Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development

Date: August 30, 2004

TO: Council Member Barbara Johnson, Ways and Means/Budget Committee

Prepared by: Greg Mathis, Senior Planner, Phone 612-673-2439
Presenters in Committee: Greg Mathis, Senior Planner

Approved by: Barbara Sporlein, Director, Planning

Subject: Accept federal grant through MN Historical Society to allow Heritage Preservation Commissioners and staff to attend the 2004 Statewide Historic Preservation Conference and appropriate Planning Division budget

RECOMMENDATION:

1) Authorize acceptance of the federal Certified Local Government (CLG) grant, administered by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the MN Historical Society to allow Heritage Preservation Commissioners and staff to attend the 2004 Statewide Historic Preservation Conference.

2) Approve a resolution increasing the Planning Department appropriation (0600-890-8963) by $700 and increasing the revenue estimate (0600-890-8963-3215) by $700.

3) Authorize proper city officials to enter grant agreement with MN Historical Society.

Previous Directives: None

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

___ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

___ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
_X_ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
___ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
___ Action requires use of contingency or reserves
___ Other financial impact (Explain):
___ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Ward:
Neighborhood Notification:
City Goals:
Comprehensive Plan:
Zoning Code:
Living Wage/Job Linkage:
Other:

Background/Supporting Information

On September 23-24, 2004, the SHPO is holding its annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. At least one member of the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and all HPC staff are required to attend the conference in order for the City to maintain its status as a CLG. By maintaining this status, the City is able to apply for and receive federal CLG grants.

This year, one of the educational tracks being offered at the conference is the Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP). CAMP is an intensive, two-day training program offered by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. The program uses national experts to train preservation commissions on the framework of public preservation, legal issues and responsibilities, identification and protection of historic resources, design review and incentives, and on how to gain public support for preservation. The normal cost for this training is $3,500 + speaker expenses + $40/participant. However, SHPO is underwriting the cost of this program, so the total cost will be $75 per person. Consequently, this is an excellent opportunity for the HPC to receive specialized training at a greatly reduced cost.

In order to minimize costs, the Heritage Preservation Division of CPED Planning applied for and received a $700 CLG grant to cover the conference registration costs for staff and six HPC commissioners to attend the conference.