



Agenda Item Report

Meeting Type: Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission

Meeting Date: July 22, 2026

Item Title: Consider and take action for potential local historic designation of Fireman's Park Complex, located at 1049 Park Ave.

Submitted By: David Bennett, Communications & Economic Development Coordinator

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

The Council had voted against the motion to send the Fireman's Park Complex application for local historic designation review at its May 5th meeting. There were several major questions that the Council would like to have addressed.

- Clarification of the designation boundary
- Comparison of Local versus State versus National designation
- Specific benefits to the municipality due to local historic designation

At the last Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission, a new map was presented that addresses the boundary issue and shows a smaller area that encompasses the contributing structures. Alder Rostad, who attended the meeting, was receptive to the new map and the accompanying comparison chart that highlighted the three different historic designations. The meeting did not answer the benefits issue and this should be discussed prior to sending to Council.

It should be noted that the City as a municipality does not qualify for tax credits, nor does local designation provide it any property value increase to the park. There's only a handful of properties nearby that may benefit regarding property value impact. The City already must go through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for renovations and alterations to the contributing buildings and meet National Park Service requirements for the National designation.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

- Updated Local Historic Designation Application Draft for Fireman's Park
- Local Historic Designation Benefits Comparisons

Action Requested of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission (HLPC):

Motion to recommend to Council Alders who voted against the HLPC recommendation to apply for local historic designation of Fireman's Park Complex to reintroduce the item to a Council meeting in August. If this topic were to be reintroduced, the HLPC then recommends that Council approves the application and designates either the Mayor or Council President to submit the application on behalf of the City to begin the local historic designation review process.

Strategic Plan Objective: