

ACTION MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
Lower Level – Room 41, City Hall/Court House, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard
January 22, 2015

Present: Richard Dana, Barbara Bezat, Matt Hill, Bill Lightner, Matt Mazanec, Amy Meller, Michael Justin, David Riehle, Steve Trimble, Diane Trout-Oertel, David Wagner

Absent: Robert Ferguson (excused), Renee Hutter Barnes (excused)

Staff Present: Amy Spong, Christine Boulware, Bill Dermody, Allison Suhan, John Beaty

BUSINESS MEETING

I. Call to Order 5:02 pm

- II. Approval of the Agenda** Chair Dana noted that the 344 Summit Avenue agenda item was removed and will be reviewed at a later date. Commissioner Riehle moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Mazanec seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 9-0.**

- III. Conflicts of Interest** – Chair Dana stated he will be living in the Galtier towers complex, but has no ownership in the properties being discussed so there is no conflict of interest.

IV. Public Hearing/Permit Review

A. 344 Summit Avenue, Hill Heritage Preservation District, by John Rupp, Commonwealth Properties, Inc., for permits to widen and add sidewalks, alter the grade, alter the front porch, and enclose a basement window on the front elevation. ~~File #15-012 (Spong, 266-6714) Laid over from the November 20, 2014 public hearing.~~

B. 172 Sixth Street East, Lowertown Heritage Preservation District, by Holly Engrav for Bigos Management, for a sign permit to install six signs, some with internal illumination. Total size: 105 sq.ft. **File #15-019** (Dermody, 266-6617)

*Commissioner Trout-Oertel moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the application with conditions. Commissioner Bezat seconded the motion. **Motion passed 10-0.***

C. 195 Fifth Street East, Lowertown Heritage Preservation District, by Holly Engrav for Bigos Management, for a sign permit to install five signs, some with internal illumination. Total size: 84 sq.ft. **File #15-020** (Dermody, 266-6617)

*Commissioner Bezat moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the application with conditions. Commissioner Trout-Oertel seconded the motion. **Motion passed 10-0.***

V. New Business

A. Review and comment on proposals to rename:

1. Horton Avenue, west of Lexington Pkwy., to Como Avenue;
2. Como Avenue, west of Lexington Pkwy. (Mc Murray Fields), to Wynne Avenue; and
3. Gateway Drive to Nagasaki Road.

The request for the street name changes is from the Department of Parks and Recreation. (Boulware, 266-6715)

*Commissioner Riehle moved for staff to prepare a resolution recommending approval of the proposed street name changes and forward it to the City Council. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion. **Motion passed 10-0.***

VI. Chair's Announcements-

In December there was conversation about potential teardowns and the possibility of a public forum that discusses what regulations exist and what has been done in other places in regards to demolitions and the rights of property owners.

Possible partners are no longer interested in sponsoring. Chair Dana asked if the HPC would like to hold a public meeting for the purpose of discussing this topic, disseminating information without taking a stand one way or another and inviting some public comment.

Ms. Spong will put together information for the next business meeting for the commission to educate them on the tools in place and tools that staff have focused on when determining best practices.

Commissioner Bezat volunteered to help in the planning of the forum. The education committee (possibly expanded) and staff could develop a program for this. Commissioner Hill would urge for this to happen sooner rather than later because of upcoming caucuses.

Ms. Spong reminded that the HPC's role is to continually survey sites and districts that are worthy of local designation. The focus is really on properties that the HPC believes have the potential to be a local or nationally designated property. The HPC cannot have a demo review ordinance without a comprehensive survey program. There hasn't been a full comprehensive survey since 1983. Also, for this forum, the public comments should be kept separate from the EAW 30 day public comment period for 27 Crocus Place. We shouldn't make the forum about individual examples, but rather the tools of other communities and the challenges.

Commissioner Riehle agreed that this forum should be kept broad and focus on the tools and suggested that we proceed with a sense of the HPC body and asks Chair Dana to appoint a committee to move this further.

Chair Dana suggests that the education committee (Bezat, Trout-Oertel, Ferguson) start getting the forum organized. They will send out an email to commissioners to start the discussion and welcome additional commissioners to the committee. Staff should also be part of the committee. Committee will need to find speakers for the event. Ms. Spong has reached out to John Smoley, a planner for the City of Minneapolis, as a possible speaker.

VII. Staff Announcements- Ms. Spong received a letter from the Federal Transit Administration asking if HPC would like to be involved or be consulting party for the A-Line Rapid Transit Project. They are planning for bus shelters every half mile so it might impact the Summit West Historic District as well as areas that haven't been fully evaluated and historic resources. The HPC is interested in being included and kept informed of the project.

Ms. Spong also received a call from Metro Transit and will meet with them next week about a new proposal in Lowertown that will require bumping out the sidewalk to accommodate a bus shelter and changing the street grid.

VIII. Adjourn 6:39 pm

Submitted by A. Suhan