

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
Lower Level – Room 41, City Hall/Court House, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard
February 14, 2013

Present: Renee Hutter Barnes, Richard Dana, Matt Hill, Michael Justin, Rich Laffin, Matt Mazanec, David Riehle, Steve Trimble, Diane Trout-Oertel, David Wagner
Absent: Robert Ferguson, John Manning
Staff Present: Amy Spong

BUSINESS MEETING

- I. **Call to Order:** 5:10 p.m.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda:** Chair Laffin proposed that approval of minutes be moved to a later date. Commissioner Dana moved to approve the proposal. Commissioner Riehle seconded the motion.
- III. **Approval of the meeting minutes:** Minutes were not received or approved.
- IV. **Chair's Announcements:** The chair had no announcements.
- V. **Staff Announcements:** Staff announced that there is a vacancy on the Capital River Council Ballpark Design Committee. Staff missed the date to appoint an HPC member, but sent an email request to appoint an HPC member in the vacancy. Commissioner Barnes volunteered. Staff noted that there is no required HPC review for the ballpark and no federal money is being used to activate Section 106 review. Chair Laffin and staff confirmed that a nomination would take place at an upcoming business meeting.
Staff announced that Commissioner Ferguson will be participating in a survey project of the West Side with WSCO and Historic Saint Paul. This survey will be conducted per the preservation chapter in the Comprehensive Plan. It was noted that Council Member Thune has expressed interest in the project, and that former HPC member Mark Thomas may be interested.
- VI. **Old Business:** There was not any old business.
- VII. **New Business**
 - A. **Nominate an Awards Committee** to plan the 2013 Heritage Preservation Awards along with the St. Paul Chapter of the AIA. Commissioner Laffin requested self-nominations for the committee. Commissioner Dana, Commissioner Trout-Oertel, and Chair Laffin nominated themselves with no objection.
Staff suggested that a pre-awards meeting be arranged with the St. Paul Chapter of AIA to discuss possible award changes.
 - B. **Rondo Street Signs**, adopt a resolution on the request to install Old Rondo signs atop the current street signs at the corners of Ravoux Street and St. Anthony Avenue and Marion Street and St. Anthony Avenue. Request for the resolution is from Frank White. (Boulware, 266-6715)

Staff summarized the final resolution. Chair Laffin requested that White come forward. White noted that a sign should also be installed at the intersection of St. Anthony and Marrion as it will be closer to the original location. White stated that Concordia and Farrington and Concordia and Ravoux are the same intersection. Staff will make the change. Commissioner Trimble suggested that Staff capitalize the word “Black” or replace the word with “African American” in the resolution. White was asked to speak on the subject and stated that either wording was acceptable. Staff will make changes to “Black” in quoted portions of the proposal and “African-American” to portions not quoted in the proposal. Commissioner Reihle noted that this resolution will be positive for the community. Commissioner Hill suggested that the organization take advantage of Legacy Grants. Staff read three letters of support from community members and organizations.

The commission voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

C. MetroState Science Building on Sixth Street between Maria and Mounds Avenues, request from Commissioner Mazanec to discuss and consider possible impacts to the Dayton’s Bluff Historic District.

Commissioner Mazanec presented the plan for the MetroState Science Building including aerial views and the Metro State Master plan. Staff gave some clarifications and reiterated key points. Staff shared notes taken at a previous design meeting. Discussion was had to clarify locations of building components.

A discussion was had concerning the proposed skyways and the relationship of the students to the streets. Commissioner Mazanec noted that MetroState is aware of the concerns for the visual impacts of the skyways.

A discussion was had concerning the relationship of the proposal to the historic streetscapes and green space.

A discussion was had regarding visual impacts of rooftop mechanical units and proposals for other mechanical venting and screening. Commissioner Mazanec questioned the appropriateness for a residential area.

A discussion was had regarding alternatives for student traffic.

Commissioner Mazanec emphasized that the addition of the new building will alter the historic views in the Dayton’s Bluff Historic District.

Chair Laffin questioned the intentions of the parking structure and the utilization of surrounding built examples.

A discussion was had regarding height and massing of the new building in comparison to historic heights and massing.

Staff recommended that the HPC does not make a decision on drafting a resolution until MetroState is given the opportunity to comment on the project. Staff has contacted MetroState.

Staff noted that the Dayton’s Bluff Historic District guidelines do not designate specific historic views and view sheds. Staff recommended that the Commission establish the key views.

Commissioner Mazanec stated that he is a representative of the community and noted that community members have asked what the HPC thinks of the MetroState Science Building. The community also supports commissioner Mazanec and staff in their concern.

Commissioner Reihle noted that the presentation is one-sided. He stated

MetroState should be notified of the discussion without implying the position of the HPC.

Commissioner Dana resolved that the HPC is aware of the proposal and has received comment from the community regarding the impact the building will have on the community. Commissioner Dana requested that a representative from MetroState discuss their proposal with the HPC.

Staff will draft a resolution and present the resolution to the Commission, MetroState, and Council President Lantry. Chair Laffin encouraged a vote tonight so that MetroState will be aware as soon as possible.

Commissioner Trimble stated that it is incorrect that the community as a whole is against the skyway. Commissioner Trimble suggested that Tom Cook's office should be called and not only sent the resolution.

Commissioner Hill noted that this project seems "shovel ready", and the invitation to discuss the proposal with MetroState will have a more significant impact on future development.

Commissioner Reihle seconded the resolution. The resolution was passed 10-0.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. 3M Advisory Committee (Trimble) No reports were stated.

B. Education Committee (Ferguson, Oertel) Commissioner Trout-Oertel noted that the committee is looking for new members. Chair Laffin suggested communication with the Mayor's office to finalize a decision. Staff noted that communication has been had.

IX. Motion to Adjourn: 6:47 p.m.

Submitted by: R. Cohn