


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	24-125	Meeting:	March 18, 2024
	Agenda Item:	48	Roll Call:	24-0452
	Submitted by:	Cody Christensen, Development Services Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

An Ordinance to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, by amending Sections 82-336, 82-338, and 82-339, relating to the Urban Design Review Board (UDRB).

SYNOPSIS:

The Development Services Department is recommending amendments to Ordinance No. 13,827, to provide for greater consistency between the various boards and commissions that the department staffs and to improve efficiencies by streamlining the development review process.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The recommended amendments to the ordinance include:
 - Reducing the number of times the UDRB must review major projects from two (2) to one (1).
 - Simplifying what City projects the UDRB must review, which includes new construction or installation of buildings, parking facilities, and landscaping improvements to be owned or leased by the city and used for civic or municipal purposes with construction costs that exceed \$1 million.
 - Establishing the Economic Development Administrator, or their designee, as an ex officio, non-voting, member of the UDRB.
 - Removing the requirement for the UDRB to make recommendations on whether the level of financial assistance proposed for a specific individual project is reasonable and appropriate. This will continue to be conducted by the City's internal debt review committee, comprised of members from the City's Finance Department, City Manager's Office, and the Office of Economic Development. The UDRB will continue to be provided with details of the proposed financial assistance during the public review process for context in making recommendations on project designs.

- Removing the requirement for the Board to sit with the Historic Preservation Commission as the Landmark Review Board. This aligns with recommendations in Reflect DSM and will leave landmark review with the Historic Preservation Commission.
- Clarifying that all real estate development projects proposed to receive tax increment financing incentives shall be reviewed by the UDRB.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 7, 2002

Roll Call Number: 02-2443, 02-2444, 02-2445, 02-2446, 02-2447

Action: (A) Receive and file letter from the State Historical Society of Iowa regarding the City's regulation of Local Landmarks. Moved by Vlassis to receive and file. Motion Carried 6-1.

(B) Final consideration of ordinance creating a new Urban Design Review Board, and Skywalk Committee, to perform duties formerly performed by the Urban Development Board and Architectural Advisory Committee, (amended to delay effective date until quorum is appointed to the board). Moved by Coleman that this ordinance do now pass, and that the City Clerk withhold publication of this ordinance and Ordinance 14,135 until a quorum of members have been appointed to the Urban Design Review Board. Ordinance #14,147. Motion Carried 4-2-1. Nays: Cownie and Vlassis. Absent: McPherson.

(C) Assigning terms, qualifications and responsibility for appointment of members to the Urban Design Review Board and Skywalk Committee. Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 4-2-1. Nays: Cownie and Vlassis. Absent: McPherson.

(D) First consideration of ordinance changing the name of the Historic District Commission to Historic Preservation Commission and amending required qualification and training of its members. ([Council Communication No. 02-524](#)). Moved by Coleman that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Motion Carried 5-1-1. Nays: Vlassis. Absent: McPherson.

(E) Final consideration of ordinance above, (waiver requested by City Manager), requires 6 votes. Moved by Coleman that the rule requiring that ordinances must be considered, and voted on for passage at two council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, that the ordinance be placed upon its final passage and that the ordinance do now pass, [#14,148](#). Motion Carried 6-1.

Date: June 5, 2000

Roll Call Number: 00-1680

Action: On adoption of the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, 2000. Moved by Coleman that this ordinance do now pass, #13,827. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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