



**City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS**

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Legislative File No: 2006-0250

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Ed Anzek, Director of Planning & Development Department (Ext. 2572)
DATE: March 24, 2006
**SUBJECT: Historic Districts Study Committee
Increase in Number of Members on Committee**

REQUEST:

To increase the number of members currently appointed to the Historic Districts Study Committee.

BACKGROUND:

On October 20, 1999, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 449, establishing the Historic Districts Study Committee. At that time, the membership of the Study Committee was established at five (5) members -- three resident appointments, and two representatives from the Historic Districts Commission (HDC).

For the past several years, the HDC representatives to the Study Committee have been Mr. John Dziurman and Dr. Richard B. Stamps.

In November 2005, Dr. Stamps declined to be reappointed to the HDC due to work and other obligations, creating a vacancy on the Study Committee. That vacancy was filled by City Council's appointment on March 1, 2006 of Mr. Michael Sinclair to the Study Committee.

At the time Dr. Stamps declined to be reappointed to the HDC, he expressed an interest in remaining as a member of the Study Committee. The Study Committee and Staff agree that it is important to retain Dr. Stamps because he is the only member of the HDSC that has an archeological background. Also, Dr. Stamp's years of experience as a professor at Oakland University provide a connection to the University for the Committee and Council.

Subsequently, one additional HDC Member expressed an interest in serving on the Study Committee.

The Committee is also recommending expanding the HDSC by one additional member of the Historic Districts Commission to keep the total membership of the HDSC at an odd number. This is recommended for voting situations. Also with an expected increase in work to be conducted by the HDSC, the additional members will provide assistance in review and research related to their charge.

The State's Historic Preservation Office was consulted regarding the makeup and number of members that should be appointed to a Study Committee. The State's Historic Preservation Office indicated that as long as the resident ratio was greater than the HDC representative ratio, there should not be a problem with increasing the appointed membership of the Study Committee.

The City Attorney was also consulted regarding the makeup and number of members that should be appointed to the Study Committee. The City Attorney noted that Section 118-128 of the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance provides that the Study Committee shall be a standing committee and shall have "not less than five members". The City Attorney indicates that means that Council may appoint a Study Committee of more than five members.

Additionally, the City Attorney indicated that Section 118-128(1) states that council shall appoint "at least two historic districts commission members to the study committee", which means that Council can appoint more than two HDC representatives to the Study Committee, if Council desires to do so.

At its March 9, 2006 meeting, the Study Committee discussed increasing its membership to seven (7) members, and agreed their membership should be increased. The Study Committee requested that if Council decided to increase their membership, then one additional citizen and one additional HDC representative be appointed in order to provide a similar balance and vote ratio as the current five-member makeup of the Committee.

The current membership and term expiration dates of the Study Committee are as follows:

John Dziurman (HDC Representative)	Term: 12/31/2006
Shawn Grant	Term: 12/31/2006
Michael Sinclair (HDC Representative)	Term: 12/31/2007
LaVere Webster	Term: 12/31/2007
Rev. Dr. Pamela Whateley	Term: 12/31/2007

RECOMMENDATION:

The Historic Districts Study Committee recommends that City Council consider increasing the number of members on the Study Committee to seven (7), comprised of four (4) resident appointments, and three (3) HDC representatives.

RESOLUTION

NEXT AGENDA ITEM

RETURN TO AGENDA

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Mayor		
City Council Liaison		

Document2