



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development**

Date: June 10, 2004

TO: Council Member Gary Schiff, Zoning and Planning Committee
Council Members Zimmermann, Goodman, Lilligren, Niziolek, Ostrow

Prepared by: Barbara Sporlein, Director, Planning, Phone 612-673-2616

Presenter in Committee: Barbara Sporlein, Director, Planning

Approved by Barbara Sporlein, Director, Planning _____

Subject: Redefine the relationship of the City to the Committee on the Urban Environment (CUE)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the City Council adopt the attached resolution rescinding the 1968 Council action and subsequent related Council actions establishing the Committee on Urban Environment.
2. That the City Council direct appropriate staff to prepare amendments to the following City ordinances that reference CUE by deleting such references:
 - a. Ethics Code, 15.280(m)(3), List of Commissions subject to the Code;
 - b. Commercial Buildings Rehab Loan Program, 418.130(11), signs to comply with CUE standards;
 - c. Heritage Preservation Regulation, 599.120(c), Heritage Preservation Commission includes a CUE member.

Previous Directives: 1968 City Council action establishing CUE and subsequent actions relating to CUE on December 16, 1977, December 30, 1988 and July 28, 1989.

Financial Impact

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves

___ Other financial impact (Explain):
___ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee
Coordinator

Community Impact

Ward: Citywide
Neighborhood Notification: N/A
City Goals: N/A
Comprehensive Plan: N/A
Zoning Code: N/A
Living Wage/Job Linkage: N/A
Other

Background/Supporting Information

On February 9, 1968, the Minneapolis City Council established a Committee (that was eventually titled the Committee on Urban Environment – CUE) whose purpose was to “...encourage the preservation and development of natural and man-made beauty, historic landmarks, aesthetics, cultural and other assets, and the use and enjoyment of fine art objects which improve the quality of the environment and contribute to the livability of the City by rendering aid, advice and assistance to the City Council, Mayor, Planning Commission and other Officers, Boards and Commissions of the City as well as to the general public.”

Furthermore, the City Council prescribed the Committee’s 25 person membership: “...one to be the Mayor of his duly appointed representative and one each to be selected by the Park Board, the School Board, the Library Board, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the City Planning Commission, the Board of County Commissioners of Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council from their respective memberships; two Aldermen...; and the remaining 17 members – eight shall be appointed by the Mayor and nine by the President of the City Council...”

The action set forth the following 11 duties:

1. “Stimulate citizen participation in anti-litter, clean-up, fix-up and paint-up campaigns, annual community awards, annual tree planting program and other programs related to beautification and better civic design.
2. Stimulate investments and use of fine art objects in public and private art objects in public and private spaces.
3. Support highest design standards in all public and private improvements.
4. Stimulate and marshal citizen support for the preservation of historic landmarks and places of unique interest within the City.
5. Upon request, advise the City Council and the Boards, Commissions and officials of the City and private enterprise with respect to plans and actions which could affect or involve the purposes for which the Committee is established.
6. Recommend action to the City Council and to the Boards, Commissions and officials of the City to the purposes for which the Committee is established.

7. Sponsor such meetings, institutes, forums and other education programs as will lead to a clear understanding of and improvement in the areas of its concern.
8. Make studies and investigations which will provide a basis of research and fact for the Committee's programs and policies.
9. Publish and distribute such factual material as it ay deem necessary.
10. Keep proper records of its proceedings and comply with budgeting and established City procedures relating to finances and accounting thereof.
11. Make reports of its activities to the City Council annually or as often as needed."

The City Council instructed the City Coordinator to "...provide such staff, services and materials as shall be necessary within the appropriations made available to the Coordinator for such purposes..."

Subsequent Council actions on December 16, 1977, December 30, 1988 and July 28, 1989 made minor amendments to membership, appointment process and duties of CUE, and moved the responsibility for providing staff support for CUE from the City Coordinator to the Planning Department.

Up until early 2004, CUE was located within the Planning Department (now CPED-Planning Division). The Planning Department provided office space, equipment and supplies, and administrative assistance. Four other City regulatory and advisory Boards and Commissions exist that are responsible for many of the duties outlined in the 1968 CUE action: The City Planning Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Minneapolis Arts Commission. CPED-Planning supports all four Boards and Commissions. In October 2003, Chuck Ballentine, former Planning Director, sent a letter to CUE to confirm the City's termination of administrative support for CUE due to budget constraints. CUE vacated CPED-Planning offices in January 2004.

City staff recognizes the importance of and appreciates the numerous contributions made by CUE over the years, particularly in the area of awards and celebrations related to the natural and built environment such as Blooming Boulevards, CUE Awards, and the Arbor Day Celebrations. However, given that CPED-Planning supports four Boards and Commissions (CPC, HPC, ZBOA and MAC) that have primary responsibility for much of the substantive duties in the original resolution, and given serious budget constraints the past few years and into the foreseeable future, continuation of CUE as an official committee of the City creates a demand on City resources that is no longer feasible.

If CUE is dissolved as a committee of the City, members of CUE may wish to continue CUE as a non-governmental organization which can define its own mission and duties, and solicit and select its own members. Officers and employees of the City could cooperate with the Committee in the accomplishment of its goals and activities, but the City would not be required to provide any funding related personnel or operational support, including, but not limited to, office location, equipment, supplies and/or administrative assistance.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 1968 City Council action and subsequent related Council actions be rescinded and that CUE's status as a Committee established by the City of Minneapolis is dissolved.

Staff also recommends that the City Council direct appropriate staff to prepare amendments to the following City ordinances that reference CUE by deleting such references:

- a. Ethics Code, 15.280(m)(3), List of Commissions subject to the Code;
- b. Commercial Buildings Rehab Loan Program, 418.130(11), signs to comply with CUE standards;
- c. Heritage Preservation Regulation, 599.120(c), Heritage Preservation Commission includes a CUE member.

Proposed Resolution

By Schiff

Rescinding the 1968 and Related City Council Actions Establishing the Committee on Urban Environment (CUE)

Whereas, the Committee on Urban Environment was established by the Minneapolis City Council on February 9, 1968 in order to encourage the preservation and development of our natural and built environment; and

Whereas, subsequent Council actions on December 16, 1977, December 30, 1988 and July 28, 1989 made minor amendments to membership, appointment process and duties of CUE, and moved the responsibility for providing staff support for CUE from the City Coordinator to the Planning Department; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has benefited greatly from the commitment and energy of CUE and its members throughout the years and expresses its appreciation to current and former members and volunteers of CUE; and

Whereas, the City Planning Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Minneapolis Arts Commission are established as City Boards and Commissions which are charged with the preservation and improvement of the historic, natural and built environments and other duties prescribed to CUE in the 1968 action; and

Whereas, CPED-Planning supports the four Boards and Commissions described above; and

Whereas, personnel and financial resources available to CPED-Planning Division have been substantially reduced and the department is not financially able to support CUE with dedicated funding, personnel and operational support; and

Whereas, members of CUE may wish to continue CUE as a non-governmental organization which can define its own mission and duties, and solicit and select its own members; and

Whereas, officers and employees of the City could cooperate with the Committee in the accomplishment of its goals and activities, but the City would not be required to provide any funding related personnel or operational support, including, but not limited to, office location, equipment, supplies and/or administrative assistance;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis that the City of Minneapolis does hereby rescind the 1968 City Council action and subsequent CUE-related Council actions and dissolves CUE as a committee established by the City of Minneapolis.