

**STAFF REPORT**  
**Planning Commission**  
**May 10, 2012**

**“Oklahoma City Historic Preservation Standards and Guidelines Incorporating Sustainability Principles,” also known as GREEN Guidelines.**

The GREEN Guidelines have been made possible as is part of the approved Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant that originates from the U.S. Department of Energy, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; Grant Number DE-EE0000920. This grant is managed by Oklahoma City’s Office of Sustainability.

The consultant has undertaken a critical analysis of preservation and sustainability practices of peer/best practices cities and is revising the Preservation Guidelines/Standards to incorporate sustainable preservation practices. The new document has also been reformatted for ease of reference and use. The process has included planning, organizing, leading and participating in public meetings and training activities with the Historic Preservation Commission, neighborhood representatives, property owners, and City staff.

The current Guidelines/Standards, adopted in 2003, provided a more clearly defined approach for the preservation of important, primarily residential, historic districts zoned HP (Historic Preservation) or HL (Historic Landmark). Although the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was established in 1969, the standards and guidelines for evaluating proposed exterior changes to HP and HL zoned properties and districts was based on aesthetic and individual opinions of preservation appropriateness that were eventually loosely based on an interpretation of the U. S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, which were created as a result of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The 2003 Guidelines/Standards, in use for 8 years, have helped to make a noticeable improvement to the process and properties/districts zoned HP and HL. The application of these Guidelines/Standards have helped staff and the HPC make better recommendations and decisions based on historic authenticity and appropriateness. The new document serves to correct deficiencies in the current Guidelines/Standards, respond to requests from owners of HP and HL zoned properties for guidance on making their historic buildings more energy efficient, and places the City in a national leadership position to incorporate sustainability principles into the Preservation conversation.

**I. RECOMMENDATION**

Set for public hearing on June 14, 2012.