

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
Lower Level – Room 41, City Hall/Court House, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard
June 13, 2013

Present: Richard Dana, Robert Ferguson, Matt Hill, Michael Justin, Richard Laffin, Steve Trimble, Diane Trout-Oertel, Renee Hutter Barnes, David Riehle

Absent: Matt Mazanec (excused), David Wagner (unexcused)

Staff Present: Christine Boulware, Amy Spong, Renee Cohn

BUSINESS MEETING

I. Call to Order 5:05

II. Approval of the Agenda Commissioner Dana moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item VI. B. Commissioner Riehle seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. Approval of the meeting minutes Commissioner Dana moved to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Riehle seconded the motion. The Motion was passed unanimously.

A. March 14, 2013 Business Meeting

B. March 28, 2013 Public Hearing/Permit Review

~~C. April 11, 2013 Business Meeting~~

D. April 25, 2013 Public Hearing/Permit Review

~~E. May 9, 2013 Business Meeting~~

F. May 23, 2013 Public Hearing/Permit Review

IV. Chair's Announcements Chair Laffin announced that lighting has been installed at the Josiah King Monument.

A discussion was had in relation to the monument.

V. Staff Announcements Ms. Spong reminded that side conversations during Public Hearings and Business Meetings are included in the recordings and are on public record.

Ms. Spong announced that she has received the Structural Evaluation Report for 25 Empire Drive. She noted that the shoring is still in place, and a Legacy Grant may be available for the building. Ms. Spong noted structural elements causing deterioration in the building.

Ms. Spong announced that there will be a ceremony for the Rondo Street Signs project on Wednesday, June 19th.

Ms. Spong discussed a letter sent for the National Trust for Historic Preservation to Mayor Coleman regarding the pending demolition of 466 Iglehart Avenue and noted a forthcoming response.

VI. New Business

A. Staff presentation on various demolition delay, demolition review and duty to maintain tools. (Spong, 266-6714)

Ms. Spong described a recent article from the National Alliance of Preservation magazine. She noted various topics including enforcement, duty to maintain, and demolition. Ms. Spong discussed the relation of these topics to the role of the Commission and staff and potential ordinance amendments.

Ms. Spong noted the possibility of Marcia Moremond and Steve Magner speaking to the Commission in regard to the administrative tools available in regard to demolition delay, demolitions review and duty to maintain.

Commissioner Reihle inquired as to the title Legislative Hearing. Ms. Spong described the legislative process that commences when a building is declared a nuisance.

Commissioner Hill announced the possibility of the Ramsey Hill Association formulating proposed ordinance changes; Ms. Spong responded that she was not aware of this.

Commissioner Ferguson inquired as to a timeframe in regards to a presentation given by Ms. Moremond and Mr. Magner; Ms. Spong responded the intentions of having the presentation in July.

Marcy Wallace, the Land Use Chair of the Ramsey Hill Association, was present and verified the comment made by Commissioner Hill. She confirmed that an amendment to the "Bostrom Amendment" may be proposed and presented to District 8.

Ms. Spong requested confirmation as to whom the amendment has been proposed to; Ms. Wallace confirmed it has only been proposed to District 8 and there are intentions to bring the proposal to the City.

Ms. Wallace noted coordination with a task force including Kit Richardson. Ms. Spong asked if this is an ad-hoc task force; Ms. Wallace confirmed.

Commissioner Trout-Oertel inquired as to the potential impact on a buyer for a building to go from Category III to Category II. Ms. Boulware noted that a Category III currently cannot be purchased. Commissioner Trout-Oertel requested confirmation that the proposed amendment would allow Category III buildings to be purchased; Ms. Boulware confirmed.

Commissioner Trimble noted current challenges with rehabilitating Category III buildings. Ms. Spong inquired if Commissioner Trimble was referring to an HRA

owned building as opposed to a privately owned building; Commissioner Trimble confirmed. Ms Spong noted the process for HRA owned building differs from privately owned buildings. Ms. Boulware noted the addition of a Code Compliance report.

Commissioner Trout-Oertel inquired as to the possibility for developers to submit proposals for Category III buildings. Ms. Spong noted that there are several possibilities for acquisition and noted the process followed for the building at 311 Walnut Street. Ms. Boulware added the tool of contract for deed.

Commissioner Riehle requested confirmation that the “Bostrom ordinance” applies only to private developers; Ms. Spong noted that there are exceptions written into the official ordinance.

B. Presentation on Legacy Grant Program (Hill)

Commissioner Hill presented a PowerPoint detailing the Legacy Grants available in the State of Minnesota.

Ms. Boulware inquired as to how the funding has grown from last year to this year; Commissioner Hill replied that it was 6% and was based on several factors. Ms. Boulware inquired as to if the Legacy Grants are used in their entirety; Commissioner Hill replied that they are.

Commissioner Trimble inquired as to the meaning of “small and structured”; Commissioner Hill explained the meaning.

Commissioner Trimble inquired about geo-caching and whether a project has received Legacy grants and how a geo-caching project would work; Commissioner Hill replied that it is possible. Ms. Spong provided possible examples for geo-caching projects.

Ms. Spong inquired whether there has been a discussion allowing Legacy Grants for locally designated properties as part of Certified Local Government properties; Commissioner Hill stated that he would check. A discussion was had in regard to the available funds for local or national registered properties.

Commissioner Dana requested confirmation that a project from any category can receive all sizes of grants; Commissioner Hill confirmed.

Ms. Boulware inquired as to the amount of administrative costs that can be included in the Legacy Grants; Commissioner Hill replied that administrative costs are not included.

Commissioner Riehle inquired as to how an applicant would demonstrate the lack of traditional funding; Commissioner Hill replied that this is an unclear area. Commissioner Hill noted that these are new funds for new projects, and not backfill for past projects.

Commissioner Trout-Oertel inquired whether these are new guidelines; Commissioner Hill replied that they are and that they have been extended. Commissioner Trout-Oertel noted that projects listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were rejected in the first year; Commissioner Hill replied the program is competitive and properties listed in the NRHP have always been eligible.

Commissioner Trimble noted that the entity that administers the grants, the Minnesota Historical Society, administered one to themselves; Commissioner Hill replied that there is a specific set of funds intended for use by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Chair Laffin noted the mention of Legacy Grants available for local commission ordinances and inquired whether Commissioner Hill would suggest the Commission use these in specific ways; Commissioner Hill gave examples of projects where the Legacy Grants were used. Ms. Spong noted other available funds that have been utilized with other partnerships.

Chair Laffin mentioned the ways in which Minneapolis has utilized Legacy Grants; Commissioner Hill discussed examples in Minneapolis and their relationship to projects in St. Paul. He discussed ways in which the work can be accomplished outside of HPC staff.

Chair Laffin inquired as to whether there are other states with similar programs; Commissioner Hill replied that there are and gave examples. Ms. Spong noted a program in Florida. Chair Laffin suggested Minnesota, along with other states, is a national leader in this type of program; Commissioner Hill agreed and noted the uniqueness of Minnesota including the program in the State Constitution.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee (Ferguson, Oertel) – Ordinance revision discussion

A document was provided to the Commission that was previously discussed in October of 2012.

A discussion was had in regard to each potential ordinance change addressed in the document.

A discussion was had in regard to the next action to be taken in regard to formulating and submitting potential ordinance changes.

Commissioner Trimble noted a discussion he had with Chuck Reptke regarding recent appeals for properties in Lowertown. Ms. Spong noted comments made by council members regarding the clarity of the Lowertown Historic District Guidelines and the decision to appeal the HPC decision for the A'Bule sign.

Commissioner Riehle announced the premiere of a documentary at the State Capitol on Saturday, October 19th.

Commissioner Dana inquired whether there has been further contact with those involved in the Island Station project; Ms. Spong replied that there had not been and the City Council Public Hearing will be held on July 10th.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn 7:02

Submitted by: R. Cohn