

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
**HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION**  
**FILE NUMBER** #16-GRANDROUND  
**DATE** September 15, 2016

**WHEREAS**, Section 73.04 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code states that the Heritage Preservation Commission shall “serve as an advisory body to the mayor and city council on municipal heritage preservation matters... [and] shall review and comment on studies which relate to the...architectural heritage of the city...”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historic Preservation Chapter of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2010, states that historic preservation should be integrated into public policy and planning processes by utilizing historic resource surveys to inform planning and decision-making and to include preservation components, as appropriate, in public and private planning, and development documents that require City involvement, action, or funding (HP2.3a and b); and

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Round Design and Implementation Plan (Plan) was developed through a community process, and prepared by a multi-disciplinary consultant team, and community (CAC) and technical (TAC) advisory committees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Heritage Preservation Commission has been asked for its review and comment on the Plan in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 73.04 and the Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan area includes Pelham Boulevard, Raymond Avenue, Como/Horton/Nagasaki streets, Wheelock Parkway, and Johnson Parkway which have been grouped and referred to as the north portion. The remaining “round” includes Mississippi River Boulevard, Shepard Road, and Warner Road but are not the focus of the current Plan given the presence of bicycle and parkway amenities on those portions; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the Plan, preservation consultant, Landscape Research, prepared an *Historic Resources Evaluation for the North Portion of Saint Paul’s Grand Round* (June 2016)(Evaluation). The Evaluation includes an historic context for the north portion of the Saint Paul Parkway System, 1872-1945, and includes parkway histories and historic features, and makes recommendations for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS**, the City’s Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2010 addresses the need to better understand the important relationship of people and the landscape that until recently is being recognized and respected. The historic preservation chapter further recommends the need for a *Saint Paul Parks, Parkways, and Cultural Landscapes* context study stating:

Saint Paul has an important heritage of early development of park land for public enjoyment, including Como Park and the network of parkways. The public ownership and development of the parks resulted in their exclusion from previous historic context studies. As the preservation community increases its appreciation for historic landscape design, it becomes increasingly important to understand the context within which the public park system was developed, and what makes it important to the City’s quality of life and unique character;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Comprehensive Plan further describes context studies as providing a broad framework to determine if a resource or a collection of resources are historically significant and worthy of preservation. Strategy HP 3.6 (b) states that the highest priority should be given to new contexts for the most threatened resource types and areas, and list's Saint Paul parks, parkways and cultural landscapes first in a list of six resource types; and

**WHEREAS**, the Evaluation includes an historic context for the development of the north portion of the parkway system from 1872 to 1945 and a condensed version was included on page 8 of the Design and Implementation Plan but from 1872-1965. The Plan also describes the early parkway principles, historic features and recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, a portion of Wheelock Parkway was under construction prior to the HPC's review and comment on the historic Evaluation and Plan, however, a final determination from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding eligibility of the various segments to the National Register of Historic Places has not been completed. The Department of Parks and Recreation did complete inventory forms for Wheelock Parkway and archival-level photo documentation prior to the construction taking place; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Heritage Preservation Commission finds that the *Historic Resources Evaluation for the North Portion of Saint Paul's Grand Round* is complete and supports the recommendations that Wheelock and Johnson Parkways are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as components of Saint Paul's historic park and parkway system. Pursuant to Strategy HP 3.10 in the City's Comprehensive Plan the HPC will forward the evaluation, inventory forms and photo documentation to the State Historic Preservation Office for an official determination of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places; and

**FUTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Heritage Preservation Commission makes the following recommendations for the *Grand Round Design and Implementation Plan* and the *Historic Resources Evaluation for the North Portion of Saint Paul's Grand Round* for further consideration by the Saint Paul Parks Commission, Mayor, and City Council:

1. The final historic evaluation report, inventory forms and photos be placed on the City's Grand Round website for the public to learn more about the parkway system and its history of development.
2. The final Evaluation is dated June, 2016 and the Design and Implementation Plan draft is dated April, 2016. The Design and Implementation Plan should be updated to reflect the changes in the Evaluation report with respect to the period of significance, the consultant's recommendations and any other items to maintain consistency between the documents,
3. Based on recommendations in the Evaluation report, additional evaluation should take place to determine whether a larger Saint Paul Parkway Historic District is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places,

4. Further inventory and evaluation, including expanded historic contexts, take place prior to additional design and construction work on remaining Grand Round segments,

5. Prior to designing new segments and commencing any construction work, a Historic Preservation Approach and Treatment Plan be drafted and incorporated into the Plan for significant historic features and contributing elements to the potential historic parkway district. Many of these elements are already incorporated into the Plan but a treatment approach is not clearly stated given the significance of the resource(s) are not fully known. The HPC requests that focus be given to reestablishing historic view sheds that play off the significant geography and natural landscape, planting plans, and potential alterations to potential significant features such as medians, alignment and street patterns, and Horseshoe Bend. The National Park Services' Preservation Brief #36:

*Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes* shall be referenced for drafting an approach and plan; now

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Heritage Preservation Commission finds, with the above recommendations and amendments, the Grand Round Design and Implementation Plan and Historic Resources Evaluation for the North Portion of Saint Paul's Grand Round to be consistent with the City's policy and ordinances to protect and promote the heritage of the City of Saint Paul and to preserve our architecturally and culturally diverse historic resources.

**MOVED BY  
SECONDED BY**

**IN FAVOR  
AGAINST  
ABSTAIN**