

**ACTION MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
Online Skype for Business Roundtable Discussion**

August 24, 2020

Present: Barbara Bezat, Paul Nelson, Teresa Kimker, Robert Lubke (leaves at 4:27pm) and Joseph Peroutka (partially: technical difficulties)

Absent: Casie Radford, David Wagner, Leetta Douglas, Steve George, Stuart MacDonald

Staff Present: George Gause, Christine Boulware, Allison Suhan-Eggers, Luis Pereira

Number of Public in Call: 48

I. Call to Order 3:35pm

II. Commission Chair Introduction and Welcome *Commissioner Chair Kimker introduced the roundtable topic and welcomed Commissioners and the public. The chair went on to explain that all documentation utilized for the meeting is available on the commission website at www.stpaul.com/HPC. Notice of this meeting was sent to the Saint Paul citywide Early Notification System (ENS) on August 7, 2020 to our list of recipients and other interested parties. To sign up for ENS please visit the city website at www.stpaul.com. She also stated that the discussion was only for Commissioners. The HPC does anticipate future opportunities for public participation with these topics.*

I. Discussion Topic: #1 Historic preservation could result in economic exclusion creating a contemporary form of 'redlining'.

- *Strict adherence to our guidelines is an issue for working class residents.*
- *Should work to establish a definition for economic hardship.*
- *Look at who takes advantage of preservation, the big developers. How do we change that?*
- *Need to work on where in our local standards we can apply greater flexibility.*
- *How do we apply our restrictions in terms of equity? Work towards equity as a goal of preservation.*
- *Need to practice using simple language and not complicated preservation lingo that can be restrictive.*
- *We need HPC equity goals with specific policy objectives.*
- *Can we establish a fund assist with to preserve of historic structures? HPC involvement in funding could be problematic.*
- *We need to explore funding sources for low income and minority peoples.*
- *We need to educate the public and elected officials better.*

Commissioner Robert Sebo Lubke leaves meeting at 4:27

II. Discussion Topic: #2 Designated sites can perpetuate a divisive form of nostalgia and may tell narratives of the culturally privileged.

- *Can we designate areas that just have cultural significance and may not be architecturally significant?*
- *Can barriers in standards be removed to provide relief to homes that are not necessarily architecture significant?*
- *Consider designating cultural districts that may have less architecturally significant areas. Legislative code supports cultural districts.*

- *Should reexamine our standards allowing more culturally significant structures to be designated.*
- *How do we represent heritage and culture when the place is gone?*
- *Establish outreach to community organizations which we don't usually correspond with.*
- *We need more discussions with residents in underrepresented communities.*
- *We should meet with communities and ask what is important to them culturally and historically.*
- *Need to focus on community-based preservation. What is of value to our communities?*

III. Follow Up Actions

Keep working on illustrated guidelines

Create heritage preservation equity goals

Educate the public, City staff and elected officials

Explore funding sources

Consider what a 'only' cultural district would entail

Find ways to focus on community preservation

Have a future listening session dedicated to the topics of bias and exclusion

IV. Adjourn 4:52pm

- End -