

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: APPLICATION TO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR PRESERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP GRANT ON MASONRY RESTORATION

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Paula Mohr, State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Coordinator, has contacted the City of Ames and the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to inform us that there is a surplus of **\$5,000 in CLG Grant money available for 2009-10. She is requesting that Ames and Mt. Vernon apply for these funds (\$2,500 for each community) to sponsor a one-day preservation training workshop in each community on the topic of "masonry restoration".** The workshops are to be conducted in spring 2010. Dr. Mohr is interested in Ames as one of the host cities since it is centrally located, is home to Iowa State University, and is a recent recipient of the Main Street Iowa designation. This would be the first time a single CLG grant is awarded to more than one community.

Gloria Betcher, Chairperson of the HPC, is requesting authorization of the City Council for City staff and the HPC to apply for the CLG grant funding and to explore the possibility of **partnering with the Iowa State University Department of Architecture** to host one of these masonry workshops. In order for us to receive a grant to host a workshop, Ames would need to submit a CLG grant application for \$2,500 in grant funds, agree to a 40% match (cash and/or in-kind), and go through the grant administration process. The deadline for submission of such a grant application is July 31, 2009.

Ms. Betcher is willing to write the grant application and serve as the grant administrator/project coordinator if the City Council approves the City's involvement in the project. It is anticipated that the grant would be awarded in August, and planning for the workshop would begin immediately. The grant project would be completed as of June 30, 2010, with reimbursement to the City for the \$2,500 of grant funds. Ames would be responsible for providing a 40% match of our share of the grant funds. The required match for the City of Ames would be \$1,000 (.40 x \$2,500). Mt. Vernon would also be required to match the \$2,500 grant they receive with \$1,000 of cash, or in-kind contributions. To cover the cost of speakers for the workshop, it may be necessary for the City of Ames and the CLG organization in Mt. Pleasant to each contribute as much as \$1,500 in cash to supplement the in-kind match of \$1,000. The in-kind match could easily be met through documentation of volunteer time and the time of Gloria Betcher in coordinating the workshop sessions in Ames. The actual distribution of the CLG money may change as the details of the grant are worked out. In any case, the total

cash match required of the City of Ames would amount to no more than \$1,500. It is anticipated that the majority of the local match would be in-kind donations of time and facilities if we are able to partner with the Iowa State University Department of Architecture in this endeavor. **However, before the HPC can approach any outside entities, the City Council would need to approve our involvement in this grant process through this authorization to apply for the CLG grant.** Tom Leslie, a member of the Historic Preservation Commission, is a Professor in the Iowa State Department of Architecture, and would serve as the coordinator for any workshop involvement by his department.

These one-day workshops would be held in different parts of the state (potentially in Mt. Vernon and Ames) and be aimed at a wide audience of professionals and non-professionals interested in preservation, including communities that have been designated as Certified Local Governments, Main Street Districts, building owners, masonry contractors, architects, students, Historic Tax Credit applicants, and grant applicants (especially those seeking Historic Resource Development Program). Ideally, the workshops would encompass several masonry materials, such as stone, brick, and/or terra cotta, and would incorporate a variety of formats, including lecture, hands-on exploration, and tours of historic resources where masonry work has been done or is needed. The same set of sessions would be repeated in each city so that preservationists from around the state would be able to attend a workshop closer to home.

It is anticipated that Ray Anderson, Planner, would represent City staff in the planning for this one-day workshop. He and Gloria Betcher would work together with representatives of Mt. Pleasant to plan the workshop sessions, select a venue, secure speakers, advertise, and register participants. **The commitment of time by City staff would be limited, since Gloria Betcher would be the grant administrator/project coordinator.** Sponsors for the workshop may include the City of Ames, Iowa State University Department of Architecture, Ames Main Street/Cultural District organization, the Certified Local Government organization for Mt. Pleasant, and the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance.

It is anticipated that the workshop session for Ames may be held on campus at Iowa State to involve ISU students, faculty, and conference facilities. Iowa State students in a class taught by Gloria Betcher would likely develop the brochure for the workshop. Much of the advertising for the workshop would be done electronically through e-mail lists of various local and state-wide organizations. **Preliminary discussions with the Ames Main Street and Cultural District organization indicate that they may be willing to handle registrations for the workshop, and potentially be involved in sessions, or tours of masonry buildings in Ames.** A lunch would be provided for conference participants, the cost of which would be covered by a minimal registration fee. Speakers involved in workshop sessions would include local experts, as well as, others throughout Iowa and possibly the Midwest.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can:
 - A. Authorize up to \$1,500 from the Council's Contingency Account to sponsor the Preservation Planning Workshop on Masonry Restoration; and,
 - B. Authorize City staff to submit the CLG grant application to the State Historical Society of Iowa to fund the Preservation Planning Workshop on Masonry Restoration.
2. The City Council can decide not to authorize City staff to submit the CLG grant application to the State Historical Society of Iowa to fund the Preservation Planning Workshop on Masonry Restoration.
3. The City Council can refer the CLG grant request back to City staff for additional information.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

A workshop on the topic of "masonry restoration" is very timely given the community's emphasis on the preservation and restoration of brick buildings in the downtown through the Iowa Main Street Program. It would also provide opportunities for partnering with the Ames Main Street/Cultural District organization and Iowa State University, which is a City Council priority. There is an increasing emphasis, interest and involvement in historic preservation in Ames, which is placing significant demands on City staff time. In this case, however, the application for a CLG grant from the Iowa State Historical Society would be prepared by Gloria Betcher, Chairperson of the Ames Historic Preservation Commission, and submitted by City staff.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that Council adopt Alternative #1, thereby approving up to \$1,500 from the Council's Contingency Account and authorizing City staff to submit the CLG grant application to the State Historical Society of Iowa to fund the Preservation Planning Workshop on Masonry Restoration.