



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
*Melvin Carter, Mayor*

*25 West Fourth Street, Ste. 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102*

*Telephone: 651-266-6700  
Facsimile: 651-266-6549*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Heritage Preservation Commissioners  
FROM: George Gause, Heritage Preservation Supervisor  
RE: December 4, 2018 HPC meeting – Summit Avenue West listening session  
DATE: December 10, 2018

We held an HPC listening session for the Summit Avenue West Historic District at the Summit Center for Arts and Innovation (1524 Summit, Saint Paul) on Tuesday, December 4 5:30-6:30pm. Commissioners Kimker, George and Peroutka and staff gathered public comment from residents via a survey and two interactive boards. We had 17 individuals attend.

### Comments:

All of Summit Avenue West is a unique historical district itself.  
The residential use is important – this is the longest remaining residential street in America.  
Threats to the residential character are greatest concern.  
Enforcement of the guidelines needs to be a priority.  
Staff are amazing, but they need more City support.  
Grand Avenue is having a negative impact on Summit Avenue.  
Please do not allow a divided bike lane on Summit Avenue.  
Concerned that the negative views towards HPC get all of the attention, most love the work we do.  
Concern about the amount of time it takes for approval of applications.  
Contractors charge more for working in historic districts.  
Really appreciated the staff and Commissioners coming out to the district.

### Survey:

1. Do you own property in an historic district? **86% yes**
2. Have you heard of or worked with the Saint Paul HPC or staff? **100% 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. **28%**
  - B. Am excited for the possibility that there will be a space for something new. **14%**
  - C. Worry about the impacts, such as to the environment, neighborhood character, etc. **58%**
4. Overall, how do you rate the district as a place to work, live or do business? **Very good-57%, Good-43%**
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? **Very Good-0%, Good-29%, Fair-57%, Poor-14%**
6. How do you believe heritage preservation has impacted this district?
  - A. Historic preservation has made a positive impact on my neighborhood. **71%**
  - B. Historic preservation has not had an effect on my neighborhood. **0%**
  - C. Historic preservation has made it challenging to improve my neighborhood. **29%**
  - D. I am unfamiliar with Heritage Preservation. **0%**

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. Repairs **45%**
2. Demolition **20%**
3. Mechanical, HVAC, Solar, Mini-Splits **20%**
4. Porches, Decks, Steps, Railings **10%**
5. Site work, Fencing, Retaining walls, Planters, Patios, Walkways **5%**

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

- Protecting the district character **52%**
- Outreach with owners **27%**
- Length of review **7%**
- The guidelines **7%**
- Revitalizing the district **7%**