

RESOLUTION NUMBER 12- 170

WHEREAS, the City of Decatur has determined “that the historical, cultural and aesthetic heritage of the city is among its most valued and important assets”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Decatur, Alabama established a Historic Preservation Commission through Ordinance No. 90-2882A on February 5, 1990 and by doing so became eligible to participate in the state Certified Local Government program; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Historical Commission has made grants available to Certified Local Government programs to provide training for local historic preservation commissions through the FY 2012 Historic Preservation Fund; and

WHEREAS, the city ordinance creating the Historic Preservation Commission mandates yearly training for HPC members and staff, and

WHEREAS, this is an 80/20 grant of which \$5,000 will be funded by the AHC and will require a cash match of \$1,000 from the City of Decatur Historic Preservation Commission’s FY 2013 budget, and

WHEREAS, the City of Decatur approved making application for the said grant through Resolution Number 12-032 approved at the February 20, 2012 meeting of the Decatur City Council, and

WHEREAS, this grant application was approved by the Alabama Historical Commission as Project # AL-12-016 in May of 2012 :

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Decatur, Alabama as follows:

SECTION 1: That Mayor Don Stanford is hereby authorized to accept the grant from the Alabama Historical Commission.

Adopted this 18th day of June, 2012..

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

GRANT ACCEPTANCE REQUEST

**Alabama Historical Commission FY 2012 Historic Preservation Fund
Resolution Number 12-**_____ **(See attached draft)**

For Work Session Date: June 11, 2012

Council Meeting Date: June 18, 2012

**Project: CAMP for Preservation Commissioners
Community Assistance and Mentoring Program**

The City of Decatur approved application for this grant at the February 20, 2012 meeting of the Decatur City Council via Resolution # 12-032. This project was approved by the Alabama Historical Commission in May as Project # AL-12-016.

Budget: This is an 80/20 (%) grant with \$5,000 in funding being requested from the Alabama Historical Commission and the \$1,000 cash match being supplied through the FY 2013 Historic Preservation Commission budget. (The project will not begin until after October 2012 thus the match will be contained in the FY 13 budget.)

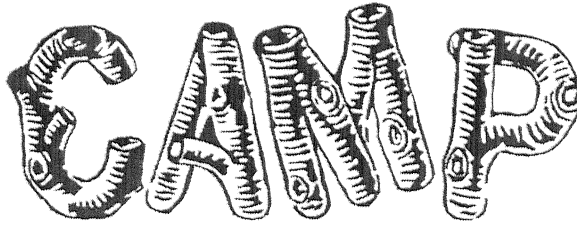
Project: The City of Decatur Historic Preservation Commission was established by City Ordinance No. 90-2882A Article II on February 5, 1990. The creation of locally designated historic districts subject to historic overlay zoning was mandated by neighborhood residents to help maintain the integrity and character of these two districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic Preservation Commission serves as a municipally-appointed board who by laws reviews all building and demolition permits within the designated districts for historical appropriateness.

Pursuant to Section 18-49 "Responsibilities of Commission Members" in the city ordinance, "*Each commission members and anyone serving the commission in a technical/professional staff capacity is required to attend, at the expense of the commission, at least two informational or educational meetings per year.*" Providing educational and training opportunities for commission members allows the HPC to meet state standards, but ultimately builds a stronger commission that effectively serves its constituency and protects the historic district by issuing sound decisions based on established design guidelines and legal procedure.

As the City of Decatur has achieved the status of a Certified Local Government (CLG) it is eligible for Historic Preservation Fund grants from the Alabama Historical Commission . Requested funds will be used to hold a CAMP (Community Assistance and Mentoring Program) for local historic preservation commission training through the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. The CAMP will offer customized curriculum to train commission members and staff in community revitalization methods and will include a training manual for each participant. Topics to be covered include Legal Issues, Standards and Guidelines, Procedures, Public Support, Hands on Design Exercise, Local Planning Issues and Identifying and Designating Resources. (See attached CAMP "Topics" page)

For More Information:

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<http://www.decaturalabamausa.com/departments/historicpres/index.html>



TOPICS

Legal Issues:

One of the two topics included in every CAMP, the Legal Issues session covers the legal basis for commission operation. Procedural due process, takings, appeals, ethics, property rights, and economic hardship are among the many legal issues covered. Extra emphasis can be given to different issues to meet the client's needs.

Standards and Guidelines:

One of the two topics included in every CAMP, this session gives participants an understanding of the relationship between Federal Standards and local design guidelines. It provides quick and easy ways to determine compatibility and have confidence in making decisions regarding new construction/infill, signs, additions and alterations in historic districts and to historic properties.

Procedures:

The strongest defense preservation commissions have against accusations of arbitrary and capricious decisions is to consistently follow established review procedures. This session deals with the essential elements of those procedures and how to ensure that they address all of the commission's needs and are followed.

Public Support:

Historic preservation commissions regularly get bogged down in the day-to-day issues regarding administration of local ordinances and forget that they are public servants who should happily provide design review services as well as being enthusiastic promoters of historic preservation to local citizens. This session helps participants deal with the thorny issues surrounding the engineering of local support for designations, surviving unpopular decisions and dealing with reluctant elected officials.

Hands on Design Exercise:

This session helps commission members and staff persons learn how to view change before it occurs in historic districts. Additional exercises assist new design reviewers, as well as seasoned professionals, to practice project review. The session provides opportunities to learn from instructors as well as from each other in a lively and fun format. It gives people a chance to let their hair down without the fear of public reprisals.

Local Planning Issues:

A preservation commission is most effective when its work is a part of the larger local planning process. This session covers the essential elements of preservation planning and how to make your preservation plan a part of the larger local plan not an addition to it.

Identifying and Designating Resources:

Every preservation commission faces issues of determining what resources should and can be protected through local designation. This session deals with all aspects of identifying and designating resources. Topics include conducting an historic resource survey, determining integrity of potential historic districts, drawing and defending district boundaries, and legal aspects of the designation process.

CAMP is a program of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions