


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	22-487	Meeting:	October 24, 2022
	Agenda Item:	62	Roll Call:	22-1697
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 82, Article VI of the Municipal Code eliminating the Neighborhood Revitalization Board and transitioning to the Neighborhood Outreach Advisory Committee.

SYNOPSIS:

The duties and responsibilities of the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) have significantly changed following the Neighborhood Revitalization Program evaluation, completed by czbLLC, in 2018, and the inception of Invest DSM, Inc. in 2019. In April 2020, City Council considered a recommendation to either change the purpose of or dissolve the NRB. It was decided that action would be tabled and re-evaluated once the Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator position was filled. The recent launch of resources available to neighborhood associations provides an opportunity to transition from the NRB to the Neighborhood Outreach Advisory Committee, a nimble advisory committee strongly rooted in and primarily focused on strengthening Des Moines' neighborhood associations. Current NRB members are invited to continue participation.

This transition seeks to strike Chapter 82, Article VI – Neighborhood Revitalization Policy, Sections 82-246 through 82-249, from the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, and create an Advisory Committee within the Neighborhood Services Department. Additional Municipal Code amendments include removing references to the NRB in Chapter 2, Article V, Division 6, Section 2-923(3); Chapter 2, Article VI, footnotes(7); Chapter 82, Article VII, Section 82-278(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i); and Chapter 90, Article II, Section 90-31(b).

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- In 1989, consultants Stockard & Engler, Inc. created a report titled, “Housing Improvement and Neighborhood Revitalization,” which was the beginning of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and NRB. The NRB was added to the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines.
- In 2016, City Council and staff determined an updated evaluation and recommendations for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program were necessary to incorporate and reflect the adoption and implementation of the Des Moines Strategic Plan 2015–2030 (GuideDSM), and the comprehensive plan PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow.

- In June 2017, the City Council accepted a proposal from czbLLC, in which czbLLC was to provide an updated framework for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. In June 2018, City Council received a report prepared by czbLLC regarding the strategies for neighborhood work.
- City Council approved the creation of Invest DSM, Inc. in June 2019. In August 2019, the City of Des Moines, Polk County, and Invest DSM, Inc. entered into an intergovernmental 28E Agreement for the purposes of coordinating the implementation of neighborhood revitalization plans through Invest DSM, Inc.
- When the NRB started in the early 1990s, there was a robust Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and allocation process that included a decision-making retreat by the Board. There was a perception that this extensive process was a requirement of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which is the agency that distributes CDBG funds; this process was not a requirement of HUD. Over time, the City streamlined its allocation process to have fewer subrecipients with higher allocation amounts to reduce administrative burden. In addition, Neighborhood Revitalization was removed as a focus from the use of federal funds because it was now the responsibility of InvestDSM, Inc. As a result, the NRB's involvement with CDBG and other federal funds naturally dwindled.
- On April 29, 2020, a Council workshop was held to discuss the future of the NRB. At that time, it was decided to wait for the position of the Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator to be filled and launch the new Neighborhood Association Toolkit, training, and resources.
- Transitioning the NRB to the Neighborhood Outreach Advisory Committee allows an opportunity to create a nimble committee strongly rooted in and primarily focused on strengthening Des Moines' neighborhood associations while building deeper engagement among residents, businesses, community partners, and the City of Des Moines.
- The responsibilities of the Neighborhood Outreach Advisory Committee are:
 - To provide current knowledge, critical thinking, and analysis on neighborhood association programming efforts including the Neighborhood Association Toolkit, training, and funding.
 - Provide feedback for additional activities in the Neighborhood Services Department, including code enforcement and Improving Our Neighborhoods, as needed.
 - Act as an ambassador to the neighborhoods to increase awareness of the Neighborhood Services Department's activities and partnership with the neighborhoods.
 - Support neighborhood associations through the Neighborhood Recognition Policy.
- The Neighborhood Outreach Advisory Committee is a departmental advisory committee. Committee members volunteer for service; also, committee members are not Council-appointed, but Council may direct potential committee members to the Neighborhood Services Director.
- Qualifications for service include:
 - Must represent a recognized neighborhood association in compliance with the Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

- Currently or recently served in a leadership role for a neighborhood association.
 - Must be a resident of Des Moines or own a property or business in Des Moines.
 - Must commit to one (1) year (12 months) of service.
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- A maximum of 13 members may serve on the Neighborhood Outreach Advisory Committee, with a limit of one (1) committee member per neighborhood association. Additionally, a minimum of two (2) and no more than four (4) neighborhood associations will be represented per ward. Of the committee members, 50% shall represent neighborhood associations within a census tract where at least 51% of the residents are low- or moderate-income persons with representation evenly distributed among wards.
 - Current NRB members are encouraged to participate.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 19, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-1346](#)

Action: [Intergovernmental](#) 28E Agreement between the City of Des Moines, Polk County and Invest DSM, Inc. ([Council Communication No. 19-376](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: September 24, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-1617](#)

Action: [Authorizing](#) redesign of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, including: A. Selecting four (4) pilot target areas for planning and revitalization work. B. Approving professional services agreement with czbLLC. ([Council Communication No. 18-490](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion carried 7-0.

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

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