



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development

Date: February 28, 2011

To: Councilmember Betsy Hodges, Ways and Means/Budget Committee

Subject: **Accept Grant from the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, Appropriate Funds, and Accept Preferred Consultant for the development of new historic district design guidelines for the St Anthony Falls Historic District.**

Recommendation:

- a. Authorize City officers to accept a St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board grant in the amount of \$52,000 to be used for the development of historic district design guidelines for the St. Anthony Falls Historic District
- b. Amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Community Planning and Economic Development agency local grant fund (01600-8900420) by \$52,000.
- c. Increase the 2011 Revenue Budget for the Community Planning and Economic Development agency local grant fund (01600-8900420) by \$52,000.
- d. Authorize the appropriate City staff to execute grant, sub-recipient and/or disbursement and related agreements for these grants.
- e. Authorize City staff to enter into a contract with Winter & Company as the preferred consultant.

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Approved by: Jack Byers, Manager, Preservation & Design -Community Planning & Economic Development

Presenter in Committee: Brian Schaffer, Senior City Planner

Financial Impact

X Action requires an appropriation increase to the ___ Capital Budget or X Operating Budget

X Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

X Action is within the Business Plan

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification: The St. Anthony Falls Historic District covers portions of the North Loop, Downtown East, Downtown West, Marcy Holmes, Nicollet Island-East Bank, and St. Anthony West neighborhoods. The neighborhood organizations will be invited to participate in community advisory committee on the development of the design guidelines.
- City Goals: Jobs & Economic Vitality; Livable Communities, Healthy Lives; Eco-Focused; and A City That Works
- Comprehensive Plan: The development of new design guidelines for the St. Anthony Falls Historic District is consistent with the adopted framework in *The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth*, the city's Comprehensive Plan. It is supported by Policy 8.11 and implementation step 8.11.2 which state respectively: "Improve and adapt preservation regulations to recognize City goals, current preservation practices, and emerging historical contexts." "Revise existing historic district guidelines and require guidelines for all new local districts and landmarks."

Supporting Information

The City of Minneapolis applied for and was awarded a \$52,000 grant from the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board to develop new design guidelines for the St. Anthony Falls Historic District.

CPED is matching the grant with \$23,000 of in-kind staff contribution to the project.

The current St. Anthony Falls Historic District Design Guidelines were adopted by the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission in 1980. In the three decades since the existing design guidelines were adopted, the district has seen dramatic change. Access to and interaction with the falls and the river has evolved, infrastructure has been added, project plans have been developed and realized, and the understanding and knowledge of the historic resources in the district have increased. The field of preservation has also evolved from a disciplinary perspective. It is no longer sufficient to simply save and re-use a specific collection of historic buildings or properties. In order to create and sustain economically successful places, it has become critical to evaluate and carefully consider how entire environments function as a diverse, but unified cultural landscape.

The new guidelines will include guidance on the following:

- Archaeological sites and sites of specific cultural/historical significance
- Existing and new infrastructure; sites of specific engineering and transportation significance
- Natural features and open space
- Existing buildings and the construction of new buildings; sites of specific architectural significance

A Request for Proposals was issued on December 22, 2010 and remained open until January 27, 2011. A media release was prepared and distributed to news outlets to raise awareness of the RFP. To further increase awareness the RFP was distributed to several professional architecture, preservation, and planning organizations as well as other firms and organizations in compliance with city regulations.

Twelve proposals were received on January 27, 2011. A selection committee made up of representatives from CPED, the Minnesota Historical Society and other organizations advised CPED to hire a consulting team led by Winter & Company.

Winter & Company is a historic preservation and urban design firm located in Boulder, Colorado. Their team includes a local sub-consultant, Close Landscape Architecture. Winter & Company is a national expert in the field of preservation design guidelines and recently partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to write a book entitled "Developing Sustainability Guidelines for Historic Districts." In the last decade Winter & Company has been hired by numerous cities nationwide to help develop or update guidelines for their historic districts. They have a strong public participation method and cycle that CPED feels will be valuable in developing the design guidelines for the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. Likewise, Close Landscape Architecture has done several projects for the Minnesota Historical Society on various historic sites.