

Meeting Date: April 26, 2016

Agenda Item 4

REQUESTED COMMISSION ACTION:

Consent Ordinance Resolution Consideration/Discussion Presentation

Short Title

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE 2017-2018 SMALL MATCHING GRANT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, AGREEING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE GRANT IF THE GRANT IS AWARDED TO THE CITY, AND TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Fund 302, TBD subject to City Commission approval of FY17 CIP)

Summary of Purpose and Why:

The City of Pompano Beach is preparing to submit an application for the 2017-2018 State of Florida Small Matching Historic Grant. Funding will be used for Phase II of renovations and restoration to the Blanche Ely House. The House, listed on the Local Register of Historic Places, was the home of Ms. Blanche Ely, Pompano Beach's pioneer educational activist for African American students. The House is owned by the City of Pompano Beach and contains objects and artifacts that tell the story of Pompano Beach's African American educational pioneers.

This agenda item is to allocate a 50/50 match of \$50,000 towards Phase II renovations of the Blanche Ely House. The funding will be used to continue the Phase I restoration grant received from the State for 2016-2017, which will be used to bring the facility into compliance with ADA standards and change the Certificate of Occupancy from a Residence into a Place of Assembly/ museum. These improvements must occur for the building to be open to the public as an educational facility and cultural heritage museum.



Accomplishing this item supports achieving Initiative 2.8 "Further develop and promote cultural / heritage tourism opportunities" as identified in the City's 2013 Strategic Plan.

- (1) Origin of request for this action: Development Services Division
- (2) Primary staff contact: Robin Bird/Karen Santen Ext. 4926
- (3) Expiration of contract, if applicable: NA
- (4) Fiscal impact and source of funding: \$50,000 (Fund 302, TBD subject to City Commission approval of FY 17 CIP)

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION	DATE	DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION	DEPARTMENTAL HEAD SIGNATURE
Dev. Services	April 5, 2016	Approval	Memo #16-154
City Attorney	<u>4/13/16</u>		
Budget	<u>4/13/16</u>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Manager			

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMISSION:

Ordinance	Resolution	Consideration	Workshop
1 st Reading	1 st Reading	Results:	Results:
_____	_____	_____	_____
2 nd Reading			
_____	_____	_____	_____



City Attorney's Communication #2016-723

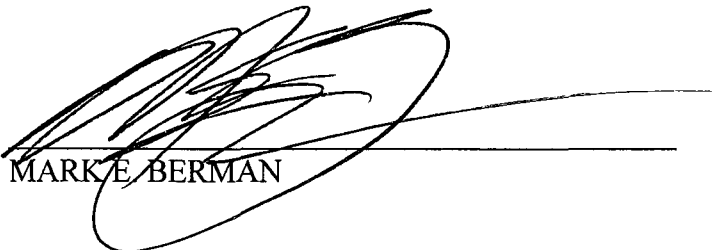
April 8, 2016

TO: Karen Santen, Development Services, Grants Coordinator
FROM: Mark E. Berman, City Attorney
RE: Resolution – Small Matching Preservation Grant

As requested in your memorandum of April 5, 2016, Department of Development Services Memorandum No. 16-154, the following form of Resolution, relative to the above-referenced matter, has been prepared and is attached:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE 2017-2018 SMALL MATCHING GRANT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, AGREEING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE GRANT IF THE GRANT IS AWARDED TO THE CITY, AND TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Please feel free to contact me if I may be of further assistance.



