



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, FAICP, Community Development Services Director

DATE: March 24, 2011

SUBJECT: Certified Local Government Grant Awarded to City of Urbana for Historic Preservation Activity

Introduction

On February 24, 2011, the City of Urbana was awarded a \$5,908 Certified Local Government Grant from Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The grant is for the creation of an illustrated guide of the 100 most architecturally significant structures in Urbana. The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Division staff will guide a public process in determining which properties are most significant in terms of our community heritage and values. Upon completion this guide will be made available to the public in print and on line. The intent of this project is to create a pro-active preservation program by encouraging landmark designation of Urbana's most significant structures.

Background

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) administers the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant program on behalf of the Federal government. Communities that have achieved CLG status under the National Historic Preservation Act are encouraged to apply for Federal grant funds made available through IHPA that are specifically earmarked for local grants in the areas of public preservation and development. The grants are awarded on a matching basis with Federal funds paying for up to 70 percent of the project cost and local funds making up the remainder. The projects must relate to historic preservation and can include planning, public education workshops and heritage publications, National Register of Historic Places property listings, and developments. Only Certified Local Governments may apply for the grants.

The City of Urbana has applied for CLG grants on a regular basis since 2006. The following is a history of Urbana's grant applications and awards:

- 2006 \$1,470 Stucco Workshop
To fund a workshop on historic stucco houses, using the locally designated Buena Vista Historic District as a model. The workshop included a session on historic stucco repair techniques.
- 2007 \$3,150 Historic Wood Window Repair Workshop
To fund a day-long workshop with a lecture and demonstration by Robert Yapp, a nationally-recognized preservation expert. His hands-on, multi-media presentation will address the proper care and repair of windows in historic structures, as well as working with lead paint in historic properties.
- 2008 \$1,198 Royer Arts & Architecture District Brochure
To defray the cost of creating and printing brochures for the then newly-created Joseph W Royer Arts and Architecture District. The district is dedicated to the arts and the celebration of the city's historic and architectural heritage.
- 2009 \$4,256 Historic House "Unveiling" Workshop
To fund a day-long historic house "unveiling" workshop, where volunteers removed the aluminum siding from a circa 1902 Queen Anne house. The event included a session teaching the volunteers how to remove non-original siding as well as a house painting workshop.
- 2010 The City of Urbana applied for but did not receive a grant to create an illustrated guide of the 100 most architecturally significant structures in Urbana.

Discussion

The grant award is intended to be part of a pro-active preservation program. The Urbana Mayor and City Council held a study session in July 2010 on historic preservation and asked Jim Peters, the president and chief executive officer of Landmarks Illinois, the statewide preservation advocacy organization, to speak on the advantages and benefits of historic preservation. Mr. Peters stressed the importance of having a pro-active preservation program. This project would allow the City of Urbana to begin that process.

The Historic Preservation Commission will work with Urbana planning staff to identify the 100 structures that best represent Urbana's architectural history. The buildings will be selected based on criteria, such as integrity and best representation of an architectural style, to be determined by the Historic Preservation Commission.

The City of Urbana's Historic Resource Survey Inventory includes 1,646 properties. Almost all of these properties have been surveyed either as part of the City's historic resource survey program or as part of one of the other studies or surveys identifying significant structures in Urbana over the years, including *100 Houses of Urbana* (1961), *Illinois Historic Structures*

Survey (1975), Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey (1974), and Buildings of Architectural Interest Built Prior to WW II (1975). The City’s historic resource surveys do not rank structures or evaluate whether a structure is worthy of preservation. The other studies/surveys identify over 200 structures with historic significance, but are now out-of-date. Many of the buildings identified in these studies have since been demolished or altered drastically. The City’s historic resource surveys and the past studies/surveys will be used as a starting point for this project. In addition to pre-World War II structures, buildings of the “recent past” will also be considered for the list. The studies mentioned above do not include post-World War II structures, so this section will require additional research.

Once the list has been determined, the City will send letters to the owners of each of the structures. The letters will inform the owners of the significance of their building and include information on the financial benefits of local and national designation. In addition, property owners will be offered assistance in the local landmark designation process. This pro-active approach to preservation is intended to encourage property owners to submit landmark designation applications.

Publicity materials will also be developed. The Historic Preservation Commission and City staff would like to develop a map of the 100 structures, a brochure that could be used for a walking/driving tour, and web pages for the City’s website. For each of the structures on the list, there will be a short architectural and historic narrative, along with a current and historic (whenever possible) photograph.

Fiscal Impact

The City’s matching share of this grant is \$2,532. This will be paid in-kind through Planning Division staff hours.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance to allow the City to accept a Certified Local Government grant to create Urbana’s Most Significant Structures List.

Prepared by:

Rebecca Bird, Planner I

Attachments: Draft Ordinance
cc: HPC

ORDINANCE 2011-03-015

AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE

(Historic Preservation Grant, 2011)

WHEREAS, the Annual Budget Ordinance of and for the City of Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, and ending June 30, 2011, (the "Annual Budget Ordinance") has been duly adopted according to sections 8-2-9.1 et seq. of the Illinois Municipal Code (the "Municipal Code") and Division 2, entitled "Budget", of Article VI, entitled "Finances and Purchases", of Chapter 2, entitled "Administration", of the Code of Ordinances, City of Urbana, Illinois (the "City Code"); and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the said City of Urbana finds it necessary to revise said Annual Budget Ordinance by deleting, adding to, changing or creating sub-classes within object classes and object classes themselves; and

WHEREAS, funds are available to effectuate the purpose of such revision; and

WHEREAS, such revision is not one that may be made by the Budget Director under the authority so delegated to the Budget Director pursuant to section 8-2-9.6 of the Municipal Code and section 2-133 of the City Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the Annual Budget be and the same is hereby revised to provide as follows:

FUND: Economic Development
ADD EXPENSE: Historic Preservation Costs, Grant
ADD REV: Federal Grant
AMOUNT: \$5,908

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval and shall not be published.

Section 3. This Ordinance is hereby passed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the corporate authorities then holding office, the "ayes" and "nays" being called at a regular meeting of said Council.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____,
_____.

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSTAINED:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor