The meeting was brought to order at 5:37 p.m.

Present: Council members Hoeger and Vanorny. Staff members present: Jennifer Pratt, Community Development Director; Iván Gonzalez, Community Development Planner; Seth Gunnerson, Community Development Planner; Anne Russett, Community Development Planner; Adam Lindenlaub, Community Development Planner.

1. Approval of Minutes
Council members Hoeger and Vanorny approved the minutes from December 13, 2017 with unanimous consent.

2. Recommendation Items
   a. Historic Preservation Commission Work Plan
      Iván Gonzalez, Community Development Planner, stated that staff made changes to the draft 2018 work plan based on initiatives in the Historic Preservation Plan and reviewed the goals within the work plan. Amanda McKnight Grafton, Historic Preservation Commission member, reviewed the 2017 accomplishments for the work plan. Mr. Gonzalez reviewed a timeline of next steps.

      Council member Hoeger asked if there is any work planned for the stone structures at Ellis Park similar to the one in Bever Park. Ms. McKnight Grafton stated that the HPC, Parks Department, History Center, and students from Iowa BIG will be coordinating to focus on Bever Park and Ellis Park to do research on maintenance and preventative maintenance for the stone structures.

      Council members Hoeger and Vanorny recommended that City Council approve the Historic Preservation Commission Work Plan with unanimous consent.

   b. Visual Arts Commission Work Plan
      Seth Gunnerson, Community Development Planner, stated that the VAC advises the city Council on matters of public art and to maintain the City’s Public Art Collection and shared the charter goals. Mr. Gunnerson and Bill Stamats, VAC Chair, shared the 2017 accomplishments and reviewed the vision and mission statements, the work plan highlights, and a timeline of next steps.
Council member Hoeger stated that Eastern Iowa Arts Academy for children would be a neat collaboration with the VAC. They have done a great job of getting kids interested in art and seeing their art within the community would be impactful for the kids. Mr. Stamats suggested working with them on a mural. Council member Hoeger will pass on contact information to staff. Council member Vanorny would like to see more alleyways and streets filled with art and stated that the west side of Cedar Rapids is seeing an increase in the African population of immigrants and would like to see artwork more representative of their homeland in that area.

Council members Hoeger and Vanorny recommended that City Council approve the Visual Arts Commission Work Plan with unanimous consent.

c. City Planning Commission Work Plan
Mr. Gunnerson stated that the CPC is required by State Code to make recommendations to Council on zoning and land use. Mr. Gunnerson and Jim Halverson, CPC Chair, reviewed the role of the CPC, 2017 accomplishments, work plan goals, and a timeline of next steps.

Council members Hoeger and Vanorny recommended that City Council approve the Visual Arts Commission Work Plan with unanimous consent.

3. Updates
   a. ReZone Cedar Rapids
Anne Russett, Community Development Planner, stated that ReZone is a Citywide effort to update the zoning code which implements EnvisionCR, the City’s comprehensive plan. Ms. Russett discussed form-based regulations, integrating form-based concepts throughout the code, outreach and education, feedback from the third open house, issues, and a project timeline. Jennifer Pratt, Community Development Director, stated that the Development Committee can expect to receive updates on ReZone every month from here through the summer.

   b. College District Area Action Plan
Adam Lindenlaub, Community Development Planner, shared information on the Planning Program in EnvisionCR, the focus of the College District Area Action Plan, and a map of the boundaries of the area. Mr. Lindenlaub discussed public engagement, Advisory Group members and information, the results from the workshop and open house. The second open house will take place in the spring/summer of 2018. Ms. Pratt stated that staff started with a consultant for these plans, but have now switched to doing the work in house and saving those funds for follow-up items, such as a traffic impact study or an engineering analysis.

   c. Neighborhood Associations
Mr. Gonzalez stated that a StrengthenCR Initiative in EnvisionCR is to provide the Neighborhood Service Delivery Program (NSD) to existing and newly formed neighborhood associations. Mr. Gonzalez discussed neighborhood capacity-building, current Neighborhood Associations and a map of their locations, and upcoming events.

4. Meeting Times
Council member Hoeger suggested that the February 21, 2018 meeting be held at 5:30 p.m. and that this item be added to that agenda so that a decision can be made when Council member Poe is in attendance. Council member Vanorny agreed.
5. Future Discussion Items
Mrs. Pratt stated that there are some upcoming items for this committee and she will send those topics out to them. If they have topics that they would like to have more information on, Ms. Pratt suggested they reach out to Council member Poe with those items.

6. Public Comment
There was no public comment.

Council members Hoeger and Vanorny adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m. with unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Kroll, Administrative Assistant II
Community Development