1. Approval of Minutes
Councilmember Vanorny motioned to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2018 meeting. Councilmember Hoeger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Recommendation Items
   a. City Planning Commission 2019 Work Plan
      Seth Gunnerson, Community Development Planner, shared a presentation on the City Planning Commission 2019 Work Plan. (Insert slide content)

      Workshop example, planning/zoning leading up to the new code (Work Plan Goals slide #2)

      No questions.

      Process question – as the CPC makes recommendations for the comp plan or policy, talk to me about how that comes before Council as a refresher.

      Seth – before Council, CPC reviews it. Annual update to envisionCR (example) by state code, their role is to be an advisory group to the Council. Want to make sure both groups are getting the same information.

      Councilmember Vanorny motioned to recommend the CPC 2019 Work Plan to City Council. Seconded by Councilmember Hoeger. The motion passed unanimously.

   b. Historic Preservation Commission 2019 Work Plan
Sylvia Bochner, Community Development Planner, shared a presentation on the Historic Preservation Commission 2019 Work Plan. The Historic Preservation Commission is required to develop a work plan on an annual basis. Ms. Bochner shared the work plan process, goals, 2018 accomplishments, and 2019 task highlights:

Work Plan Process:
Update and approval by the HPC
Reviewed by the City Council Development Committee
Final review and approval by the City Council

Goals within Work Plan
1. Participate in preservation, salvage and documentation of historic structures.
2. Increase Communication.
3. Improve public relations.
4. Provide information and educational opportunities for the public.
5. Provide educational opportunities for HPC members.

2018 Accomplishments
• Updated the Guidelines for Cedar Rapids Historic Districts—Completed August 2018
• Update Chapter 32 Zoning of the municipal code to better support preservation and conservation of neighborhood character—Completed November 2018
• Provide training to the Historic Preservation Commission—New Commissioner Training, July 2018
• Work with economic development partners to include historic resources in redevelopment policies and economic development plans—updated Historic Preservation Economic Development Incentives
• Maintain and enhance compliance regulations for Certified Local Government status—ongoing, met requirements in 2018
• Implement the City’s Historic Rehabilitation Program and research and explore other financial resources for preservation related activities—Ongoing
• Incorporate historic preservation into Neighborhood Action Plans and Corridor Action Plans, planning Study Areas, and other City planning projects—Ongoing, College District Plan
• Work with the Linn County Health Department to promote historic preservation—issues addressed in ReZone, November 2018

2019 Task Highlights
• Finish developing the Historic Asset Inventory (list includes historic properties throughout the City and used to prioritize action steps for preservation)
• Implement the Historic Asset Inventory with Action Steps in partnership with non-profits
• Intensive survey of Bever Woods—CLG grant
• Continue to pursue landmark designation of eligible city-owned structures
• Determine property owners’ interests in establishing local historic districts/landmarks
• Develop and distribute educational materials (e.g. brochures, postcards, web-based materials) for property owners and the general public to enhance public awareness and understanding of the city’s cultural and social history
Next Steps

- City Council on January 22, 2019

Councilmember Vanorny asked regarding the watch list, how does something end up on there?

Sylvia – make up of non-profits and HPC members, look at a number of factors. Use, condition, area of redevelopment. Take list and decide action steps and properties to focus on.

Engaging w/ real estate brokers, how do we get ahead?

Jennifer – different types of lists, this is not a watch list. Inventory is a larger list, categorizing them. Different action steps, vacant in core areas. What are the issues w/ the building, reaching out to the property owner. If it is empty, it is more likely to be in danger. Categorize the properties. Could be in great shape, great candidate for a local landmark. Each year identify vacant buildings and reach out to the property owner. Encouraging investment. The City has reached out to realtors with the economic development incentives.

Why do we partner with the Linn County Health Department?

Linking the health benefits of more traditional neighborhood design to historic preservation. More opportunities for active recreation. Partnered to bring together those goals. Goal is maintain more traditional neighborhood for walkability benefits.

Work with NFC?

Yes, they know about the exterior modifications in local districts. Qualify for a multitude of benefits.

Historic rehab – covers certain things required within the historic districts. Offset those extra costs, NFC could cover things that may not be covered by the historic rehab program.

Hoeger/Sylvia - $18K grant from the state historic preservation office for Bever Woods intensive survey? Goal is for a historic architecture consultant to come in to take a look to see if it is a candidate for a historic district.

Hoeger - Reached out to property owners?

Sylvia - That is coming, yes.

Ann – Opportunities to save historic structures, talking to and educations property owners/realtors is critical. Preserve as much as possible depending on the outcome. Strong focus on outreach, education, understanding.

Councilmember Vanorny motioned to recommend the HPC 2019 Work Plan to City Council. Seconded by Councilmember Hoeger. The motion passed unanimously.
c. Visual Arts Commission 2019 Work Plan

Eric Pate, Community Development Planner, shared a presentation on the Visual Arts Commission 2019 Work Plan. The Visual Arts Commission is required to develop a work plan on an annual basis. Mr. Pate shared the work plan process, goals, 2018 accomplishments, and 2019 task highlights:

Work Plan Process
- Reviewed and approved by the VAC (12/13/18)
- Reviewed by the City Council Development Committee (1/15/19)
- Final review and approval by the City Council

Charter Goals
1. To improve the appearance and cultural climate of the city, so as to enhance quality of life and community prestige.
2. Involve the public in the selection and dedication of public art.
3. Use eligible funds wisely to incorporate public art in our city.
4. To use art as an aid in economic development.
5. To encourage local artists by supporting their works and efforts.
6. To incorporate visual arts in the design process of qualifying projects.

2018 Accomplishments
- Selected sculpture by a local artist, Cara Briggs-Farmer, to be placed downtown in the new pocket park on 2nd St.
- Initiated process for the selection and installation of new public art to be further pursued in 2019.
- City Staff assisted with an inventory of informal public art in the Mound View/College District area as part of the College District Area Action Plan.
- Solidified mission/vision – lays the foundation for the Work Plan

Work Plan Highlights
1. **Manage the City’s Art Collection**
   1. Review Gift Art Applications
   2. Survey conditions of public art and make recommendations on maintenance
   3. Maintain inventory of art and identify accessibility barriers
   4. Make recommendations on placement of art
   5. Assist groups interested in installing art in the community

2. **Public Outreach and Education**
   1. Conduct Public Events and Outreach
   2. Engage Colleges and Universities
   3. Update the City’s Art Brochure
   4. Approach potential partners to add information about the visual arts to promotional literature

3. **Support Arts within the Community**
1. Explore interaction with existing and new groups and organizations in the community
2. Continue conversations with community partners on how to advocate and support public art in Cedar Rapids.

Councilmember Vanorny asked if we could display temporary artwork in the US Cellular Center to help promote and provide public art. Can we connect with refugees for projects? Alleyways, becomes usable space for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Councilmember Hoeger asked about the connection of 6th Street and Ellis. Keep these in mind during the planning process instead of being reactive.

College District AAP – looking for opportunities.

Bill – as the City determines an area they are going to focus on, follow that lead and decide what types of art are appropriate for the area.

Councilmember Poe asked if the City is in partnership with the Downtown SSMID.

Bill Stamats stated that they came before the Commission with the Robert Indiana LOVE sculpture, the Commission wanted to see something more unique.

Councilmember Poe asked if they are in collaboration with HPC on sign design. Gateway into neighborhoods, in and out of Czech Village in the NewBo area. Public input session?

Ms. Pratt stated that this will be included in the kickoff with the Czech NewBo Area Action Plan.

Unique and reflective of neighborhoods (gateways) Own sense of place and beauty/structure. How they can be a piece of art in themselves. Flood Control, lots of opportunities for VAC to play a role.

What is your biggest obstacle?

Mr. Stamats stated that funding is their biggest obstacle. Could move more quickly if the funding was there.

Councilmember motioned. Seconded by Councilmember Hoeger. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Public Art Project
The success of the VAC is measured by physical projects. Cultural impact, particularly for the NewBo Arts Festival. Volunteer hours by VAC members.
Stamats – growing concern over the past eleven years for additional City support. Has demonstrated a profit, supports local artists, and booth space is free for artists. 40-45 who participate. Runned by Steph Jelinek & Anne Stamats. Help with parking.

Series of four lectures held, successful & well attended for City Hall murals. Spent a significant amount of time on mission/vision statements which drive the work plan.

Micheel – project coming up for a particular immigrant project.

Mr. Micheel shared a presentation on a public art project for Cedar Rapids City Hall. (Insert slide content)

Stamats – sculpture on Mt. Trashmore, not possible. Looked in NewBo/Czech Village, waiting until roundhouse is finished. Highlight City Hall and place a sculpture on the lawn. Contemporary, lighted and/or kinetic.

(Insert slide content)

Local, national, international artist possibility.

Councilmember Vanorny motioned. Seconded by Hoeger. Unanimous.

3. Updates
   a. Czech Village/NewBo Area Action Plan
   Adam Lindenlaub, Community Development Planner, shared an update on the Czech Village/NewBo Area Action Plan. Mr. Lindenlaub shared the advisory group roles, member entities, and Sinclair Site Design Workshop design elements:

   - Role
     - Provide feedback
     - Preview public engagement activities
     - Encourage and advocate

   - Member Entities
     - SSMID
     - NewBo Association
     - Oak Hill Jackson Neighborhood Association
     - Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street District
     - Czech Village Association
     - Southside Investment

   - Sinclair Site Design Workshop
     - Design Elements
       - Mix of office, retail, and housing
       - District parking
       - Pedestrian amenities
- Park
- Bicycle accommodations
- Reconnecting streets

- Incorporation into Area Plan
  - Draft redevelopment designs will be shared with public for feedback
  - Included in the Land Use Element of the plan

- Additional Considerations
  - Czech Village Greenway Park Plan Review
  - Gateways
    - 3rd Street SE/8th Avenue SE
    - 16th Avenue SE Bridge
  - Trail Connections and bicycle traffic

Mr. Lindenlaub shared workshop draft concepts. These will be shared with the public to solicit feedback. Larger buildings, pedestrian activity, bike lanes.

- Draft Timeline
  - Spring 2019 Kick-off
  - Winter 2019 completion

Councilmember Vanorny likes the hanging signage, landscaping along walkways.

Councilmember Hoeger asked if there has been discussion of including Mt. Trashmore and connecting the entire area together by working with the SWA.

Mr. Lindenlaub stated yes, something they would be taking a look at.

Send action plan to all of Council and public input dates (per Ann)

Poe - Czech Village gateway, included?

Jennifer - Yes, included in design for the Flood Control gates.

Poe - 3rd Street/8th Avenue discussions.

Façade programs for owners in Czech Village area.

Library/Museum, active representation but this is more of an advisory group.

b. Affordable Housing Commission
Meets every other month, three meeting to date. Nov 14 – adopted by laws, vice chair/chair. Marty Stoll & ?. Comprehensive housing needs analysis. Four sub-committees. Meet on the off months of the Commission, report to the Commission. Help develop their work plan. Beginning stage, plan to bring back to Dev Comm late spring/early summer. Based on sub-committees.
No questions.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Future Discussion Items

Where are we at with the City flag? Communications team, Jennifer will check.

Councilmembers Vanorny and Hoeger adjourned the meeting at 9:01 a.m. with unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillane Gilmour, Administrative Assistant
Community Development