



**City of Cedar Rapids  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES  
City Services Center, Five Seasons Conference Room  
Wednesday, December 14, 2016  
4:00 p.m.**

The meeting was brought to order at 4:06 p.m.

Present: Council members Overland and Shey. Staff members present: Jennifer Pratt, Community Development Director; Seth Gunnerson, Community Development Planner; Jeff Hintz, Community Development Planner; Anne Kroll, Community Development Administrative Assistant.

Council members Overland and Shey approved the minutes from November 16, 2016 with unanimous consent.

**Recommendation Items:**

**1. Visual Arts Commission (VAC) Work Plan**

Seth Gunnerson, Community Development Planner and Bill Stamats, VAC Chair, shared the 2016 accomplishments as well as the 2017 goals and objectives for the Commission. Ongoing activities for the VAC were also discussed.

Council member Overland likes the idea of doing a capital project and having an automatic consideration for the placement of artwork. That does not mean it has to happen everywhere, but it should be part of the process. Mr. Stamats stated that the artwork then becomes identified with that area.

Council member Shey asked when the VAC's authority is triggered and brought up the example of the Gazette article for West Side Rising. Mr. Stamats stated that the VAC reviewed the artwork and it was voted on by the Northwest Neighborhood Association, so the people that have to live with it want it. The VAC is a recommending body and for West Side Rising the VAC thought it was a good piece for the City to have. Council member Shey asked if West Side Rising was going up and if the City would be responsible for maintenance. Mr. Gunnerson stated that the details have not yet been hashed out, but there should be a resolution that goes to City Council with all of the details. The structure is a durable piece.

Council member Overland asked about murals that fade from the elements. Mr. Stamats stated that if it is privately owned the VAC does not have a say in that. If the mural is on public property there would be a plan to keep it freshened up.

## **2. City Planning Commission (CPC) Work Plan**

Mr. Gunnerson and Jim Halverson, CPC Chair, gave an overview of the role of the CPC and shared the 2017 goals for the Commission. Mr. Halverson noted that he is enamored with the level of preparation staff brings to the cases so that he is informed before the meetings. Development Services staff and Community Development staff work very well together.

Council member Overland stated that the CPC is a useful body for the City Council even though they occasionally go in different directions. City Council has the opportunity to ask more questions about cases. The CPC is citizen friendly in that citizens can go to their meetings to voice their concerns or support for a project.

Council member Shey and Mr. Halverson discussed a case that had a difference of voting between the CPC and the City Council, where it was turned down at one and approved at another. Communication and alignment between CPC and City Council was discussed. Council member Shey asked if an applicant is able to come back to the CPC for a second chance after being denied. Mr. Halverson stated that they can come back and ask for reconsideration, but there has to be substantial change to their proposal that would warrant the reconsideration. Mr. Gunnerson added that it has to be within a year of the denial. The new Zoning Code and its role with the CPC was discussed.

## **3. Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Work Plan**

Jeff Hintz, Community Development Planner, shared the 2016 accomplishments as well as the 2017 goals and objectives for the Commission. The HPC has recommended approval of the 2017 Work Plan.

Council member Overland asked if the HPC is aware of the plans for a casino and the possible demolition of the historic Skogman Building should the casino be approved. It may not happen until 2019, but starting those discussions with building owners now may be helpful. Jennifer Pratt, Community Development Director, stated that since no applications have been submitted for the project, there is not a formal action for the HPC to take. People who have a historic preservation interest in the City could go to the property owner and see what their plans are.

### **Discussion Items:**

#### **1. Future Agenda Items**

This item was tabled and will be discussed at the January 18, 2017 meeting.

Council members Overland and Shey adjourned the meeting with unanimous consent at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Kroll, Administrative Assistant II  
Community Development