



Memo

Department of Planning & Housing

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Planning and Housing

DATE: December 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Request to Amend the Agreement with William C. Page for Preparation of the 2008 Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan to Allow a Time Extension for the Date of Completion.

On June 20, 2007, the State Historical Society of Iowa notified the City of Ames that a Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) Grant, in the amount of \$30,000, had been awarded to the City for preparation of the 2008 Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan. The HRDP grant contract specifies that the preparation of the preservation plan must be complete by October 31, 2009.

On July 24, 2007, William C. Page was hired as the consultant to prepare the plan. Consultant fees and expenses in the preparation of the 2008 Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan are funded by the \$30,000 HRDP grant.

The original completion date for the project was October 1, 2008. On September 23, 2008, the City Council approved a resolution amending the Agreement by extending the completion date for the project from October 1, 2008 to December 15, 2008. The time period specified in the Agreement with William C. Page for preparation of the 2008 Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan has now expired. At this time, Mr. Page has submitted a request (see attached letter) for a time extension to complete preparation of the plan. This requires approval by the City Council to amend the Agreement with Mr. Page. **The requested time extension would change the date of project completion from December 15, 2008 to October 30, 2009, which is the deadline under the grant to complete the plan.** Mr. Page states in his letter that it has become clear that the formulation of goals and objectives for the Ames preservation plan requires more time than was originally allocated for it. In addition, Mr. Page states that the flood of 2008 has set him behind in his work.

The budget for the project includes a total of \$46,393. Consultant wages and expenses of \$30,000 are covered by the HRDP grant funds. City staff wages account for \$10,735 of the project cost. Photocopying, and miscellaneous expenses for postage, focus group materials, photography, etc. account for \$1,000 from the City of Ames budget, and \$4,658 of the project cost is an in-kind contribution of volunteer time devoted to preparation of the plan.

The Steering Committee for the project consists of eight members which represent the Ames development community, the Iowa State University student body, Ames Smart Growth, the Ames Downtown Cultural District, West Ames, the South Campus Area, and the community at large. The Steering Committee met with the consultant on December 1, 2008, and discussed the need for an

extension of time to complete the project. **The committee was supportive of adding whatever amount of additional time is needed to complete the project** and believes it is important to formulate specific goals and objectives that are supported by the community, the Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council before moving forward with the other elements of plan preparation. To accomplish this, the Steering Committee is now in the process of refining goals and objectives for the plan, with the intention of forwarding a draft to the Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council for review and comment.

Elements of the Preservation Plan are to include the following:

- A statement of Ames' community-wide preservation goals;
- A definition of historic character within Ames;
- A summary of Ames' past preservation efforts and the preservation context for the plan;
- An outline for historic resource surveys of Ames;
- An explanation of the legal basis for historic preservation within the city;
- A section integrating preservation in Ames with zoning, land use, and growth management;
- A definition of public-sector responsibilities within Ames;
- Incentives for historic preservation and adaptive reuse in Ames;
- An articulation of the relationship between Ames' preservation efforts and AHPC preservation education initiatives; and
- An agenda for future action on the part of the AHPC and the City of Ames.

Mr. Page states in the attached letter that he has conducted a number of workshops to solicit public input concerning historic preservation and is currently in the process of completing major pieces of the written text for the plan. These include the legal basis for preservation planning and a series of historic contexts, which identify geographic areas in Ames worthy of consideration for preservation.

The State Historic Preservation Office will allow an amendment to the Agreement between the City of Ames and William C. Page to extend the amount of time needed to complete the project, provided the project is completed within the time constraints for the grant, which ends on October 31, 2009.

Given the fact that the contract period for completion of the project expired on December 15, 2008, and yet the project is not yet completed, it is necessary that the City Council grant a time extension for the consultant to complete the project. The Steering Committee and the State Historic Preservation Office are supportive of a time extension to complete the project. Therefore, to provide an opportunity to complete the project and follow through on the commitment the City has made through the HRDP grant, the City Manager recommends that the City Council grant the time extension for project completion to October 30, 2009.

RDA\clh

WILLIAM C. PAGE

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December 11, 2008

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City Hall
City of Ames
Ames, IA 50010

Re: 2008 Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan

Dear Mayor and City Council:

This writing requests an extension to complete the above referenced project. Our current contract for this work calls for its completion by December 15, 2008.

Over the course of this project, it has become clear that the formulation of goals and objectives for the Ames preservation plan requires more time than was originally allocated for it. I must also add that the flood of 2008 set me behind in my work.

To date, I have conducted a number of workshops to solicit public input concerning historic preservation. I am currently in the process of completing major pieces of the written text for the plan, including the legal basis for preservation planning and a series of historic contexts, which identify geographic areas in Ames worthy of consideration for preservation. The Steering Committee for the project is now in the process of refining goals and objectives for the plan, with the intention of forwarding them, in draft format, to the Ames City Council and other interested boards and commission for review and comment.

Because this requires time, I respectfully request that you extend the completion date of this project from December 15, 2008 to October 30, 2009. Please note that the grant-in-aid from the State Historical Society of Iowa, the funding agent for this project, permits such an extension for the date of its completion, and that this schedule falls within the grant's allowable time frame.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ William C. Page
Public Historian