



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
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Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Michelle Fischer, City Administrator

Council Meeting Date: May 21, 2024

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider approval of proposals from Post Oak Preservation Solutions to resurvey the Mercer Street Historic District and the Hays Street Historic District.** *Sponsor: Mayor Pro Tem Manassian.*

Agenda Item Requestor: Historic Preservation Commission

Summary/Background: The Historic Preservation Commission requests the City Council amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget to approve initiating resurveys of the Mercer Street and Hays Street Historic Districts in the amount of a \$1,625 retainer fee for each resurvey. Each resurvey will cost \$14,625 for a total of \$29,250. The Commission's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget recommendation includes the \$26,000 balance for the resurveys and the update of the Historic Preservation Program Implementation Manual. The resurveys should be conducted before the Manual is revised.

The Hays Street Historic District was surveyed in 2014 when it was created, and the Mercer Street Historic District was surveyed in 2007 when it was created and partially surveyed in 2013 for the National Register of Historic Places nomination.

The districts need to be resurveyed to: document demolitions, alterations, and infill since 2014 and 1988 surveys; provide a comprehensive historic context; provide City/HPC with current conditions and recommendations for moving forward.

The Commission would like the resurveys to be done as soon as possible and then update the Historic Preservation Program Implementation Manual. The Manual was created in 2007 and amended in 2015 to add vision statements and implementation standards and guidelines for historic districts.

The Commission feels a sense of urgency to update the surveys and Implementation Manual due to the current conditions of the historic resources, changes in use and new construction in the districts, growing outside interest by developers; an increase in Certificate of Appropriateness

applications, and the need to make the Implementation Manual user friendly.

Historic Preservation Officer Michelle Fischer and Historic Preservation Consultant Meredith Johnson recommend approval of accepting the proposals.

**Commission
Recommendations:**

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends approval.

**Recommended
Council Actions:**

Approve the proposals from Post Oak Solutions and work out a schedule of work with them that spans fiscal years.

Attachments:

Post Oak Preservation Solutions Proposals.

A presentation given to the HPC on the Resurvey of Old Fitzhugh Rd Historic District is under Reports on the agenda. The survey is available at City Hall.

Next Steps/Schedule:

If approved, draft Professional Services Agreements.