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Action Plan

Strategy 1- Adopt-A-Street Program

Version 2 from Community Appearance

Priority Area:
Improve Community Appearance

Goal/Objective:
Improve general appearance of city.

Strategy 1- Develop and implement Adopt-A-Street Project:

Action Steps:
- Form workgroup of city staff to research past programs and similar programs in other communities. Have information from previous city/chamber project to review as example.
- Inform potential stakeholders for input.
- Develop program processes and procedures.

Resources Required:
1. Staff time to research and design program.
2. Funding for staffing to operate program with a 0.10 FTE for a Neighborhood Improvement Officer in the Planning, Zoning and Neighborhood Development Dept.
3. Funding for operational costs of program.

Total Plan Cost:
Total Additional FTE: 0.10
One-Time Costs: $1,000
Staffing Annual Costs: $5,600
Program Annual Costs: $3,000

Desired Benefit/Outcome:
- Improved appearance of community through reduction of litter present on City streets.
- Increased pride of residents in appearance of city.
- City is more attractive to new residents and business investment.

"Clean the trash off the streets... Clean up the actual trash all over the place." - Citizen
Respondent
Action Plan
Strategy 2-Residence and Business of the Month Program

*Version 2 from Community Appearance*

**Priority Area:**
Improve Community Appearance

**Goal/Objective:**
Improve general appearance of city.

**Strategy 2- Develop and Implement a Residence of Month and Business of the Month Program to recognize well maintained business properties and increase pride of appearance of community:**

**Action Steps:**
- Form workgroup of city staff to research similar programs in other communities. Have information from previous chamber/city program to use as template.
- Inform potential stakeholders for input.
- Develop program processes and procedures.

**Resources Required:**
1. Staff time to research and design program.
2. Funding for staffing to operate program with a 0.10 FTE for a Neighborhood Improvement Officer in the Planning, Zoning and Neighborhood Development Dept.
3. Funding for operational costs of program.

**Total Plan Cost:**
Total Additional FTE: 0.10
One-Time Costs: $1,000
Staffing Annual Costs: $5,600
Program Annual Costs: $3,000

**Desired Benefit/Outcome:**
- Improved appearance of community through better maintenance of structures and properties.
- Increased value of properties.
- Increased pride of residents in appearance of city.
- City is more attractive to new residents and business investment.

*“Reward citizens and businesses for acts of kindness and beautiful landscaping - Listening Team Respondent*
Action Plan

Strategy 3- Review Zoning Code for Additional Beautification Enhancements

Version 2 from Community Appearance

Priority Area:
Improve Community Appearance

Goal/Objective:
Improve general appearance of city.

Strategy 3- Review Zoning Code for additional beautification enhancements:

Action Steps:
- Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services Dept. in process of conducting review and update of current Zoning Code. Review will include analysis for possible changes that can be made to enhance community appearance that include building design and landscaping requirements. This review will look at the possibility of including CEPTED principles in design of new buildings.
- Bring draft of updates to council for public hearing and consideration.

Resources Required:
1. PDNS staff time to conduct or oversee review.

Total Plan Cost:
Total Additional FTE: Existing staff time.
One-Time Costs: $0.00
Staffing Annual Costs: $0.00
Program Annual Costs: $0.00

Desired Benefit/Outcome:
- Improve appearance of new private development.
- Identify opportunities to update zoning code.
- Consistency in quality of appearance throughout the city.
Action Plan

Strategy 4-Review Sign Code for Additional Beautification Measures

Version 2 from Community Appearance

Priority Area:
Improve Community Appearance

Goal/Objective:
Improve general appearance of city.

Strategy 4- Review Sign Code for additional beautification measures:

Action Steps:
  a. Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services Dept. in process of conducting a review and update of current Sign Code for possible changes that can be made to enhance community beautification efforts. This review to include analysis of light pollution issues. Will review the use of options for small right-of-way signs, the increased use of monument signs, etc.
  b. Meet with stakeholders to inform and seek input into changes.
  c. Bring to city council for public hearing and consideration.
  d. Reinstate sign code enforcement officer. Key components of any suggested changes will include efficient issuance of sign permits as well as improved enforcement of code. A significant education program for businesses on any changes will be required.

