

**ACTION MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA  
Online MS Teams Meeting  
August 23, 2021**

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**Present:** Teresa Kimker, Barbara Bezat, Stuart MacDonald, Paul Nelson, Joseph Peroutka, David Wagner, Leetta Douglas

**Absent:** Robert Lubke, Steve George, Joseph Peroutka

**Staff Present:** George Gause, Christine Boulware

**Number of Public in Call:** 7

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**I. Call to Order 3:31 pm**

**II. Adoption of the Agenda**

*Commissioner Bezat moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.***

**III. Conflicts of Interest None**

**IV. Minutes**

Minutes for July 26, 2021 HPC meeting was reviewed.

*Commissioner Bezat moved to recommend approval of the minutes. Commissioner Douglas seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-1-0. (Commissioner Wagner abstained-He did not attend the meeting)***

**V. Public Hearing**

Staff presented the University of St. Thomas application to construct a new science and arts educational facility.

Commissioner questions

*What are the guidelines specific to Saint Thomas? §74.37(C)3*

*Is this the same architect as who designed the other buildings? No*

Applicant comments

*Neighborhoods support the construction.*

*There is a correction on the plans, roofing is not clay but slate tile.*

Commissioner comments

*How will Cass Gilbert be recognized in the building?*

*Any thought consideration to the naming of the building?*

*Building is sited very well.*

*The architecture is Collegiate Gothic, any thoughts on having the interior use being expressed more on the exterior?*

*The architectural design is monolithic and static.*

*Wished this reflected Loras Hall, even if just in materials.*

*Would love to see a design that is not so safe.*

*This is unlike the original, which was an austere structure.*

*Structure really doesn't reflect what this will house, an engineering school.*

*Would have preferred a design that tests the limits.*

*Our responsibility is to ask if the proposal meets the guidelines.*

*Commissioner Bezat moved to adopt the draft resolution which approves construction of the new science and arts educational facility on the University of Saint Thomas; Saint Paul campus as per the findings of fact, presented testimony, submitted documentation and information provided in the staff report. Commissioner Nelson seconded.*

***Motion passed 3-2 (Bezatz, MacDonald).***

**V. Commission Discussion**

Cultural Diversity in Historic Preservation-three readings

Commissioners discussed three readings centering around cultural diversity in Historic Preservation. Two of the articles give a perspective on current issues and one offers a framework of a strategy.

Commissioner comments

*Decolonization of architecture is topical and paramount to our mission.*

*We should have a more complete history of our city; these should not be stories.*

*The HPC should designate structures and areas.*

*Our history is vast and extremely important.*

*Perhaps we should start with a complete history of Rondo?*

*We have to preserve the history.*

*We should establish meetings with the underrepresented community.*

*Designation is one of the tools that expands our reach.*

**VI. Adjourn 4:55pm**

The meeting recording is available on the City of Saint Paul YouTube site, under the playlists tab-HPC.