology, and emerging discussions surrounding cultural criteria as a basis for historic designation and protection.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: April 25, 2016

Roll Call Number: [16-0717](#)

Action: [On](#) City-initiated request to consider adoption of “PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow” as an amendment to the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Moved by Hensley to adopt the plan as presented; refer to the City Manager for review and recommendation regarding: 1. Goal for the City to become carbon neutral by 2040. 2. Reconvening a citizen Sustainability Task Force. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Approval of a contract with the selected consultant and adoption of the finalized plan as an element of PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow.

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