



Mayor Sam Kooiker
City of Rapid City
300 6th Street
Rapid City SD 57701-2724

April 14, 2015

Dear Mayor Sam Kooiker:

The South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) would like to express its support for the city's proposed ordinance change and restructuring of its review process for SDCL1-19A-11.1 (11.1). The advantages are many. First, this process will align Rapid City with the majority of other cities in the state who effectively administer 11.1. Most municipalities across South Dakota are already successfully using a similar streamlined 11.1 procedure without sacrificing their responsibility to historic property.

Second, this process will better serve the consumer. Citizens will receive faster permits on many undertakings that have no potential to adversely affect historic properties under 11.1. For those projects in which further review is needed, city staff, the SHPO, and the Historic Preservation Commission will work in concert to either eliminate or minimize the adverse effect as much as possible.

Third, the process places the appropriate amount of decision-making authority with city planning staff to administer 11.1 as our State Legislature intended when enacting this statute. It also provides an excellent avenue for communication between SHPO and city staff.

The MOA that expired was outdated. Digital tools now help the SHPO and city staff answer questions and evaluate potential adverse effects in a more timely manner, making a preliminary review by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) unnecessary in most cases. However, in those cases which require HPC review, we do encourage the City to appoint as many HPC members as possible with professional qualifications, to ensure the best expertise available when reviewing applications.

Thank you for giving the SHPO the opportunity to comment on this issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or Kate Nelson at (605) 773-3458. We appreciate your dedication to Rapid City's historic places.

Sincerely,

TED M. SPENCER
Director - Historic Preservation Office