
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER



C O U N T Y O F S A N T A C R U Z

701 OCEAN STREET ROOM 400 SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX (831) 454-2131 T00 (831) 454-2123**May 7, 1999****Agenda: May 25, 1999**

**Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060**

Certified Local Government Grant**Dear Members of the Board:**

Your Board is requested to authorize submittal of a Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Application for \$10,000 to the State Office of Historic Preservation to fund a General Plan Program for development of historic preservation incentives, as requested by the County's Historic Resources Commission (HRC).

BACKGROUND**o CLG Program**

The County of Santa Cruz is what is called a Certified Local Government - or "CLG" jurisdiction. The CLG program is a federal historic preservation program authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, administered in California through the State Office of Historic Preservation in the Department of Parks and Recreation. Jurisdictions apply to their state Office of Historic Preservation to become a CLG, and must meet strict criteria in order to qualify and then to maintain that CLG status. There are currently 42 CLGs in the State of California.

o CLG Grants

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides that funds be directed to State governments to support historic preservation efforts at the local level. These Historic Preservation Funds are made available annually to CLG jurisdictions, who compete for grants to assist their local preservation programs. Each year, a different amount is made available statewide to CLG's for their historic preservation needs. The grant funds are available on a matching basis, with the match varying yearly. Initially, the match was 50% federal, 50% local, with the local match provided either through cash or in-kind services as guaranteed by the locality. In recent years, the match has been 60% federal/40% local.

o County of Santa Cruz CLG Grants

In the past, the County has applied successfully for CLG grants to fund a variety of tasks, including preparation and update of the County's Historic Inventory, HRC education and training, and preparation of an Historic Context for the County. Grants received ranged from approximately \$10,000 to \$23,000. Even though there were many worthy grant suggestions generated by the HRC and staff, the County did not apply in 1997 or 1998 for CLG funds, due to the tight time line between the State's Notice of Funding Availability and the grant submittal deadline. This year, however, the State provided localities with more notice in order to meet the 1999 application deadline of June 1, 1999.

o County Historic Resources Commission (HRC) Request

At their March 10, 1999 meeting, after considerable discussion, the HRC voted unanimously to request the County to prepare a CLG grant application to submit to the State, to fund a Study that would examine incentives for fostering historic preservation, in compliance with General Plan Objective J (which states:

"j. Where possible, provide incentives to property owners to foster historic preservation. Consider revising County zoning regulations to include allowances for facade easements, favorable tax assessments such as taxing at pre-rehabilitation values, parking reductions, transfer of development rights, density bonuses and design assistance. Study the existing zoning of historic buildings to guard against economic incentives to demolish said buildings for more intense development."

and also including the incentive of alternative uses for historic properties (see Attachment 1 for excerpt of HRC March 10, 1999 Minutes).

The proposed CLG Grant topic has been one of growing interest and concern to Commissioners. The Commission has been increasingly confronted by property owners and others interested in preserving historic resources who lack the funds and/or resources to do so. Without funds, or other incentives to acquire, maintain or reuse historic resources, these remnants of the County's past are facing decline and possibly, demolition by neglect. In conformance with General Plan Policy 5.20.5 to Encourage Protection of Historic Structures, and General Plan Program J, which deals with providing property owner incentives for historic preservation, the HRC is requesting your Board's authorization to submit the 1999 County CLG grant application.

DISCUSSION

This year, the State Office of Historic Preservation plans to allocate approximately \$100,000 in funds to CLG'S through the competitive annual program. The State has advised that among the proposals that will NOT be funded through this year's competitive grant process will be requests for construction, restoration and/or acquisition of historic buildings and structures. Grants will be made to CLG jurisdictions in amounts of between \$2,500 - \$15,000. The County, with your Board's approval, will seek \$10,000 in grant funds, with a \$6,667 local match,

to conduct a study of available and potential incentives for historic preservation as requested by the HRC.

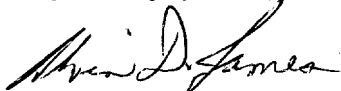
The proposed local match will consist of in-kind services provided by Planning Staff and nominal printing costs. The federal contribution represents the contract cost for the study, to be conducted by a consultant selected through the competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Your Board will be requested to review and approve the consultant contract and Scope of Work for the Study, and accept the grant, should the grant request be authorized by your Board and awarded by the State.

