



Legislation Text

File #: 21-1232, **Version:** 1

Resolution to Establish the Robert Hayden House Historic District Study Committee

This resolution establishes a historic district study committee to make a report and recommendation to the City Council whether to establish a single-resource local historic district consisting of the Robert Hayden House at 1201 Gardner Avenue.

Background

Robert Hayden was born in Detroit in 1913, attended Detroit City College and the University of Michigan. After finishing his degree in 1942, Hayden taught at UofM for several years and was the first Black faculty member in Michigan's English department. Hayden taught at Fisk University for over 20 years, but he and his family returned to Ann Arbor, to 1201 Gardner Avenue, in 1969, where he taught at UofM until his death in 1980.

Hayden wrote some of the most powerful Black history poems in the English language. In 1976 Hayden was offered and accepted the position of Poetry Consultant to the Library of Congress (later called the Poet Laureate) - the first Black American to hold this position. He accepted and was reappointed in 1978.

Historic District Study Committee Process

The committee is expected to meet up to three times before distributing a study committee report to the Historic District Commission, City Planning Commission, State Historic Preservation Office and others for review and comment. No less than 60 days later, the Committee will hold a public hearing and submit a final report to City Council for consideration.

Recommendations

Staff requests that City Council establish the Robert Hayden House Study Committee.

Prepared by: Jill Thacher, City Planner/Historic Preservation Coordinator

Reviewed by: Brett Lenart, Planning Manager
Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator

Approved by: Tom Crawford, City Administrator

Whereas, According to the Michigan Local Historic Districts Act and City Code, Chapter 103, Section 8:408, the City must receive a report from a historic district study committee before establishing a historic district;

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor City Council hereby establishes the Robert Hayden House Historic District Study Committee;

RESOLVED, That the area to be examined by the study committee is the 0.109-acre parcel of land at 1201 Gardner Avenue, tax parcel number 09-09-33-328-001, commonly known as the Robert

Hayden House;

RESOLVED, That the study committee shall consist of three or five members to be appointed by the City Council, consistent with Section 8:408 of City Code;

RESOLVED, That the charge of the study committee is those duties set forth in Sections 8:408 and 8:410 of Chapter 103 of the Ann Arbor City Code; and

RESOLVED, That the term of the study committee is until it delivers its final report and recommendations to the City Council, which shall be no later than June 30, 2022.