

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: April 11, 2023

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Aaron King, Assistant City Manager
Chris Murphy, Planning & Development Services Director

Council Action Requested:

Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 of the *Unified Development Ordinances* (UDO) to revise the membership structure of the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission – (UDO-CC22)

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods
Strategic Objective: No
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

In May 2022, the City Manager’s Office directed Planning & Development Services staff to explore revisions to the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission (HRC) membership structure to promote diversity on the Commission, allowing the Commission to better reflect the demographic makeup of the community.

The HRC is a twelve-member board that serves eight elected bodies in Forsyth County, four of which are Certified Local Governments that appoint Commission members. Certified Local Governments serve as partners to the State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service in promoting preservation initiatives and programs at the local level. The City of Winston-Salem, Village of Clemmons, Town of Kernersville, and Forsyth County share the responsibility of making appointments to the Commission. The City is responsible for appointing five members. Under the current structure of the Commission, four of the City seats are categorical and one is at-large. The categorical seats are specified in the UDO as follows:

Committee Action:

Committee	CDHGG May 8, 2023	Action	Forward without Recommendation
For	<u>2</u>	Against	<u>2</u>

Remarks: CM C. Clark and Mayor Pro Tempore D. Adams supported the Motion and CM A. Scipio and CM. K. Mundy voted against it.

1. Historic District property owner, i.e., owner in Old Salem or Bethabara
2. Historic Overlay District property owner, i.e., owner in the West End
3. Archaeologist; landscape architect; arborist; planner; or surveyor
4. Architectural historian or historic preservationist

The categorical seats are rooted in the makeup of the 1948 Board of Architectural Review for the Old Salem Historic District, which was created at a time when the City-County Planning Board did not have professional historic preservation staff. Today, the Commission has two staff members that meet the federal professional qualifications standards in history, archaeology, architectural history, architecture, and/or historic architecture. A review of eight commissions in six North Carolina communities revealed that only one peer commission has professional categorical seats.

COMMISSION NAME	PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES	RESIDENCE CATEGORIES	AT-LARGE
Asheville Historic Resources Commission	No	No	Yes
Charlotte Historic District Commission	No	Yes	Yes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission	No	No	Yes
Durham Historic Preservation Commission	Yes	No	Yes
Greensboro Historic Preservation Commission	No	Yes	Yes
Guilford County Joint Historic Preservation Commission	No	No	Yes
Raleigh Historic Development Commission	No	Yes	Yes
Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission	No	Yes	Yes

After consideration and discussion at the July 2022 HRC retreat, the Commission recommended that the City Council retain its two categorical seats for owners of property in the locally-regulated districts while converting the other two categorical seats to at-large seats. This change

will significantly broaden the applicant pool for future HRC members when the terms of the current seat holders for those positions expire in November 2023 and June 2026. This was presented as an information item at Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee meeting on October 11, 2022. This was presented to the City-County Planning Board, which recommended approval of the amendment, on March 9, 2023. Staff will be available to present the amendment and answer questions at the April CD/H/GG Committee meeting.