

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
Lower Level – Room 41, City Hall/Court House, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard
March 13, 2014

Present: Barbara Bezat, Richard Dana, Robert Ferguson, Matt Hill, Michael Justin, William Lightner, Steve Trimble, David Wagner

Absent: Renee Hutter (excused), Matt Mazanec (excused), David Riehle (unexcused), Diane Trout-Oertel (unexcused)

Staff Present: Christine Boulware, Bill Dermody, Renee Cohn, John Beaty

BUSINESS MEETING

I. Call to Order 5:02p

II. Approval of the Agenda Commissioner Trimble moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of the meeting minutes

A. February 13, 2014 Business Meeting

Commissioner Lightner noted that he was marked absent although he was present. Commissioner Lightner moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Justin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. February 27, 2014 Public Hearing

Commissioner Ferguson submitted minor corrections. Commissioner Ferguson moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Bezat seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bezat commended the writing of the minutes.

IV. Chair's Announcements

A. Chair Dana discussed the February 27th meeting and agreed with Commissioner Bezat's remarks.

B. Chair Dana noted the upcoming awards. Ms. Boulware noted that the deadline for submissions has already passed.

V. Staff Announcements

Ms. Boulware requested that the staff announcements be moved after VI. New Business. Chair Dana approved.

VI. New Business

A. West Midway Industrial Plan (District 11, 12 & 13), by the Department of Planning and Economic Development, adopt resolution providing recommendations to the Mayor, City Council and Planning Commission. File #14-WMIP (Boulware, 266-6715).

Staff read aloud the draft resolution and made verbal corrections where necessary.

Commissioner Bezat asked if PI.2, Road Improvement should be added to the resolution.

Commissioner Ferguson noted grammatical errors.

Commissioner Bezat discussed the language of number nine and suggested minor changes.

Ms. Boulware presented current and historic maps of the area.

Commissioner Trimble inquired as to whether the streetscape of Territorial Road is proposed to be changed; Ms. Boulware noted that this would be a question for the present planning staff.

Allen Lovejoy, from the Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED), was present to discuss the project.

Mr. Lovejoy summarized the history of the project and the task force, the identified issues that the project was intended to address, and the issues regarding the redevelopment of industrial areas in terms of jobs, manufacturing, and economic impacts. He continued to discuss the strategies used to develop this area in regards to adaptive reuse, acquiring funds, mitigating existing site issues, and proposed infrastructure improvements.

Ms. Boulware noted the addition of the pedestrian walkways and the possibilities of using surmountable curbs for building that historically did not have a sidewalk; Mr. Lovejoy discussed the possibilities and noted that it would be circumstantial. Mr. Lovejoy continued to discuss proposed plans for bicycle routes and facilities.

Mr. Lovejoy made three summary points regarding the completion of the project; (1) Completing the amendment, (2) Having the separate departments work together and outreach to the business owners in the community, (3) Identifying definitive issues to be discussed as the project moves forward.

Chair Dana requested that Mr. Lovejoy comment on the intention for PED and the Port Authority committing to the work program to support this project; Mr. Lovejoy discussed the possible competing priorities for the two departments, the estimated time commitment, and the need for outreach and mitigating existing and possible challenges.

Chair Dana noted the need for the buy-in from the Port Authority to support job creation and noted the development of the 3M site; Mr. Lovejoy summarized the Port Authority's business model and its impacts on job development and funds.

Commissioner Trimble noted the statement on page 43 with the intention to limit eminent domain and requested that Mr. Lovejoy elaborate on this point; Mr. Lovejoy noted that this would be internally implemented with specific criteria.

Commissioner Trimble inquired as to why high schools were not included in the preparedness matrix; Mr. Lovejoy noted that high schools were not included in this version of the plan, but are included in the full text.

Commissioner Trimble discussed the Phalen Corridor and stated that little has been completed from the intended plan; Mr. Lovejoy agreed and noted successful portions of the project. Mr. Lovejoy continued to discuss the process through which long term plans are implemented and adapted through existing and future systems.

Commissioner Wagner requested that Mr. Lovejoy comment on the draft HPC resolution; Mr. Lovejoy referenced the list of nine points included in the draft resolution and addressed each one. Ms. Boulware gave additional details to some of the points.

Commissioner Wagner requested that Mr. Lovejoy comment on the language provided for incorporating park land; Mr. Lovejoy noted that there is little language included now and discussed where it does exist. Mr. Dermody noted specific sites where incorporated park space is being discussed with the Parks Department. A discussion was had regarding the inclusion of language and having a dialogue regarding park land in the larger and specific contexts. Ms. Boulware noted that parks were addressed in the Station Area Plans.

Commissioner Lightner requested clarification on the proposed redevelopment of territorial road; Mr. Lovejoy discussed the intention to reconstruct and improve specific parts of this area and intentions to reconfigure certain routes to accommodate trucks on Vandalia Street.

Commissioner Lightner noted that it seems contradictory to improve sidewalks on streets intended for truck routes; Mr. Lovejoy discussed the intention to improve the visual and pedestrian experience of industrial areas. Mr. Lovejoy continued to discuss the estimated ridership of the transportation corridors and how that will impact future development.

Commissioner Wagner requested that Mr. Lovejoy comment on existing site contamination mitigation plans; Mr. Lovejoy noted that it is dependent on the specific site and requires extensive testing.

Chair Dana acknowledged the presence of Lorrie Louder (Port Authority) and Hilary Holmes (Planner) at the meeting.

Commissioner Wagner moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Bezat seconded the motion.

Chair Dana summarized the discussed changes as: (1) Including PI-2., (2) Correcting the name of the plan, (3) Correcting the use of historic instead of heritage.

The motion passed 7-0.

VII. Staff Announcements

A. Staff discussed the time, location, and nominations submitted for the upcoming Heritage Preservation Awards.

B. Staff discussed the comments being sent to the FCC regarding the review of cell tower installations.

C. Staff noted that the Post Office will be going to the state review board to be considered for nomination for the National register of Historic Places.

VIII. Committee Reports None were stated.

IX. Adjourn 6:41p

Submitted by R.Cohn