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Hearing Impaired: 711

MEMORANDUM

Historic Resources Commission January 03, 2024

TO: Historic Resources Commission

FROM: Heather Ferris, Planning Manager

SUBJECT: **Item 5.A - HRC-2023-0462** For possible action: Discussion and possible action regarding the Historic Resources Commission Annual Report for 2023.

STAFF SUMMARY: The Historic Resources Commission policy and procedures requires the Historic Resources Commission to submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors. If approved, this report will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors in February 2024.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: "I move to approve the 2023 Historic Resources Commission Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors as presented by staff."

Background:

The Historic Resource Commission ("HRC") policies and procedures require the HRC to submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors, including information about cases reviewed by the HRC, administrative reviews, and information regarding other historic preservation activities. The purpose of this item is to present the report to the HRC for approval.

Below is a draft report for the Commission's consideration.

HRC Annual Report:

The Carson City HRC (formerly known as the Historic Architecture Review Committee) was established in May 1981. The HRC evolved from a cultural resources inventory that was undertaken to document the remaining historic structures within Carson City. This resource inventory, completed in March 1980, also recommended the formation of two historic preservation districts within Carson City.

In May 1982, the Board of Supervisors created Carson City's Historic District on the City's west side with support from the Nevada Landmarks Society, the Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, the Westside Protective Association and the Carson City Chamber of Commerce.

The seven member HRC includes building, design, and preservation professionals familiar with the challenges of maintaining historic properties, as well as the federal guidelines which provide guidance for preservation. Property owners within the Historic District are also represented on the HRC.

In 2023, the HRC held five meetings and received 27 applications, 15 of which were administratively approved by the HRC Chairman. This is down from the 40 applications reviewed in 2022. The administrative approvals included re-roofing projects, fencing projects, signs and

minor maintenance projects in the Historic District and the HRC reviewed two requests for an Open Space Tax Deferral. No decisions of the HRC were appealed to the Board.

Historic Preservation Awards

Each year Carson City recognizes significant historic preservation accomplishments to celebrate our community's history and heritage. All over the state, activities are held that remind us of the important historic resources that give meaning and a sense of place to our communities and focus attention on how critical it is to make sure they are preserved. The annual preservation awards program honors individuals, organizations, or projects that have made important contributions toward preserving Carson City's heritage. This award recognizes excellence in advancing the goals of historic preservation while providing outstanding rehabilitation. The recipients are selected by the HRC.

On March 09, 2023, the HRC selected Gregory Hayes for the 2023 Historic Preservation Award in appreciation of his contributions to historic preservation in the Carson City Historic District.

Historic Resource Scavenger Hunt

The HRC and the Planning Division organized the fourteenth annual Historic Resources Scavenger Hunt in May 2023 to help raise awareness of the Historic District, and to encourage the community become involved in the City's history and preservation efforts. The focus was on identifying the unique element that reflect the architectural styles of the period from 1900 to 1975. HRC members researched the historic information about the community, and clues were given to "hunters" so they could learn about the cultural history of Carson City. The winner was randomly selected from the participants with all correct answers. Fox Brew Pub graciously sponsored the award for the event.

Historic Preservation Fund ("HPF") Grant Program

Staff has been awaiting information from the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") regarding the acceptance of applications for the HPF Grant Program for attendance at National Alliance of Preservation Commissions ("NAPC") Forum 2024. The application window has not yet opened. Once the application window opens, staff will pursue funding to pay for HRC members and staff to attend the conference which will be held July 31-August 4, 2024 in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Upcoming Work Programs

As the HRC reviews applications, it identifies opportunities to clarify the development standards to better describe the City's policies in the Historic District. Recent changes to the fence standards have been successful and property owners are utilizing appropriate materials. Currently staff does not have the capacity to proactively take on any modifications to development standards.