Resources Required:
  1. PDNS staff time to conduct or oversee review.
  2. Funding for Neighborhood Improvement Officer 1.0 FTE initially to bring sign issues into compliance, then estimated to be 0.50 FTE after that. 0.50 FTE can then assist with other code enforcement activities.
  3. Funding for vehicle, office equipment, supplies.
  4. Funding for additional court/prosecutor staff costs for additional citation activity. Estimated to be 0.25 FTE.

Total Plan Cost:
Total Additional FTE: 1.25
One-Time Costs: $2,500
Staffing Annual Costs: $80,000
Program Annual Costs: $5,000

Desired Benefit/Outcome:
  • Improve quality of signage throughout the city.
  • Increase staff capacity to enforce updated sign code.
  • Increase safety, maintenance, and compliance of signs.

“Maintain streets, side walks, street lights and signs in the entire city.” - Dining Tour Respondent
From: Bolander, Troy <TBolande@Joplinmo.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 3:20 PM
To: Pekarek, Dan <DPekarek@Joplinmo.org>
Subject: FW: Sign Permits

Bryan’s research does tell a story.

From: Wicklund, Bryan <BWicklund@Joplinmo.org>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Bolander, Troy <TBolande@Joplinmo.org>; Heagel, Patricia <PHeagel@joplinmo.org>
Subject: Sign Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Sign Permits Issued</th>
<th># of violations</th>
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<tr>
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</table>

**Interesting numbers.......**

Sharon was doing signs until 5/30/04
Ed was from 5/30/04 to 1/13/06

As you can see since these two sign enforcement officers (except for 2012) the number of sign permits are drastically less.
Prior to 2007 sign violations were not recorded in HTE.

In 2020 we issued just 20% of the number of sign permits that were issued nearly twenty years earlier.

*Bryan Wicklund*
Chief Building Official
Joplin Planning & Community Dep.
602 S. Main St.
Joplin, MO 64801

Office: 417-624-0820, ext 519
Fax: 417-625-4738
Email: BWicklun@joplinmo.org
Action Plan


Version 2 from Community Appearance

Priority Area:
Improve Community Appearance

Goal/Objective:
Improve general appearance of city.

Strategy 5: Review Non-Residential Property Maintenance Code for additional building maintenance requirements for structures:

Action Steps:

a. Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services Dept. to conduct review and update of current Non-Residential Property Maintenance Code for possible changes that can be made to enhance maintenance requirements of buildings. May consider updating current code with the International Property Maintenance Code (includes both residential and commercial).

The current code and a possible international Property Maintenance Code address current structures, and do not address new construction. New construction is covered by the 2018 International Building Codes. As presented, review of compliance with code would consist of an exterior review to improve community appearance. Interior inspections would occur based on complaints or concerns raised by citizens or if concerns observed and reported by other city departments during other code required inspections (i.e. health department or fire department). New inspection could also be required upon a change of ownership of business (business license inspection).

b. Inform stakeholders for input in process.

c. Bring to city council for consideration.

Resources Required:

1. PDNS staff time to conduct or oversee review.
2. Funding for 0.50 FTE Building Inspector.
3. Funding for vehicle and equipment for staff position (unless combined with another).
4. Funding for 0.25 FTE additional court/prosecutor staff.

Total Plan Cost:
Total Additional FTE: 0.75
One-Time Costs: $1,500
Staffing Annual Costs: $50,000
Program Annual Costs: $5,000

"Make absentee landlords responsible for maintaining their properties." - Listening Tour Respondent
**Desired Benefit/Outcome:**
Improved appearance of community through enhanced beautification requirements for ongoing maintenance of existing structures in city. Increased pride of residents and business owners in appearance of city. City is more attractive to new residents and business investment.
Action Plan

Strategy 6-Beautification Study

Version 2 from Community Appearance

**Priority Area:**
Improve Community Appearance

**Goal/Objective:**
Improve general appearance of city.

**Strategy 6 - Conduct a comprehensive Community Beautification Study that results in a Community Beautification Plan:**

**Action Steps:**

a. City council to appoint a Beautification Committee to conduct a Community Beautification Study of city. Study to analyze various community beautification efforts underway and make suggestions for additional projects to enhance community appearance. Report to include project list as well as estimates of cost associated with projects/initiatives. City staff to assist in the study design and implementation as well as overseeing future project development.

