

Heritage Preservation Commission
August 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Room 303 – Duluth City Hall

I. Call to Order

Chair David Woodward called to order the meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

Roll Call

Attending: Laurie Boche, Terry Guggenbuehl, Kristi Johnson (arrived at 2:20 p.m.), Michael Poupore, Tom Vaughn and David Woodward

Absent: Ken Buehler

Staff present: John Kelley and Cindy Stafford

Visitors: Kerry Leider, Rachel Phelps, Rogier Gregoire

II. Public Hearings

N/A

III. Unfinished Business

PL 14-053 Local Historic Designation of UMD Limnology Building (Public Hearing Held on May 27, Room 303, and Planning Commission Comments Received June 10, 2014). No action needed from Commission (motion made to recommend); waiting for consent from property owner (University of Minnesota).

IV. New Business

- A. PL-15-000, Historic Construction Permit for the Lighting the Old Central High School Building. Kerry Leider, property manager for the school district, addresses the commission and gives an overview. They are mindful about the building remaining as close to the original design as possible. Restoring just a few fixtures wouldn't match, so they want to replace all exterior fixtures. There are six globe pole fixtures, four wall pendant fixtures and 1 ceiling mounted light fixture. All lighting fixtures will be LED and will be controlled by a time clock or photocell turned on at dusk. They believe the new light fixtures will bring back the original historic look. Chair Woodward notes the number of lights and notes the number of glass panes is changing from eight to six and wants to verify it meets federal standards. Leider appreciates the historic nature of the building and feels they have met the standards. Chair Woodward would like to see the project approved, but doesn't feel confident making the decision without looking at the federal standards as it pertains to lighting. Chair Woodward suggests tabling until next month. Leider would like to proceed as soon as possible as he has many projects going on. Per Woodward for future projects they need details ahead of time in order to verify with the federal standards. SPHO is gateway for grants and can work with the school district on the grant application. Per Chair Woodward the HPC is also willing to help them with grant applications, including their upcoming projects for chimney repair and tuck-pointing. Chair Woodward asks if there is a preservation plan for central high school. Leider notes they received grants in the past, but is unsure about the preservation plan. Chair Woodward states in accordance with local landmark status, they must have a preservation plan. He asks John Kelley if there is a preservation plan on file with the city. Kelley will check. Due to time constraints, Leider requests a special meeting to look at approval before the HPC's next monthly meeting. Chair Woodward makes a motion.

MOTION/Second: Woodward/Vaughn table until they have a special meeting on or before 9/15/15 to verify lighting meets federal standards in accordance with their preservation plan to approve a certificate of appropriateness for replacing exterior light fixtures of Old Central High School at 215 N. 1st Ave. E.

VOTE: (6-0)

B. Preliminary Historic Survey of Hunters Park by Rachel Phelps Horton. She addresses the commission and introduces herself. She is a senior at UMD and is working on a fulfilling her school project. She shares with the commission her powerpoint presentation. Hunters Park was a street car suburb. The hill behind Glen Avon Hockey rink was known as Hunters Hill. There originally was water there which was drained when the Hunter's son drowned. Vermillion Road was the main road which brought in iron ore. The Hunters sold off parcels to their friends creating their own community. She gives an overview of the homes' original owners and what their role was in the community. Her findings include a survey of 53 properties. 26 properties were undetermined with the remaining properties possessing at least one criteria (or more) for establishing historical significance.

➤ Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial (brought forward in the agenda from item E. in old business). Rogier Gregoire (co-chair of the board) addresses the commission. They are negotiating a set of standards for the plaza. The space itself is unique in America. He notes citizens are able to recognize something wonderful comes from tragedy. He notes Native Americans are using the space to build fires on Saturday and Tuesday evenings and notes it's a spiritual center for the city of Duluth. Police aren't protecting it. Chair Woodward notes they can adjust the preservation plan to include "appropriate uses" for the park. Per Kelley, this may be enforced via zoning rules. Per Chair Woodward there is no signage regarding what the appropriate uses are. Gregoire states they are working on their documents. Chair Woodward (and commissioners) would like to review their documents before their next meeting. Hopefully a preservation plan will be in place by October.

V. Old Business

➤ St. Peters Church – Chair Woodward notes former HPC member Patricia Mullins has friends interested in purchasing the building to create a classical art studio. Chair Woodward is willing to meet with prospective new owner to discuss tax credits.

A. Potential Nomination; discussion and review before starting official nomination process with a goal to nominate several buildings this year. Peoples College noted.

B. Historic Preservation–training with SHPO and City Staff and HPC Members. Set meeting with Woodard, Koop and Hamre.

C. Application status for CLG Funds for Historic Hillside Proposal and Scholarships to Attend annual Conference. Chair Woodward would like to attend the conference which is 9/17 and 9/18 in Little Falls. Kelley to follow up.

D. Update on Astor Park/Historical Park Phase I Archaeological Survey.

E. Meeting with Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial Executive board, regarding Heritage Preservation Landmark Status. (see last item in new business in listed above.)

VI. Communications and Other Business

A. Reports of Officers and Committees – N/A

B. Planning Commission Update – Terry Guggenbuehl gives an overview. Their last meeting focused on vacation dwelling units.

C. Consideration of Minutes – July 28, 2015

MOTION/Second: Boche/Vaughn approve July 28, 2015 minutes.

VOTE: (6-0)

D. Items for the Agenda for September 22, 2015 meeting: Chair Woodward asks staff to take off astor park, keep clg funds, keep historic preservation training on the agenda to discuss dates and what kind of training they would like. There needs to be a special meeting prior to their next meeting to look at historic lighting.

E. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 3:37.

Respectfully,



Keith Hamre, Director
Planning and Construction Services
City of Duluth