



Historic Review Commission

AGENDA REPORT

Department: Planning

Item: C

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Subject

Consider, and act upon a recommendation to the City Council to amend Chapter 58, Article II of the Code of Ordinances on Landmarks.

Recommendation

Motion to recommend approval as presented

Discussion

At its October 28, 2021 meeting, the Commission discussed at length the proposed updates to Chapter 58 of the Code of Ordinances, and directed staff to move forward with such amendments. Staff is proposing amendments to the current ordinance as adopted in 1990 by creating definitions as well as changes to bring the ordinance more in line with established goals of the HRC.

The purpose of designating a local historic landmark is to bring attention to the general public of places of importance and protect the historic resource from inappropriate changes or demolition. In addition, such landmarks will help reinforce the city's mission statement of *"Honoring our past; Embracing our present; Planning our future."*

Guidance for landmark designation shall be in accordance with Local Government Code Chapter 211, whereby section 211.0165 outlines the necessary steps and grants authority to the municipality. Before a structure or land can be designated as a local historic landmark, the property owner must consent, and approval by at least a three-fourths majority vote of the City Council and HRC is required.

Responsibility of the City:

The HRC shall identify and designate an area(s) in order to make a recommendation on whether it qualifies for a local landmark. The City Council, a property owner, an individual or neighborhood organization, may also request the Commission to make such a study and recommendation. The municipality must provide the property owner a statement that describes the impact that a historic designation of the owner's property may have on the owner and the owner's property. Consideration of tax abatement on city portion of taxes only for properties with a designated landmark.

Responsibility of the property owners:

All property owners with a designated landmark have the responsibility as any property owner within the city to maintain their property to minimum standards, which include the structural soundness of the building, deteriorated roofing or siding materials, broken windows, maintaining porches and balconies, and keeping the yard free of debris.

Approval from the HRC is required prior to any exterior work beginning on a property with a designated landmark.

Financial Summary/Strategic Goals

Ties in with the City's mission statement: Honoring our past; Embracing our present; Planning our Future. Meets the following Strategic Goals: Economic Growth: Support and grow our local economy.

With the passing of HB 1474, a city that has more than one zoning, planning, or historical commission, the municipality shall designate one of those commissions as the entity with the exclusive authority to approve the designations of properties as local historic landmarks and the inclusion of properties in a local historic district under that paragraph.