

## CHAPTER 30

### HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SITES COMMISSION

1. **ESTABLISHED.** There is hereby created and established to advise and make recommendations to the Council, the Historical and Architectural Sites Commission consisting of eleven residents of the City appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Council for terms of three years and until the respective successor of each member is appointed and qualified, all of which said terms shall commence on May 1 and as to which vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of any unexpired term.

(AMENDED, Ordinance No. 2005-15, March 7, 2005)

2. **RESIDENCY.** All new appointees to the Commission on or after April 18, 2019 shall be residents of the City of Decatur, Illinois, and shall serve without compensation. This section shall not apply to those members serving as of April 18, 2019 and continuing to serve without interruption. (Amended, Ordinance No. 2019-17, April 15, 2019)

3. **QUALIFICATIONS.** In order to properly carry out the various duties and responsibilities of the Commission, it is necessary and desirable that there be appointed to the Commission persons having knowledge and expertise in the fields of architecture, archaeology, history, local government, engineering, anthropology, real estate, finance, law and related disciplines. The Mayor and the Council shall attempt, insofar as practicably possible, to appoint persons to the Commission such that all of the herein specified disciplines and areas of expertise are represented, but no action or decision of the Commission shall be invalid for failure to have on the Commission, or in attendance at the meeting whereat the action or decision was made, a person or persons representing any or all of such disciplines or areas of expertise.

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4. **STAFF.** The City Manager may designate officers and employees of the City to serve as advisory and staff personnel for the Commission.

5. **OFFICERS, RULES AND MEETINGS.** From among its members, and by the concurrence of six members thereof, the Commission shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary and provide rules for the conduct of its business, among which rules shall be provisions for the time and place of regular meetings and the calling by the Chairman, or on the concurrence of not less than six members, of special meetings. Six members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business which shall be accomplished only by the affirmative votes of a majority of the members in attendance while a quorum is present; provided that, the election of the Chairman or Secretary or the adoption, modification or rescision of any rule or part thereof, or any decision made pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 31 of the City Code, shall require the affirmative vote of six members. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public and any person, or his duly authorized representative, shall be entitled to appear and be heard on any matter then pending before the Commission. The secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a record of all proceedings and actions of the Commission, which record shall be kept and maintained at the office of the City Clerk. The Commission shall submit a report of its activities and recommendations to the Council at least once a year during the month of June and at such other times as the Commission may deem appropriate.

6. **POWERS AND DUTIES.** The Historical and Architectural Sites Commission has the following powers and duties:

(a) To aid in the development and restoration of historical and architectural sites and buildings existing in Decatur and Macon County;

(b) To recommend properties and areas to the City Council for designation as landmarks and historic districts, and to grant certificates of appropriateness or demolition for and within such properties or areas, as provided in Chapter 31 of the City Code.

(c) To make recommendations to the City Council and County Board, the Decatur Planning Commission, Macon County Regional Plan Commission, civic, fraternal, patriotic, and other organizations and the State of Illinois concerning the rediscovery, identifying and maintenance of sites of historical or architectural importance in the City and County that may heretofore have been ignored.

(d) To develop and recommend improved regulations for the maintenance of the area surrounding historical monuments and sites for the greater convenience of the visiting public.

(e) To make recommendations for the design and implementation of specific marking of the streets and routes leading from one historical and architectural monument or site to another.

(f) To coordinate activities of all civic, patriotic, fraternal, and other organizations of the community in improving and maintaining historical and architectural monuments, sites and their environs.

(g) To make suggestions and recommendations to the appropriate agency of the State of Illinois with respect to historic sites under State Jurisdiction and to nominate and prepare supporting papers for State and National Registers.

(h) To perform any and all other functions which will foster the marking and keeping of historical and architectural monuments and sites in accordance with the respect and tradition to which they are entitled, and as will aid the public in visiting such areas with convenience and in proper surroundings.

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(i) To actively seek out those private and governmental sources of financial aid for the preservations and historical restoration of historic and architectural significance.

(j) To prepare and recommend a development program and identify in some detail the nature, type and costs of the projects which are recommended to be undertaken immediately, as well as indicate in a general way those projects which might be undertaken at a later time, including those policies which are recommended to be adopted by the Council or other public bodies, along with suggestions to make the policies operative, indicating the role of other groups in the implementation of the development program.

(k) To perform such other and further functions as may be from time to time provided by the Council.

7. **GIFTS AND DONATIONS.** The Commission may solicit and recommend to the Council the acceptance of gifts or donations of money or property, whether real or personal, and may recommend to the Council the acquisition otherwise of such property to carry out the purposes and office of the Commission. The Council may from time to time provide for the administration and use of the money or property so acquired and the Commission may make recommendations with regard thereto. There is hereby established, until the further order of the Council, a fund to be separate from other funds of the City to be known as the Historical and Architectural Sites Fund into which moneys received shall, upon direction of the Council, be deposited to be expended or transferred therefrom only upon the direction of the Council.