**Resources Required:**

1. Staff time to work with Beautification Committee to design and conduct study.
2. Funds for future implementation of projects. An initial budget of $100,000 is envisioned for miscellaneous committee costs as well as providing a budget for initial beautification projects. Other funding sources may be leveraged to enhance program (Hotel and Motel Tax, Parks and Stormwater Beautification initiative).
3. Funding for 0.25 FTE for a Neighborhood Improvement Officer in Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services Dept. to oversee program.

**Total Plan Cost:**

Total Additional FTE: 0.25
One-Time Costs: $100,000
Staffing Annual Costs: $16,250
Program Annual Costs: TBD

**Desired Benefit/Outcome:**

- Identify ways of enhancing community's appearance by increasing its aesthetic visual quality while welcoming visitors and enhancing quality of life for residents.
- Increased pride of residents and business owners in appearance of city.
- City is more attractive to new residents and business investment.

"Down the road, something that could be better is more green space...each new business coming in should be required to plant trees, shrubs, or flowers and beautify their space. Add to our parks they are beautiful and many people use them." — Listening Tour Respondent
Action Plan

Strategy 1- Housing Revitalization Plan

Version 2 from Addressing Declining Neighborhoods

**Priority Area:**
Address Declining Neighborhoods

**Goal/Objective:**
Revitalize housing options

**Strategy 1- Housing Revitalization Plan:**

**Action Steps:**
- Using a portion of the general fund reserve balance, create a new revitalization fund with an initial funding of $1.0m
- Form a JHAP oversight committee comprised of city staff and citizens
- Incentivize the replacement of declining housing options as outlined by the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKET VALUE</th>
<th>ASSESSED VALUE</th>
<th>AMOUNT OF INCENTIVE AVAILABLE</th>
</tr>
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<td>$174,999</td>
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a. **Key Program Details:**
   i. Must replace an existing single-family home
   ii. Home design must complement existing neighborhood aesthetics
   iii. Incentive will be paid once the new home receives initial assessment by the County. The amount of incentive available will be determined by the assessed value. (Assessed Value is determined by the County Assessor)
   iv. Homes utilizing this incentive will be prohibited from becoming rental property for a 10 year period.
   v. The program will end once initial funds have been depleted or, after 3 years, whichever occurs first.

- Seek partnerships with construction companies/builders to allow for in kind contributions of resources to reduce property acquisition costs, demolition costs, and building costs
- Explore the use of the City’s sales tax exemption to procure building materials at a lower cost.

**Resources Required:**
1. Program Manager: 0.5 FTE ($33,500)
2. Administrative Support: 0.5 FTE ($25,000)
3. Funding for one-time start-up costs (vehicles, office furniture, phones, etc.). ($2,000)

"The city could focus on infrastructure improvement, specifically empty houses and buildings. These degrade the whole quality of the community." — Listening Tour Respondent
4. Funding for the incentive: $1.0m (general fund balance) TBD.

**Total Plan Cost:**
- Total Additional FTE: 1.0
- One-Time Costs: $2,000
- Staffing Annual Costs: $58,500
- Program Annual Costs: $5,000

**Desired Benefit/Outcome:**
- Minimizes the long-term negative impact of underperforming real estate.
- Strengthens tax base to benefit local taxing jurisdictions.
- Improves housing supply
- Limits the amount of homes that could be controlled by predatory landlords.
Action Plan

Strategy 2-Neighborhood Improvement Zone Project

Version 2 from Address Declining Neighborhoods

**Priority Area:**
Address Declining Neighborhoods

**Goal/Objective:**
Improve appearance of neighborhoods through maintenance of properties.

**Strategy 2- Neighborhood Improvement Zone Project:**

Action Steps:

a. Form workgroup of city staff to conduct research of program(s) for possible implementation. Review former program as well as conduct new research of similar programs to determine best program parameters to include in new initiative. Establish new processes and procedures for new project to include how to determine zones for focused efforts, neighborhood engagement meetings to receive citizen input into neighborhood concerns and possible solutions, etc. Ensure process design includes required continued dialogue with neighborhoods after new neighborhood zones are selected for focus (staying connected with neighborhoods already in program).