The 1999 CLG grant program does not provide for reimbursement of indirect County costs. Although this may be an obstacle, it should be recognized that the proposed Study is called for in the County's General Plan, to be proposed for inclusion in the Planning Department Work Program for staff to implement the General Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Your Board is requested to authorize Staff to submit a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant (CLG) application to the State Office of Historic Preservation to request a \$10,000 grant to perform a Study on incentives for historic preservation, in conformance with the General Plan policies and programs dealing with historic resources, as requested by the County Historic Resources Commission.

Very truly yours,



Alvin James
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

Attachment: excerpt, HRC Minutes, 3/10/99

C.C. Historic Resources Commission

clgbdlet/cdm

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER



HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 400, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1999

3:00 P.M

**Room 413, Planning Dept. Conference Room
County Building, 4th Floor
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060**

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m by Chairman Fisher.

Commissioners Present: Barbara Kennedy, Carolyn Swift, Jacquie Low, Terri Fisher and Pat Manning

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff: Cherry McCormick

Members of the Public Present: Jack and Arlene Licursi

II. AGENDA APPROVAL OR MODIFICATION

The Agenda was modified to allow consideration of item VI.A. Review of Development Permit Application #99-0036, before item V. Old Business, in deference to members of the public present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the meetings of October 15, 1998, December 17, 1998, January 21, 1999 and February 18, 1999 were approved as submitted.

IV. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Benjamin Parrish House - Subcommittee Report

Cherry McCormick gave a status report to the HRC on the Benjamin Parrish House. Commissioner Swift indicated that the Soquel Pioneers were interested in purchasing the house, but lacked sufficient funds. Commissioner Kennedy moved and Commissioner Swift seconded the motion, to invite Lee White, Business Manager for the Soquel School District, to address the HRC about the School District's actions and intentions to preserve the Parrish House, a designated historic resource.

B. Update on Grant Request to Assist Castro Adobe

Cherry McCormick updated the HRC on this item. She said that a grant application for \$10,000 in program grant funds will be submitted by the County to the Santa Cruz County Community Foundation by the March 15, 1999 deadline, for a re-use feasibility study for the Castro Adobe. This was being done at the request of the HRC and Board of Supervisors.

Cherry McCormick also mentioned that the Community Foundation had scheduled a meeting on assisting the Castro Adobe for March 24, 1999, after the grant was due. Commissioners Swift and Fisher, and Staff member McCormick, were invited to attend the meeting. It was noted that Commissioner Manning should also be included at this meeting, since both she and Commissioner Swift serve on the HRC Castro Adobe Subcommittee. Chairman Fisher said she would contact Robin Larsen at the Foundation to arrange for Commissioner Manning's attendance.

C. 1999 CLG Application

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Swift moved that the County prepare a CLG grant application to submit to the State, to fund a Study to examine incentives for fostering historic preservation, in compliance with General Plan Objective J (which states:

"j. Where possible, provide incentives to property owners to foster historic preservation. Consider revising County zoning regulations to include allowances for facade easements, favorable tax assessments such as taxing at pre-rehabilitation values, parking reductions, transfer of development rights, density bonuses and design assistance. Study the existing zoning of historic buildings to guard against economic incentives to demolish said buildings for more intense development."

and also including the incentive of alternative uses for historic properties. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with a vote of 5:0. Commissioners requested that Cherry McCormick to proceed with preparing the application, once the CLG grant application packet arrives from the State.

D. Redman House

Cherry McCormick distributed a copy of the 3/5/99 letter to the Board of Supervisors she had written, as directed by the HRC, supporting an investigation of alternative uses for the Redman House, as well as other historic resources, in order to best preserve those historic properties. The HRC accepted the letter, without discussion.

E. Old Holy Cross Cemetery

Cherry McCormick passed out a copy of her 3/10/99 letter to Elizabeth Schilling, Chairwoman, Friends of Old Holy Cross Cemetery, as directed by the HRC, in support of the Group's efforts to obtain a higher ranking for the resource on the Historic Inventory. The letter was accepted without discussion.