

ITEM #: 8
DATE: 12-12-23
DEPT: P&H

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) GRANT APPLICATION TO IEDA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE TO FUND NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR CHAUTAUQUA PARK & RIDGEWOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT

BACKGROUND:

On October 24, 2023, the City Council reviewed a staff report for pursuit of a grant application for a Chautauqua Park-Ridgewood Historic District nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Members of the neighborhood had requested City Council initiate a nomination of their recently surveyed neighborhood. Council directed staff to prepare a grant application in 2023/24 and upon notice of grant award, to implement the project in FY 2024/25. **The intent of the grant request is for financial assistance to hire a qualified historic consultant to prepare the nomination forms.**

Staff has completed the draft application and is now requesting authorization to submit it to the Iowa Economic Development Authority, State Historic Preservation Office (See Attachment A). The deadline for the Fall Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant period is December 15, 2023.

The Certified Local Government grant program is open only to Iowa cities, counties and land use districts that have signed a Certified Local Government Agreement with the State of Iowa and National Park Service. In addition, in order to be eligible to apply for this grant opportunity, the CLG must be in good standing and current in their submission of Iowa CLG annual reports.

The proposed project is to complete a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Chautauqua Park - Ridgewood Historic District. The City of Ames completed a survey in 2022 and determined that the area retains its historic contextual significance and integrity as per National Register standards. The proposed district includes 150 single-family properties located in Ames, between 6th & 13th Streets, and between Ioway Creek [& Brookside Park] & the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Successful listing of the neighborhood on the National Register does not in and of itself establish any specific preservation standards; it is solely a recognition of its historic status.

The City of Ames is listed as the recipient of the grant and would administer the grant. The majority of work would be completed by a consultant who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines – Professional Qualification Standards for historic preservation practice under 36 CFR Part 61 (History and/or Architectural History areas). **The grant request of \$12,000 would fund the majority of the consultant's fee. The City's obligation is a 40% local match. The match includes an estimated \$4,000 to supplement the consultant's fee and \$6,000 in staff time for administrative costs. Funding would be included within the adjusted Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget as match to the grant.**

Grant recipients are expected to be announced in March 2024. After the notice of award, a formal grant agreement between the City and the State is required; this would likely occur in April 2024. If awarded, the project would start after execution of the grant agreement and notice to proceed is received. However, consultant services would not begin until the start of the new fiscal year (July 1, 2024).

Submittal of the final nomination for review by the State Nominations Review Committee (SNRC) would occur in spring 2025. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places, by the National Park Service would likely not occur until December 2025, if approved.

A copy of the CLG Grant Application is included as Attachment 'A'.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter approving the grant application and the City's commitment to the match noted on the budget page.
2. Do not pursue the grant opportunity for the project.
3. Refer the CLG grant application back to City staff for additional information and/or changes. Note that with this option, the December 15th Grant Deadline would be missed.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The application for a 2024 CLG grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority, State Historical Preservation Office has been prepared by City Planning staff. Staff has submitted the draft for review by SHPO and incorporated their preliminary comments. The grant application is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan and with the HPC 2023 Work Plan. The grant requires a 40% match. The City's obligation for the match will be a combination of cash and staff time.

If the City is awarded the grant by the State of Iowa, the grant agreement would then be placed on the agenda for Council action in March or April 2024 for acceptance and final approval. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Ames CLG Grant application.pdf](#)