b. Re-establish relationships with neighborhood by working with One Joplin, churches, schools, and other neighborhood anchors active in neighborhood improvement.

c. Work with neighborhood councils to identify new initiatives to positively impact neighborhood ownership and pride (beautification initiatives i.e. house or yard of month, neighborhood clean up days, etc.).

d. Work with neighborhoods to identify city infrastructure needs to improve neighborhood appearance (street lights, sidewalks, street and curb/gutter improvements, etc.)

e. Work with neighborhoods to identify other neighborhood issues requiring city assistance (crime, animal control, etc.).

f. Expand existing and create new relationships with local non-profit and faith-based organizations active in homeowner assistance with home repairs and improvements (Habitat For Humanity, Fuller Housing, etc.). Work with these organizations to target home repairs in declining neighborhoods. Explore additional shared relationships with these organizations to leverage resources (see Action Plan 4- Strengthen Home Repair Program).

**Resources Required:**

1. Staff time for research of program and program needs.
2. Funding for annual cost (personnel, fringe) of employment of 2 staff (Neighborhood Improvement Officer and Neighborhood Improvement Supervisor)
3. Funding for annual operational costs $25,000.
4. Funding for one-time start-up costs (vehicles, office furniture, phones, etc.).
5. Funding for 0.25 FTE additional court/prosecutor staff.

"Clean up blighted neighborhood areas, address the dangers that these areas cause. " - Listening Law Respondent
Total Plan Cost:
Total Additional FTE: 2.25
One Time Costs: $5,000
Staffing Annual Costs: $165,000
Program Annual Costs: $25,000

Desired Benefit/Outcome:
• Stabilize property values.
• Enhance neighborhood pride.
• Improve communication between the City of Joplin and residents.
• Improve maintenance of structures and yards.

“Clean up blighted neighborhood areas, address the dangers that these areas cause.” – Listening Tour Respondent
Action Plan

Strategy 3 - Review Other City Codes

Version 2 from Addressing Declining Neighborhoods

Priority Area:
Address Declining Neighborhoods

Goal/Objective:
Improve appearance of neighborhoods through maintenance of properties.

Strategy 3 - Review City Codes to identify corrections that would aid in code compliance:

Action Steps:

a. Form workgroup of city staff to review building, housing, health and fire codes for improvements that can be recommended to improve code compliance in neighborhoods to reflect changing trends and to address unique needs. Examples include the growing Airbnb market, and review of issues with deficient lodging establishments located in the city. Some of these reviews are already occurring (see Action Plans for review of Zoning Code, Non-Residential Property Maintenance Code, etc.).

b. Review codes and research other codes.

c. Discuss changes being considered with applicable stakeholders.

d. Present suggested changes to city council.

Resources Required:

1. Staff time to conduct research/review of existing codes.

Total Plan Cost:

Total Additional FTE: Existing staff time.
One-Time Costs: $0.00
Staffing Annual Costs: $0.00
Program Annual Costs: $0.00

Desired Benefit/Outcome:

- Eliminate possible code contradictions.
- Align adopted codes with neighborhood improvement vision.
- Update codes to improve efficiency, health and safety.

"Japko build and rental codes, tenant rights need to be addressed. There are too many bad landlords permitted to profit from unsuitable and unsafe homes, often rented or leased at unreasonable cost, often to desperate families and single people." - Listening Tour Respondent
Action Plan-Version 2
Strategy 4 – Strengthen Home Repair Program

Priority Area:
Address Declining Neighborhoods

Goal/Objective:
Improved appearance of neighborhoods through maintenance of properties.