MARK E. BERMAN

/jrm
l:cor/dev-srv/2016-723

Attachment

CITY OF POMPANO BEACH
Broward County, Florida

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE 2017-2018 SMALL MATCHING GRANT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, AGREEING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE GRANT IF THE GRANT IS AWARDED TO THE CITY, AND TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, historic preservation is an important part of our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pompano Beach desires to apply for Small Matching Grant ("Grant"), which would provide monies for a historical house restoration; and

WHEREAS, if the grant is awarded to the city, the City of Pompano Beach intends to restore and renovate the Blanche Ely House Museum; and

WHEREAS, if approved for the Grant, the City of Pompano Beach will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Pompano Beach, Florida, and the Florida Department of State; and

WHEREAS, if approved for the Grant, the City of Pompano Beach will provide matching funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 towards the restoration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City Commission hereby supports the city's efforts to restore and renovate the Blanche Ely House Museum and approves the application for the Grant submittal with a matching fund amount of \$50,000.00.

SECTION 2. That the proper city officials are hereby authorized to submit the Grant application.

SECTION 3. If awarded the grant, the City of Pompano Beach will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Pompano Beach, Florida and the Florida Department of State.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall become effective upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

LAMAR FISHER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ASCELETA HAMMOND, CITY CLERK

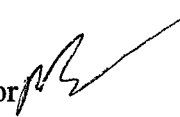
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4/8/16
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MEMORANDUM

Development Services

MEMORANDUM NO. 16-154

DATE: April 5, 2016
TO: Mark Berman, City Attorney
VIA: Robin M. Bird, Development Services Director 
FROM: Karen Santen, Grants Coordinator KS.
RE: Request for Resolution- Small Matching Preservation Grant

The City of Pompano Beach is preparing to submit a proposal for the Florida Division of Historical Resources FY2017-18 Florida Department of State Small Matching Historic Preservation Grant. Funding will be used for Phase II of renovations and restoration of the Blanche Ely House Museum. The full application will be submitted online and a brief description of the project is provided below. A draft of the grant application is enclosed.

Our department will be requesting \$50,000 in grant funding which requires a 1-to-1 dollar match.

A resolution from the City Commission supporting the application and committing the funds is recommended for the application. Please prepare the appropriate resolution. For your convenience, we have drafted a sample resolution of support.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at extension 4926.

Thank you.

Project Description

The City of Pompano Beach is requesting funding for Phase II of restoration and renovations of the Blanche Ely House. The City previously received a Small Matching Preservation Grant from the state for FY2016-17 for Phase I of the same project. The site being renovated is the former home of Mrs. Blanche General Ely, a seven decade resident of Broward County. A preliminary assessment of the house and its contents indicated extensive damage as a result of mold, water leakage, insect and rodent infestation and lack of climate/humidity control.

Funding from the previous grant will be used for Phase I of restoration, which is needed to bring the facility into compliance with ADA standards and to change the Certificate of Occupancy from a Residence into a Place of Assembly/ museum. The FY2017-18 grant will provide the funds needed to finish improvements to the building to enable it to be open to the public as an educational facility and cultural heritage museum.

Florida Department of State

2018 Small Matching Grant Application

The City of Pompano Beach is requesting funding for Phase II of restoration and renovations of the Blanche Ely House (BEH). Located at 1500 NW 6th Avenue in Pompano Beach, BEH is one of the Broward County's first African American historical museums. The house, listed on the Local Register of Historic Places, was the home of Ms. Blanche Ely, Broward County's pioneer educational activist for African American students. It presently contains artifacts, photographs and media articles that tell the story of Pompano Beach's pioneering community throughout the 20th century.

Unfortunately, after many years of neglect, the house and its contents are in disrepair and in danger of being lost. Pompano Beach is undergoing plans to restore the house and certify it as a public museum. The results of a preliminary survey served as guidelines for the soundest conservation steps needed to ultimately open the house to the public as a museum, once again. With the help of architectural historian and preservation specialists, Robert S. Johnson Associates, survey findings indicated that the house and its artifacts displayed extensive damage as a result of mold, water leakage, insect and rodent infestation and lack of climate/humidity control. These issues have been addressed and the interior of the house has received basic cleaning and maintenance.

