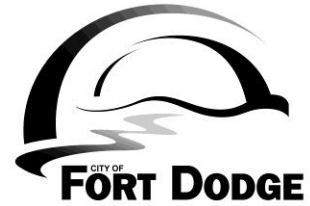


**August 18, 2014**

**To: Mayor Bemrich and City Council**  
**From: David Fierke, City Manager**  
**Subject: Historic Preservation Plaque Program**



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**ACTION: For vote Monday, August 25, 2014**

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**Brief History**

The 2008 Downtown Plan recommends a number of actions to preserve and enhance the historic downtown. The establishment of a downtown historic district was specifically cited in the Plan. This was completed in November 2010.

The Downtown Plan further recommends preserving and enhancing the historic downtown features. The Historic Preservation Commission has identified a project to encourage tourism and preservation of historic features in the downtown. The project, identified as the Historic Plaque Project, will recognize 13 historical non-extant building or sites in the downtown through the installation of bronze plaques in downtown sidewalks in front of the sites. The plaques will provide the building/site name, dates of existent and some interesting facts.

In order to implement this Historic Plaque Project the Historic Preservation Commission would like to obtain funds from the State's Certified Local Government (CLG) program, and is seeking the City Council's support of their grant application through the attached resolution authorizing submission of the grant.

**Analysis of Issue**

The CLG grant funds will be used to purchase the plaques and obtain necessary materials and equipment for installation. The Historic Plaque Project will be implemented by the Fort Dodge Historic Preservation Commission in partnership with the City of Fort Dodge. The Commission will identify the appropriate wording for each plaque as well as the appropriate locations for each and confirm this with the City. It is envisioned that after the completion of this project that the Historic Plaque Program will be expanded to include the seventy-two contributing structures in the Fort Dodge Downtown Historic District, and that a guide will be printed to provide walking tours of the Historic Downtown. Much of the spin-offs to the project may be implemented through partnerships and the voluntary efforts of the Historic Preservation Commission, Webster County Historical Society, and the Self-Supported Municipal District Board. This portion of the plan is not included in the CLG grant request, but shows how one project can lead to another.

### **Budget Impact**

The Historic Preservation Commission has obtained grants to cover a majority of the expenses. The CLG grant funds will be used to purchase the plaques and obtain necessary materials and equipment for installation. The funds require a 40% match, of which will be a combination of in-kind and cash match. In-kind services will include grant administration, plaque design and installation including donation of some equipment for installation. Cash match will be provided through other funds sought by the Commission and will be used to off-set material and equipment costs. The Historic Preservation Commission will work closely with City staff to establish a design of the plaques, incorporate factual information and ensure proper locations for plaques and quality installation.

### **Strategic Plan Impact**

Strategy D.6.1.1 Complete and Implement the Downtown Plan.

### **Existing Plan Impact**

The 2008 Downtown Plan recommends establishing a historic district. It further recommends providing educational information on landmark preservation.

### **Subcommittee or Commission Review / Recommendation**

The Historic Preservation Commission has prepared the CLG Application, which is to be submitted no later than September 5, 2014. The Commission recommends authorization for submission of the application.

### **Staff Conclusions / Recommendations**

Approve the attached resolution authorizing the submission of the CLG grant application.

### **Alternatives**

The alternative would be to deny approval of the resolution, which would inhibit the Commission from applying for the CLG funds or moving forward with the Historic Plaque Project.

### **Implementation and Accountability**

If the Council approves the resolution, the Historic Preservation Commission and staff will submit the application. If awarded CLG funds, the Historic Plaque Project will move forward.

Signed



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Carissa Miller  
Senior Planner

Approved



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David R. Fierke  
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A HISTORIC PLAQUE PROJECT - RECOGNIZING NON-EXTANT HISTORICAL SITES IN THE FORT DODGE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Dodge Historic Preservation Commission is requesting \$11,660 in Certified Local Government (CLG) grant funds from the State Historical Society of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the funding is requested in order to design and install plaques recognizing historic sites in Downtown Fort Dodge; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes the grant application should be submitted to move forward with implementation of the Historic Plaque Project to further tourism and activity within the Downtown; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the Historic Preservation Commission is responsible for ensuring the project has sufficient funds for completion; and

WHEREAS, the City will provide in-kind services, not to include any materials purchase.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT DODGE, IOWA THAT:

The Fort Dodge Historic Preservation Commission has authorization from the Fort Dodge City Council to apply for the CLG grant for implementation of the Historic Plaque Project.

Passed and approved by the City Council of the City of Fort Dodge, Iowa, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 2014, AD.

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF FORT DODGE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Matt Bemrich, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Nemmers, City Clerk