Strategy 4 – Strengthen home repair program for income eligible home homeowner:

Action Steps:
   a. Reallocate HUD HOME funds for the existing program with ESC to $200,000.00. Currently $110,000 (4-6 Substantial Rehabs per year). Increase in HOME commitment will increase projects to 7-11 substantial Rehabs per year. *Note: this is HOME Consortium funding and many projects will be located outside the City of Joplin.
   b. Allocate additional funds from the City that are not associated with federal HUD Funds to be used for more flexible and parallel home repair program used just inside of the city.
      i. Utilize these more flexible funds to address relatively small dollar improvements currently ineligible in the federally funded HUD HOME program. Program can be structured as a revolving fund with high degree of forgiveness to maximize available resources while still improving as many properties as possible including those unable to make repayment at time of loan or during term of homeowner agreement. The existing model for this program may be provided by Joplin Area Fuller Center for Housing. Average repair for Fuller program (identified highest need to improve homeowner quality of life) is approximately $1,000.00. Adding exterior improvement and landscaping would bring average costs to $2,500 to $3,000 per home participating.
      ii. Enter into agreement with existing non-profit homeowner repair provider, such as Habitat For Humanity, etc... Agreement allows for repairs to homes with income eligible homeowners in defined low-income areas of community. *Note: All expenditures resulting from this agreement will be located within the City of Joplin.
   c. Investigate possible property tax abatement (Section 353 of state statutes) program as an option to incentivize property owners to invest in home repairs.

Resources Required:
1. Utilize existing staff to oversee program in Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services.
2. Additional funding for expansion of program.

Total Plan Cost:
Total Additional FTE: Existing staff time.
"It is sad to see a city allow homes to deteriorate into disrepair. Better enforcement of city codes and possibly grants for home improvement." – Listening Tour Respondent
Action Plan

Strategy 6-Reduce Number of Vacant and Dangerous Buildings in Community

Version 2 from Addressing Declining Neighborhoods

Priority Area:
Address Declining Neighborhoods

Goal/Objective:
Reduce vacant and unsecured buildings in neighborhoods.

Strategy 6.1 – Develop vacant building inventory, tracking system (GIS System layer), and registry to use to monitor buildings:

Action Steps:
  a. Identify method to be used for identifying vacant buildings.
  b. Identify information to be collected and inventory vacant residential and commercial buildings.
  c. Create a layer in city GIS mapping system for vacant structures.
  d. Investigate code options requiring registration of vacant structures, and possible permit fees to cover costs of the inventory and registry. Code options to include maintenance of vacant structures (doors, windows, other exterior features), and property maintenance (yard, fences, etc.) while structure remains vacant.
  e. Seek input into possible code options from community stakeholders.
  f. Bring code option suggestions to council for consideration.

Resources Required:
  1. Staff time to identify and inventory vacant structures.
  2. Staff time to create GIS map layer.
  3. Staff time to research code options and develop local code suggestions.

Total Plan Cost:
Total Additional FTE: Existing staff time.
One Time Costs: $0.00
Staffing Annual Costs: $0.00
Program Annual Costs: $0.00

Strategy 6.2 – Review Existing Legal Dangerous Building Ordinance for enhancements to improve property maintenance:

Action Steps:
  a. Form work group for review.
  b. Review ordinance for potential enhancements to incentivize property owners to maintain buildings and place them back in active use (code changes, increased dang. building fee,
danger. building bond, special assessment, impact fee, etc.). Fees may be additional source of funds for Building Board of Appeals related building demolition requirements. Current Dangerous Building code includes a section allowing certain dangerous buildings to remain if the owner applies for and receives a permit for a “Legal Vacant Dangerous Building”. The permit includes a $200 semi-annual permit fee that can be renewed up to 3 additional 6 month periods.
c. Bring code changes to city council for consideration.

Resources Required:
1. Staff time for code review.
2. Funding for staff to implement vacant building inspection/monitoring program. 0.5 FTE Building Inspector.

Total Plan Cost:
Total Additional FTE: 0.50
One Time Costs: $1,000
Staffing Annual Costs: $35,000
Program Annual Costs: $3,000

Desired Benefit/Outcome:
• Removing vacant and dangerous structures could enhance the community’s attractiveness and contribute to a safer community.
• Create a process to identify and track vacant and potentially dangerous structures.
• Stabilize identified properties to minimize the need for demolition.

“Supporting north Kapi’a neighborhoods by cracking down on squatters and the vacant properties that are a difficulty for those in the neighborhoods.” – Listening Tour Respondent
Action Plan

Strategy 9 - Joplin Homeowner Assistance Program

Version 2 from Addressing Declining Neighborhoods

Priority Area:
Address Declining Neighborhoods

Goal/Objective:
Reduce vacant and unmaintained city owned lots in neighborhoods.