As a result of this preliminary survey, Pompano Beach will conduct the BEH restoration project in two phases:

Phase I: The City previously received a FY2016-17 Small Matching Preservation Grant from the State for Phase I of the BEH project. Funding from this grant is being used for restoration which is needed to bring the facility into compliance with ADA standards and to change the Certificate of Occupancy from a Residence into a Place of Assembly/ museum.

Phase II: The FY2017-18 grant will provide the funds needed for Phase II of the project which will complete renovations to the building so that it can be reopened to the public as an educational facility and cultural heritage museum.

The foundation originally organized to support the BEH is not currently active and the house has deteriorated over time. A new community group is now active in the museum's restoration. It is keeping the momentum flowing by working towards becoming a 501(c)3 that will help support future renovations and create public awareness. The 2014 budget for Pompano Beach allocated \$103,000 of Capital Improvement Project funding to revitalize the house and restore the museum to its former glory. Most of this allocation has been used for preliminary repairs with remaining funds being used as a matching source. Previous funding from the State of Florida has enabled Pompano Beach to begin basic refurbishments, but further funding is required to ensure that the project is finished.

Direct Economic Impact (1500 characters)

from the ancillary spending of these tourists who will be frequenting local hotels, restaurants and businesses.

The BEH is located in the vicinity of the City's historic Old Downtown, where significant redevelopment is underway. When complete, this area will be transformed into a mixed-use, transit-oriented walkable community. Preserving the neighborhood's historic properties makes the area more valuable by creating an area that is unique, honors its past, attracts interest from the community and encourages investment. Historic preservation helps boost property values in this area that has experienced decades of neglect and abandonment.

The museum will have a small gift shop with books and artifacts from neighboring cultural icons. Tours of the house may be free. In addition, donations will be accepted.

Threats

The most immediate threat to the Blanche Ely House is that it is a vacant building that is deteriorating and cannot be used and established as a museum until repairs have been made. It has structural damage resulting from water damage, roof collapse and damage from mold and rodents. An upgraded A/C and heating system has been installed to provide appropriate climate conditions for the house and the artifacts displayed within it. The roof has also been repaired. Damage still remains to the walls, ceiling and floors. An improved lighting and electrical system is needed to accommodate various uses and exhibits. Years of neglect have intensified these problems and need to be addressed.

The restoration project is at risk because those who are most passionate about the museum's preservation are Ms. Ely's former students. Unfortunately we are at the point where these supporters are aging and if action is not taken soon Mrs. Ely's story, and a significant part of the city's history, will be forgotten and lost.

An external threat exists as a result of the City's extensive growth and redevelopment as public investments in the city are stimulating private development. Much of this expansion is centered on the City's two community redevelopment areas - the East CRA and the NW CRA which include many of the City's most historic areas. Many of these properties are currently in the process of rehabilitation, however many are privately owned and continued redevelopment in the area will put them at risk of demolition. This grant will strengthen the significance of the Blanche Ely House Museum and pave the way for future historic preservation projects.

Minorities and Disabled

The BEH is located in a richly diverse metropolitan area comprised of historically African American and White neighborhoods, as well as an almost equal mix of Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic. The City's Local Register of Historic Places is composed almost entirely of buildings in this area which reflect the history and stories of the City's rich African American past. This project seeks to continue the City's efforts to fight for properties that represent the diverse cultures of the City's NW CRA neighborhoods.

Blanche Ely High School and the four elementary schools Ms. Ely helped to open are near the house and still educate primarily black students. These students will be primary beneficiaries of the wealth of knowledge and history available at the BEH. The City hopes to work on a

collaborative effort to develop educational programs for students and the public at the future museum. More details are provided in the Education and Historic Significance sections.

In order to serve the needs of all of its citizens and visitors, the City recognizes the importance of accessibility in all of its restoration projects. Many patrons visiting the BEHM may require additional consideration thus, ensuring that all restoration plans will meet or exceed federal, state and local regulations is a high priority. Specific plans include ADA approved ramps, handrails, restrooms and parking.

