



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Melvin Carter, Mayor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Heritage Preservation Commissioners
FROM: George Gause, Heritage Preservation Supervisor
RE: October 18, 2018 HPC meeting – Irvine Park listening session survey results
DATE: September 27, 2018

We held an HPC listening session in the Irvine Park Historic District at Forepaugh's Restaurant (276 South Exchange Street, Saint Paul) on Tuesday, September 25 from 6:30-8:30pm. Four Commissioners and staff gathered public comment from residents via a survey and three interactive boards. We had 27 individuals attend representing 21 properties in the district.

Comments:

The status of a vacant property and what the HPC can/should do about it.
The maintenance of the parks historic fountain.
Rules seem to 'nitpick' owners and are too strict.
Work that cannot be seen should be allowed.
We need bollards for the park.
Can't get contractors to do simple work and maintenance.

Survey:

1. Do you own property in an historic district? **93% yes**
2. Have you heard of or worked with the Saint Paul HPC or staff? **93% yes**
3. When I hear that an old or historic place is threatened with demolition, I:
 - A. Reach out to city officials to save the structure. **67%**
 - B. Am excited for the possibility that there will be a space for something new. **0%**
 - C. Worry about the impacts, such as to the environment, neighborhood character, etc. **33%**
4. Overall, how do you rate your neighborhood as a place to live? **Very good-87%, Good-13%**
5. Overall, how do you rate the City's existing approach to Heritage Preservation in providing protection for historic areas and buildings in Saint Paul? **Good-53%, Fair-40%**
6. How do you believe heritage preservation has impacted your community?
 - A. Historic preservation has made a positive impact on my neighborhood. **87%**
 - B. Historic preservation has not had an effect on my neighborhood. **0%**
 - C. Historic preservation has made it challenging to improve my neighborhood. **6%**
 - D. I am unfamiliar with Heritage Preservation. **6%**

Board: Unique character of our district that must be preserved is:

Fountain
Historic street and fountain lighting
The park and landscaping in the park
Houses moved into neighborhood for preservation
Authentic historic architecture

Attendees were each given two dots and allowed to vote on several different topic areas on two boards as listed below. Percentages are calculated per each board.

Board: What area of the existing guidelines needs to be improved or changed?

1. New Construction **43%**
2. Windows/doors **22%**
3. Additions, demolition, mechanical, porches, repairs **7%**

Board: An area that Saint Paul Heritage Preservation needs to improve:

1. Outreach with owners **34%**
2. Protecting the district character **28%**
3. Length of review **15%**
4. Support energy efficiency **9%**
5. Inconsistent decisions **7%**
6. Revitalizing the district **7%**