

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
Lower Level – Room 41, City Hall/Court House, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard
September 26, 2013

Present: Richard Laffin, Richard Dana, Renee Hutter-Barnes, Matt Hill, Michael Justin, Steve Trimble,

Absent: David Riehle (not excused), Matt Mazanec (excused), Diane Trout-Oertel (excused), David Wagner (excused)

Staff Present: Christine Boulware, Amy Spong, Renee Cohn, John Beaty

PUBLIC HEARING/DESIGN REVIEW

I. Call to Order 5:06p

II. Approval of the Agenda Commissioner Dana motioned to approve the agenda with the change to switch the order of items VI and VII; Commissioner Trimble seconded the motion.

III. Approval of the meeting minutes

A. August 22, 2013 Public Hearing/Permit Review

Ms. Spong discussed confusion that was communicated from the applicant regarding the decision made for the property 295 Summit Avenue. She offered to listen to the tapes and will reissue the decision letter if needed.

Commissioner Dana motioned to approve the meeting minutes with minor edits; Commissioner Hutter-Barnes seconded the motion.

IV. Chair's Announcements None were stated.

V. Staff Announcements

A. Ms. Spong introduced John Beaty as the new intern to HPC staff.

B. Ms. Spong announced that Barbara Bezat and William Lightner will be appointed to the Commission at the October 2nd City Council meeting. She also announced that Commissioner Ferguson and Commissioner Riehle will be re-appointed.

C. Ms. Spong announced that September 27th is the deadline for the Legacy Grant and discussed the application for 25 Empire Drive.

D. Ms. Spong discussed the premiere of a documentary of the Capitol building on October 12th. Commissioner Hill had it on his calendar for October 19 (the correct date).

E. A discussion was had regarding the lighting options for Webster Street that had previously been conditioned at the HPC Public Hearing in March 2012. Ms. Spong presented two options and a consensus was had for the "bent straw" style.

F. Ms. Spong discussed the budget amendment to begin the process for new Lowertown Historic District Guidelines.

VI. New Business

A. Streetcar Feasibility Study Presentation - Phase 2 of the Streetcar Feasibility has been completed, and a proposed long-term streetcar network for Saint Paul has been identified. Michelle Beaulieu, City Planner in PED, will present the findings of the study and discuss how the routes identified on the proposed network may impact local Heritage Preservation Districts and Sites. www.stpaul.gov/streetcars

Michelle Beaulieu presented the current status and findings of the Streetcar Feasibility Study.

Questions were asked of Ms. Beaulieu and a discussion was had between Ms. Beaulieu, Chair Laffin, Commissioner Trimble, Ms. Spong, Commissioner Hill, and Ms. Boulware regarding the potential streetcar system. Concerns were raised regarding potential impacts to existing transportation, existing infrastructure, and current and future riders.

Ms. Spong noted that the Commission will be asked to comment on potentially affected historic resources.

VII. Old Business

A. NAPC CAMP and Statewide Preservation Conference discussion –

Commissioners and staff who attended the conferences will summarize and share information.

NAPC CAMP

Commissioner Dana, Commissioner Trout-Oertel, and Ms. Boulware attended the NAPC CAMP. Commissioner Dana and Ms. Boulware were present to discuss their experience.

Commissioner Dana and Ms. Boulware discussed items of note from the conference:

- Role of Commission as a decision-making body, and not a discussion group
- The usage of consent agendas.
- Focus on the guidelines.
- Awareness of laws and legal proceedings regarding Public Hearings and decisions.
- Consistency of findings.
- Support for staff.
- Best and worst practices for Business Meetings and Public Hearings.
- Level of interaction of Commissioners with the applicants.
- Proper actions for Commissioners when they must recuse themselves.
- Roberts' Rules.

Commissioner Trimble addressed the role of discussion during Public Hearings.

Chair Laffin, Ms. Spong, Commissioner Dana, and Ms. Boulware discussed the possibilities for future education for the Commissioners regarding the themes of the conference.

Statewide Preservation Conference

Chair Laffin, Commissioner Dana, Commissioner Hutter-Barnes, Ms. Spong, and Ms. Cohn attended the Statewide Preservation Conference and were present to discuss their experiences.

Chair Laffin, Commissioner Dana, Commissioner Hutter-Barnes, Ms. Spong, and Ms. Cohn discussed items of note from the conference:

- Building codes and historic properties.
- Masonry buildings.
- Keynote address given by Noré Winter.
- Signs in historic districts.
- Infill in historic districts.
- Determining contributing factors in historic districts.

- Interpreting local and federal guidelines.
- Consent agendas.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee (Ferguson, Trout-Oertel) – Chair Laffin noted that both Commissioners were absent, and that Commissioner Wager is now a part of the Education Committee. Ms Spong recommended the Education Committee meet with Councilmember Thune’s office.

B. Commissioner Trimble discussed a meeting he had attended regarding a new building at Indian Mounds Park. Ms. Spong noted that the HPC will not likely have a role in reviewing the construction of the new building.

C. Commissioner Trimble discussed the current statues of the future parking ramp at Metro State University that had been discussed at a previous HPC meeting.

IX. Motion to Adjourn 7:05p

Submitted by R.Cohn