



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Department of Development Services

DCM: David Gaines

DATE: August 8, 2022

SUBJECT

Hold a discussion regarding the formation of a Historic Marker Ad Hoc Committee to create a standard operating procedure and design standards to be used by Staff, property owners, and developers when creating historic markers for display.

BACKGROUND

In the Denton Historic Preservation Plan (or the “Plan”), there are four goals. Of those four goals, Goal 2 of the Plan is to “promote the preservation and adaptive use of historic resources as integral elements to vibrant commercial districts and residential neighborhoods.” One of the recommended policies, Policy 2.3 of Goal 2, is to “encourage activities and initiatives that increase visitorship and visibility to Denton’s heritage assets and historic districts,” of which the Plan recommends creating a more comprehensive informational wayfinding and signage plan for Denton’s historic sites.

In addition to the Plan, during City Council’s November 2, 2021 meeting, City Council requested that a historic marker or plaque be placed on the former site of the Selwyn School, commemorating the school’s history and connection to the site.

Staff believes that in this circumstance, there is benefit to creating an ad hoc committee to work through this potential Citywide program which could commemorate historical sites and events associated with Denton’s history. Once a program draft is developed, this will be presented to the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) for approval, with final program consideration and approval by City Council.

If a Historic Marker Ad Hoc Committee is created, members with the support of Staff, will research, gather, and draft a standard operating procedure and design standards to be used by Staff, property owners, and developers for historic marker creation. Additionally, signage costs would need to be researched to better understand financial implications associated with this type of program. Staff recommends that the ad hoc committee be limited to three or fewer members of the Historic Landmark Commission to provide flexibility from the Texas Open Meetings Act requirements associated with quorum. Additionally, if four or more members of the Commission is present (i.e., quorum), then the Commission should collectively work through the issue at hand instead of creating the smaller ad hoc committee.

Attached as Exhibit 2 for the HLC’s consideration is an example of a historic marker program that was established by the City of Winston-Salem and subsequently Forsyth County (North Carolina). This program could be used as a starting point for discussion for the ad hoc committee, as well as other successfully established programs.

OPTIONS

1. Minimum 3 commissioner votes required to create the Historic Marker Ad Hoc Committee
2. Take no action

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County Example

Respectfully submitted:
Tina Firgens, AICP
Deputy Director Development Services/
Planning Director

Prepared by:
Cameron Robertson, AICP
Historic Preservation Officer