



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

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Committee: Finance	Date: 4/9/2019
Common Council Item Number: 19-0394	Date: 4/16/2019
Submitted By: Maria Pandazi, City Planner	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KML
Finance Department Review: Rich Abbott, Finance Director RA	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney BER
Subject: Review and Act on a request to accept a Wisconsin Historical Society CLG Subgrant in the amount of \$17,000 and amend the budget accordingly.	

Details:

The Wisconsin Historical Society has awarded the Landmarks Commission a \$17,000 CLG (Certified Local Government) Subgrant to do research and prepare applications to add four local properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The four properties the Landmarks Commission has selected are 225 S. Hartwell Ave (St. Mary's Catholic Church), 300 Carroll St. (St. Luke's Lutheran Church), 617 Downing Drive, and 1516 Pleasant View Ave. All four properties were identified by the 2013 Intensive Survey of Historic Properties in Waukesha, and the owners of all four properties have expressed their support for having them added to the National Register.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the country's historic buildings, districts, and objects worthy of preservation. It is an honorific recognition which makes properties eligible for historic preservation tax credits and certain grants but includes essentially no regulatory burden. Local Landmark status, which does regulate changes that can be made to a property, is a separate designation. Adding a property to the list of Local Landmarks requires Common Council approval.

The Landmarks Commission will use the grant money to hire a Historic Preservation Consultant who will do the necessary research and complete the National Register application, which will be sent to the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board for their consideration. The application process is complicated and requires specialized knowledge so the Planning Department, which provides staff for the Landmarks Commission, is unable to do the work in-house.

The city initially applied for the maximum grant amount of \$25,000, with the intention of completing applications for two more properties-710 N. East Ave. and 609 E. Broadway. However, Historical Society staff informed us that since applications for those properties had been completed in the past the process will be much simpler and will not require new research.

The State Historic Preservation Office is currently preparing a Memorandum of Agreement, which will serve as the contract for the grant, and will lay out the terms for the project and for reimbursement.



Options & Alternatives:

1. Accept the grant money and continue the application process (recommended).
2. Deny the grant money. Landmarks would have to decide whether to abandon the applications or pursue them without hiring a consultant. Either way, this would make successful applications very unlikely.

Financial Remarks:

The CLG Subgrant is a Federal grant from the National Park Service, administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society. It is a reimbursement grant that can cover 100% of the cost of the project, up to the approved \$17,000. Since it is a reimbursement grant the city will need to initially pay expenses of the project, and then will receive compensation periodically after submitting reimbursement requests to the State Historic Preservation Office.

As part of the grant application process the city received price estimates from two historic preservation consultants. The lower of the two estimates listed the cost at \$4,346.30 for St. Mary's and \$4,112.00 for each of the other properties.

Expenses will be paid from account:

Reimbursements will be received into account:

Executive Recommendation:

The City Administrator recommends accepting the grant money, authorizing the City Attorney's office to negotiate the Memorandum of Agreement if necessary, and authorizing the mayor to sign it.