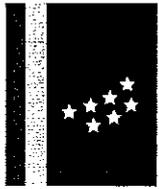


DURHAM



1869
CITY OF MEDICINE

CITY OF DURHAM | DURHAM COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA



Date: August 1, 2011

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager

Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager

From: Steven L. Medlin, AICP, City-County Planning Director

Subject: Grant Project Ordinance – Historic Preservation Fund Grant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve L. Medlin".

Summary. The City of Durham has been awarded a Historic Preservation Fund Grant to update the listing for the Downtown Durham District on the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommendation. The Planning staff recommends that the City Council adopt the Grant Project Ordinance.

Background. Each year the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, through the State Historic Preservation Office, accepts applications for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Pass-Through Grant program. The HPF is a federal program administered by the National Parks Service of the United States Department of the Interior. The grants are limited to Certified Local Governments (CLG), although the CLG may apply on behalf of a non-profit or educational institution. Local matching funds are required, but may be supplied by the partnering non-profit agency or private donor.

In February 2011, with the unanimous endorsement of the Durham Historic Preservation Commission, a grant application was submitted to update the Downtown Durham Historic District listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In April 2011 the Planning Department was notified that the Commission had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,200 to be matched locally with \$4,800 committed by the ReVamp, Inc. The total \$12,000 project budget was approved for the retention of a historic preservation consultant to amend the original 1977 National Register nomination for the Downtown Durham District to extend the period of significance to end in the early 1960s. The consultant will be selected jointly with the State Historic Preservation Office through a Request for Proposals process.

The current National Register district has afforded many property owners the opportunity to take advantage of rehabilitation tax credits. Expanding the period of significance for the district will allow more properties to take advantage of this financial incentive for restoring properties. The update recognizes that many properties that were originally listed as non-contributing, either because they were built after the period of significance or because inappropriate alterations were made to the historic buildings, are in their own right significant and contribute to the unique character of the district. The update will reclassify restored buildings whose facades were formerly obscured by "modernizing" siding treatments and several International Style buildings, just now reaching the 50 year mark.

Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
August 1, 2011

Issues. The local matching funds for this grant, totaling \$4,800, are being donated by ReVamp, Inc., a local development company. Upon adoption of the grant project ordinance, the City must receive these funds and hold them as the local match portion for this project.

Since the HPF functions as a reimbursement grant, the grant project ordinance is set up for the total grant amount as opposed to solely the local match amount. This will allow the City to encumber the full amount of the grant and be reimbursed in accordance with the grant/match ratio and a time-product-payment schedule to be developed with the selected consultant.

The HPF grant has a federally mandated deadline of August 31, 2011, with no option to extend. The City will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the preparation of the district update. The successful proposer will be required to complete all work for the updated nomination process and submit it to the State Historic Preservation Office by August 17, 2012. The timeframe is adequate to complete the project.

Fiscal Impact. No financial impacts are anticipated as part of this project since the local matching grant funds are being donated by a private entity. No City funds will be required to fulfill the matching grant obligations.

SDBE Impact. While there are no SDBE participation goals for this project, in accordance with the Ordinance, all contractors are required to provide information requested in the "SDBE Professional Services Forms" package, which was included with the RFP for this project.

Alternatives. The City Council could approve the grant project ordinance, approve the ordinance with changes or modifications, disapprove the ordinance, or delay action on this item.

Staff Contact. Sara M. Young, AICP, Planning Supervisor, 560-4137 ext. 28256, sara.young@durhamnc.gov

Attachments

Attachment 1, Historic Preservation Fund FY2012 Grant Project Ordinance