Education

Blanche Ely was an educational pioneer for the African American community in Pompano Beach. Spanning several decades, Mrs. Ely's influence and contributions to Pompano Beach's public education system are remarkably evident. She and her husband were Civil Rights Activists in the pursuit of equal educational opportunities for African American children. Beginning in the 1920's, her efforts made it possible for these students to attend school through the 11th grade with the potential to continue on to college. In remembrance of Mrs. Ely's legacy and contributions to the community, a group of individuals sought to preserve her house and turn it into a museum. The City of Pompano Beach fully supports revitalizing this museum and making it a true landmark with educational and cultural benefits for students, residents and visitors.

The BEH houses a collection of objects, articles and artifacts documenting the story of Pompano's Beach's African American community throughout the 20th century, an aspect of Broward County history not as well explored as others areas. The restoration of the house and its wealth of artifacts will educate and offer insight into Broward County's rich cultural history for all members of the community.

The City is discussing a partnership with the Broward County School District to create educational opportunities to supplement the current curriculum. Opportunities include field trips and special projects will incorporate Pompano Beach's African American heritage with emphasis on Mrs. Ely's contributions. Blanche Ely High School and the four elementary schools Ms. Ely helped to open will participate in the special programs.

Historic significance

Blanche General Ely (1904 -1993) was born in Reddick, Florida and was a resident of Pompano Beach for 7 decades. In 1923, Mrs. Ely was named principal of what was then called the "Pompano Colored School." When the school was destroyed in a hurricane, a new school was constructed. The 11th grade was added and, through Principal Ely's efforts, students completing that grade were prepared to proceed directly to college.

A Civil Rights Activist, Blanche Ely was the only female secondary school principal, white or black, in the State of Florida until the 1970's. In 1951, at the height of segregation and a time when Pompano Beach's population was rapidly expanding, Mrs. Ely lobbied for a new public high school to adequately serve the City's young adults. The school opened in 1954 and was named in her honor.

As an educator, she nourished young teachers and administrators to continue her work. She was instrumental in securing funding for a migrant housing project, from which emerged the Markham Elementary School. A housing project for low-income families was named Ely Estates and NW 6th Avenue was renamed for her. She & her husband, Professor Joseph Ely, sponsored the 1st federally funded lunch program in Broward County.

In 1970, Broward County School Board "phased-out" Blanche Ely High School. Principal Ely and the PTA filed a lawsuit which went to the U.S. Supreme Court resulting in the re-opening of Blanche Ely High School in 1975.

After her passing in 1993, her home was purchased by the City and leased to the Ely Educational Foundation (EEF) with the mission to care for, preserve and educate the public about Mrs. Ely. The Ely house became the City's first public display of African American history, serving as a holding place for a variety of Pompano Beach's historic artifacts.

Public awareness

Marketing efforts will be taken before, during and after the project to create public awareness throughout Greater Broward County. The City is proposing a series of publically available resources exploring not only Ms. Ely's contributions, but to offer glimpses into an often neglected period in Pompano's history. Brochures on her community involvement and academic achievements will be distributed at the house and other locations. Artifacts and news clippings displayed throughout the museum will educate visitors on the many social and educational "battles" that Mrs. Ely fought against racism, segregation and sexism.

Outreach projects will involve local schools and help teachers integrate the museum into their curriculum. Also under consideration is partnering with the American Association for State and Local History on various events, fundraising and special exhibits. A website promoting the BEHM is being planned.

Group educational meetings will stimulate conversations outside of the museum and continue the City's rich tradition of oral history. The City's Public Communications Department will issue press releases following the progression of the restoration and promoting the importance of the BEHM and other historic sites in Pompano Beach. In order to reach a larger audience, the City is currently designing a brochure, funded in part by Visit Florida, focusing on Pompano's significance as a historic and cultural tourism destination. The combination of these activities and resources will increase public awareness of Mrs. Ely's legacy to Pompano Beach, enlighten the public on a critical period in its history and demonstrate the importance of preserving its cultural heritage.