



Date October 19, 2020

RESOLUTION APPROVING TEMPORARY AMENDMENT TO NEIGHBORHOOD RECOGNITION POLICY

WHEREAS, on May 24, 1993, by Roll Call No. 93-2026, the City Council approved the Neighborhood Recognition Policy (the "Policy") which establishes procedures for the formal recognition of neighborhood associations by the City of Des Moines, and authorizes Recognized neighborhoods to advise the City on issues of concern; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2020, by Roll Call No. 20-235, the City Council approved amendments to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy to incorporate boundary change provisions for Recognized neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) and City staff evaluated challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on neighborhood associations to hold in-person member and Board meetings; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2020, the Neighborhood Revitalization Board unanimously voted to recommend approval of temporary amendment to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy and forward such recommendation to the City Council, which amendments and recommendation are attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:

- 1. That the attached communication from the Neighborhood Revitalization Board is hereby received and filed.
2. That the amendment to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy, as attached hereto, are hereby approved, and the Neighborhood Revitalization Board and City staff are directed and authorized to administer said Policy in accordance with said amendments.

(Council Communication No. 20-456)

MOVED by \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt.



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

17

Date October 19, 2020

FORM APPROVED:

Judy K. Parks-Kruse
Judy K. Parks-Kruse, Assistant City Attorney

Table with 5 columns: COUNCIL ACTION, YEAS, NAYS, PASS, ABSENT. Rows include COWNIE, BOESEN, GATTO, GRAY, MANDELBAUM, VOSS, WESTERGAARD, and TOTAL.

CERTIFICATE

I, P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

Mayor

City Clerk



**Community Development Department  
Neighborhood Revitalization Board  
Memorandum**

To: Des Moines Recognized Neighborhood Associations  
From: Chris Johansen, Community Development Director  
c/o the Des Moines Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB)  
Cc: Scott Sanders, City Manager  
Date: October 12, 2020  
Re: Neighborhood Recognition Requirements During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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At their meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Des Moines Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) discussed the challenges that Recognized neighborhood associations have been facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. For many neighborhood associations, the pandemic has made it difficult to conduct routine business such as monthly meetings and annual board elections.

The NRB and staff from the City of Des Moines Community Development Department recognize these challenges and are willing to temporarily ease some of the requirements set forth in the City’s Neighborhood Recognition Policy. The NRB has made the following recommendation:

Until the World Health Organization has stated that the COVID-19 pandemic is over, and in person meetings are deemed safe, the following changes to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy shall be in effect:

- 1) The minimum of four (4) general neighborhood association meetings per year shall be waived. If neighborhood associations can continue to meet via video/audio conferencing, such as Zoom, they are free to do so.
- 2) Election and/or appointment of officers shall be suspended and current officers shall continue in their board positions, thus temporarily waiving any and all term limit requirements.
- 3) Any changes and/or expansions to neighborhood boundaries are temporarily suspended.

Sincerely,

**Chris Johansen**  
Director, Community Development Department  
City of Des Moines