Strategy 3 – Re-institute the JHAP model program to encourage infill development on vacant lots.

Action Steps:
   a. Form work group for project.
   b. Review JHAP program process for possible implementation for neighborhood renewal.
   c. Develop processes and procedures necessary for re-implementation of program. This model utilizes same processes used in program after tornado to incentivize home buyers (paying some portion of down payment, closing costs, etc.). First focus of incentives could be limited to purchase of newly constructed homes. A second focus area to include purchase of existing homes to incentivize remodel of existing structures. They could also be tied to certain distressed neighborhoods.
   d. Inform necessary stakeholders for input into program.

Resources Required:
   1. Staff time for review and development of program.
   2. Staff time for operation of program if implemented (new or existing) of 0.50 FTE in Planning, Zoning and Neighborhood Services.
   3. Funding source for incentives for home buyers.

Total Plan Cost:
Total Additional FTE: 0.50
One-Time Costs: $1,000
Staffing Annual Costs: $35,000
Program Annual Costs: $1.0 M

Desired Benefit/Outcome:
• Incentivizes & encourages home ownership.
• Eliminate vacant and unmaintained lots.
• Improve attractiveness of neighborhoods.
• Enhance values of surrounding homes.

" Tear down empty buildings or incentivize renovating them. " - Listening from Respondent
Action Plan

Strategy 2-Authorize the creation of a Museum and Theater District

Priority Area:
Resilient Revenue

Goal/Objective:
Strengthen entertainment options and cultural amenities

Strategy 1- Pursue ticket surcharge:

Action Steps:
- Draft an ordinance to allow for the creation of a special district / political subdivision (like a CID) per statute. The political subdivision would be able to levy an admission fee or ticket surcharge on participating organizations to raise funds.
- If approved, the property owners within the district will elect a board subject to the statute
- Collect and disburse funds created from special district to those providing entertainment and cultural amenities. (Similar to the CVB grant process)

Resources Required:
1. Public Information materials
2. Legal/administrative resources to create district, draft bylaws, manage finances

Total Plan Cost:  (City Cost)
One-Time Costs: $50,000 for initial formation
Staffing Annual Costs: $0
Program Annual Costs: $5,000 for managing agent

Desired Benefit/Outcome:
- Create a special funding source that could benefit local entities that provide entertainment and cultural amenities in the community.
- Operates like a CID, as a separate political subdivision.
- Participation is voluntary and allows for the pooling of resources.

“More entertainment; more revitalization of downtown shops, bars, restaurants; more restaurants (not on rangeline); a nice Italian restaurant; splash pad.” – Listening Tour Respondent
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]

SENATE BILL NO. 397
100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2019

AN ACT

To repeal section 184.815, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the petition process for the creation of a museum and cultural district.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 184.815, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 184.815, to read as follows:

184.815. 1. Whenever the creation of a district is desired, the owners of real property who own at least two-thirds of the real property within the proposed district may file a petition requesting the creation of a district. The petition shall be filed in the circuit court of the county in which the proposed district is located. Any petition to create a museum and cultural district pursuant to the provisions of sections 184.800 to 184.880 shall be filed within [five] fifteen years after the Presidential declaration establishing the disaster area.

2. The proposed district area may contain one or more parcels of real property, which may or may not be contiguous and may further include any portion of one or more municipalities.

3. The petition shall set forth:

   (1) The name and address of each owner of real property located within the proposed district;

   (2) A specific description of the proposed district boundaries including a map illustrating such boundaries;

   (3) A general description of the purpose or purposes for which the district is being formed, including a description of the proposed museum or museums and cultural asset or cultural assets and a general plan for operation of each museum and each cultural asset within the district; and

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.
(4) The name of the proposed district.

4. In the event any owner of real property within the proposed district who is named in the petition shall not join in the petition or file an entry of appearance and waiver of service of process in the case, a copy of the petition shall be served upon said owner in the manner provided by supreme court rule for the service of petitions generally. Any objections to the petition shall be raised by answer within the time provided by supreme court rule for the filing of an answer to a petition.