



Memo

Department of Planning & Housing

*Caring People
Quality
Programs*

Item #1

TO: Mayor and Ames City Council Members
FROM: Department of Planning and Housing
DATE: May 20, 2019
SUBJECT: Joint Meeting of the City Council and Historic Preservation Commission

The Joint Meeting is being requested in response to the City Council's 2018 Goal to:

- *Promote a Sense of One Community*
 - *Ensure boards and commissions are addressing important community issues (including, but not limited to diversity and inclusion).*
 - Task 1 – *The City Council will review the current activities of the Human Relations Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, and Campus and Community Commission.*

Attached to this memo are several pages extracted from the 2018 CLG (Certified Local Government) Annual Report (sent to the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs in February 2019). This material will provide a good summation of historic preservation activities in 2018 and goals for 2019.

Additionally, we are including a link to the Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan. The Plan was adopted in 2009. <https://www.cityofames.org/home/showdocument?id=50794>

ATTACHMENT A (from the 2018 CLG Report)

5. Did your city, county, LUD or its historic preservation commission undertake any of the following activities in 2018? Please think broadly about this question and include any activity (small or large) that facilitated historic preservation in your community. This is your opportunity to boast about your accomplishments and get credit for the great work you do! (use additional pages if needed)
- a. Historic preservation planning. Examples include the development or revision of a preservation plan, development of a work plan for your commission, etc. (use additional pages if needed)
- **In 2018, the Ames City Council funded the Ames Historical Society \$41,300 for the following contracted services:**
 - **Presented 50 presentations and open houses, to be hosted at the Ames History Center and in locations throughout the community;**
 - **Took the history trailer to 15 community events or elementary school visits;**
 - **Responded to no fewer than 300 research requests;**
 - **Hosted at least 1500 public open hours (30 hours per week) at the Ames History Center, with at least 1500 visitors;**
 - **Cataloged at least 750 historical Ames collections objects;**
 - **Presented 7 new exhibits; and**
 - **Collaborated with no fewer than 3 partnering community organizations to conduct special projects, host events, and/or present programs.**
 - **In 2018, the Ames City Council approved a fiscal year 2018/19 budget of \$2000 for historic preservation activities. The funding is to be used for training and conferences for members of the Ames Historic Preservation Commission, as well as for the Historic Preservation Annual Awards Program, tours, brochures and other educational programs.**
 - **The Historic Preservation Commission is continuing the process of reviewing the 10-year Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan, adopted in November, 2009.**
- b. Provided technical assistance on historic preservation issues or projects. Examples include working with individual property owners, business owners, institutions to identify appropriate treatments and find appropriate materials, research advice, etc. Please be specific (use additional pages if needed).
- **Effective May 10, 2018, the Ames Main Street Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The recommendation for the listing came from both the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Mayor and City Council.**
 - **Members of the Ames Historic Preservation Commission and City staff met with the individual owners of property in the Old Town Historic District to review applications for the construction of new front porches, repair of front entry gable and porch roof,**

exterior siding repair and painting, brick foundation restoration, window alterations and rehabilitation of an existing garage. Certificates of Appropriateness were issued by the Commission for those projects. City staff also approved Certificates of Appropriateness for window alterations and a new entryway.

g. Sponsored public educational programming in historic preservation. Examples include training sessions offered to the public, walking tours, open houses, lectures, Preservation Month activities, etc. (use additional pages if needed).

- On April 24, 2018, the City Council made a proclamation in observance of May National Historic Preservation Month.
- The 2018 Annual Historic Preservation Awards Program was held in January-February, but program resulted in no awards for 2018.
- The following 6 people attended FORUM 2018 in Des Moines, Iowa, held on July 18-22, 2018:
 - Gloria Betcher, Ames City Council (Gloria was a presenter at the conference);
 - Lisa Hovis, Ames Historic Preservation Commission;
 - Edith Hunter, Ames Historic Preservation Commission;
 - Peter Hallock, Ames Historic Preservation Commission;
 - Ted Grevstad Nordbrock, Ames Historic Preservation Commission (Ted was a presenter at the conference); and,
 - Ray Anderson, City Staff Liaison to the Ames Historic Preservation Commission

8. Are there any particular issues, challenges, and/or successes your preservation commission has encountered or accomplished this year? (use additional pages if needed).

Successes-

- The City of Ames continues to provide funding to the Ames Historical Society for a variety of services including education and research.
- The City of Ames had excellent representation from Ames at FORUM 2018 in Des Moines: 6 attendees and 2 presenters.
- The Ames Main Street Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Granting Certificates of Appropriateness. Review of applications resulted in 7 Certificates of Appropriateness being issued.

Challenges-

- Use of the Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan as a working document.
- Offering a robust website as a tool for public awareness about historic preservation and its economic benefits

13. Each commission should develop a work plan for the coming year. This work plan should include the project(s), initiatives and programs you plan to begin or complete. Please attach your work plan to your annual report.

2019 WORK PLAN

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC CONCERNING THE VALUE AND BENEFIT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- Facilitate the dissemination of historic preservation information
 - Update the HPC webpage on the City's Website to make it a robust tool for public awareness about historic preservation in Ames and its economic benefits
 - Update National Historic Registration Listing
 - Include pertinent data and links for information on preservation grants and financial incentives for historic preservation
 - Showcase previous HPC Award winners
 - Provide links to resource materials
 - Add Map of Old Town Historic District contributing properties
 - What does a contributing property mean?
 - Collaborate with the Ames Historical Society and Iowa State University on resources and possible joint projects
 - Explore new ways to involve Iowa State University students in historic preservation for the community
- Continue with training funding and developing educational resources about Ames history & historic resources.
 - Participate in networking and educational opportunities afforded by the Preserve Iowa Summit 2019, June 6-8 in Newton.
 - Have a strong presence in attendance from Ames
- Continue Historic Preservation Commission Annual Awards Program.
- Continue to recognize May as Preservation Month with a City Proclamation.

PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND VITALITY OF THE CITY THROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

- Partner with Ames Main Street to offer a presentation on the use of tax credits available for properties in both the Old Town Historic District and the Ames Main Street Historic District.
- Continuing granting Certificates of Appropriateness in a timely manner. Make resources readily available to enable the public to be more aware and compliance more easily with design standards.

COMPLETE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 31 OF THE AMES MUNICIPAL CODE, REVISED IN 2014.

- Identify if current procedures are working well
- Any areas of concern? If so, convey in a Memo to the City Council

CONTINUE TO USE THE AMES COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN AS A WORKING DOCUMENT

- Determine the status of goals, objectives and action steps
- Prioritize unrealized goals, objectives and actions steps
- Monitor progress of the development of the Ames Plan 2040