



## City Council Communication

Meeting Date: July 18, 2022

Requested By: Development Services Department

### Item Title: CONSENT AGENDA

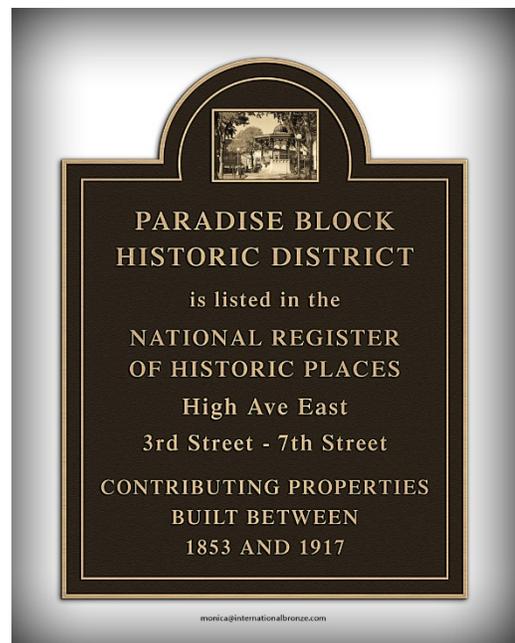
Consider a motion authorizing submittal of a grant application on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission to the Golden Goose Club for Paradise Block marker signs, and acceptance and appropriation of funds upon award.

### Explanation:

The Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC) annual work plan for 2022 includes seeking funding and installing decorative marker signs at the Paradise Block Historic District. This district is located on High Avenue East between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

The Paradise Block Historic District contains the largest and most intact examples of late 19th and early 20th century design and construction in Oskaloosa. The contributing houses, buildings and structures were built between 1853 and 1917. Several were designed by architects and some are individually listed in the National Register. A prestigious neighborhood in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area was home to many leading businessmen and professionals. The term "Paradise Block" was said to have originated as early as 1865 and was referenced in the 1899 book "Proud Mahaska", written by Semira Hobbs Phillips, where she wrote about the early days of Oskaloosa and its people, houses, buildings, and churches. She spoke of the landscape and beautiful homes being built in the area called "Paradise Block" between A Avenue East (then Liberty Street) and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East.

The marker signs will be installed on posts at each end of the district. HPC and staff seek Council authorization to prepare and submit a grant application for \$3,000 to the [Golden Goose Club of Mahaska County](#) for historical marker signs for the Paradise Block. If this Council item is approved, staff will present this request to the Golden Goose Club at their next meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2022.



**Budget Consideration:**

The grant amount of \$3,000 will cover purchase of two (2) bronze historical marker plaques and approximately \$200 in supplies for installation. The city and/or volunteers will be responsible for installation.

**Attachments:**

Additional details on Paradise Block