MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission
   City Council

FROM: Sarah Hanzel, Planner III

DATE: 6/25/2020

RE: 20OA003 - Proposed Amendment to Historic Preservation Commission Membership Requirements

The procedures for historic review as established in South Dakota Codified Law 11-19A-11.1 were codified in the Rapid City Municipal Code in 2015. At that time, some modifications to the membership requirements were revised and introduced to Chapter 17 with the goal of ensuring that stakeholders from within historic districts were appointed in addition to professionals. Currently, the ordinance requires three members each representing downtown, West Boulevard, and professional fields related to historic preservation. In monitoring the performance of these requirements over the last five years, it has proven difficult to administer. If a Commission member moves to a different neighborhood, or gets a different job we no longer strictly comply with the ordinance. The proposed ordinance amendment grants additional flexibility, while maintaining the overall goal of ensuring stakeholder representation.

Summary of changes:
- Relocates the establishment and duties of the Commission from Chapter 17 to Chapter 2.
- Changes membership from 6 voting members and 3 alternates to 5 voting members + 2 alternates. Due to vacancies, no current members/alternates will lose their appointment.
- Changes membership requirements to “due regard for stakeholders” instead of the strict categories previously required.