



City of Racine, Wisconsin
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:

November 18, 2020 – Planning, Heritage, and Design Commission
December 7, 2020 – Finance and Personnel Committee
December 15, 2020 – Common Council

SUBJECT: Communication from the Director of City Development requesting permission to apply for a Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Subgrant from the Wisconsin Historic Society to help fund the preparation of a Reconnaissance Survey for a potential Carlisle Avenue National Historic District.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Hintz, CNU-A – Associate Planner, City Development Department

SUMMARY: Application for this grant does not commit the City to spending any money or even to do the project. This item only authorizes staff to complete the necessary application steps to apply for the grant. Should the project be successful, formal action to accept the grant money would be brought forward for consideration, and if approved, the project would go to bid for the work.

PROJECT BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS: A reconnaissance survey for a portion of the City generally bounded by Rapids Drive to the North, Memorial Drive to the east, State Street to the south and Summit Avenue to the west, includes residential structures predominantly from the 1870's through the 1940's. Interspersed are the traditional corner store commercial structure (corner shops), neighborhood churches, a former school and some industrial facilities. Most notably is the sports field once home to the Racine Belles; a female baseball team from the 1940's highlighted in the 1992 film "League of Their Own". This reconnaissance area is directly adjacent to the recent National Register listed Horlick Malted Milk facility.

A reconnaissance survey simply looks at properties within an area and determines which ones would be eligible for inclusion in a historic district, or possibly in some cases, eligible for listing as individual properties. The survey will determine which eligibility criteria may apply for each property; the four National Register of Historic Places criteria are:

- A. associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Traditionally A and C are most commonly identified, but the survey would ultimately identify what would make a property historically significant.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That Department of City Development staff be authorized to execute the necessary application form to apply for this grant.

FISCAL NOTE: Department of City Development staff expects this project to cost approximately \$10,000 and that is the amount the grant application will be for. If awarded the project will be bid and finalized at that time.