

City of Duluth Planning Division

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City of Duluth
Duluth Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of December 15, 2011
Room 303, Duluth City Hall
4:00 P.M.

- I. Call to Order: Chair David Woodward called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in Room 303, City Hall.
- II. Roll Call: Wayne Gannaway Chair, Ken Buehler, Donald Dass, Drew Digby, Carolyn Sundquist, and David Woodward
- III. Update and Discussion on East End Phase II Inventory. Charles Froseth, Senior Planner outlined the reason for this inventory and provided maps of the Phase III area noting sources of funding included state and local assistance for this inventory work. Using these financial resources the city issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) and subsequently awarded a contract to Envirosolutions Inc. for the inventory and assessment of proprieties in the Phase III area. Froseth introduced Renee Hutter staff from Envirosolutions to provide a report and update on the work to be completed for the inventory. Renee reviewed their services and work their firm has done highlighting Section 106A activities. So far they have identified 379 properties in Phase III, have begun a windshield survey and used GPS for their work. She noted some properties have less integrity for detailed review while other properties when taken in their relationship with other properties may constitute a district. As part of the standards they look at those proprieties that are 50 or more years old and changes which may have compromised the property for more detailed review. She noted changes that preclude further consideration such as vinyl siding, modern porch, non-period windows, and enclosures or additions to the home. She commented that; duplexes and multiple family homes are in good shape which is an emerging theme, a large number of homes are owned by middle class families, and mansions and churches have retained their integrity and these are documented in the inventory as well. More research is being done as there are a considerable number of styles in Phase III.

A question and answer period followed Hutter's presentation with topics being: what is the definition for a historic district, local designation versus national designation and what are the standards for each, what are the restrictions for exterior improvements, use of federal funds for improvements to residential property reason for the inventory, reasons for the inventory, potential impacts for homeowners (both negative and positive), process being followed to conduct the inventory and assessment, and the four levels of criteria which include association with an event, association with a person, architectural style or engineering, and archeology. Froseth noted they will have a meeting after the work is completed. Some property owners volunteered additional information to Hutter.

IV. Business Meeting

A. Meeting Day.

Chair Woodward has a work conflict with current meeting day and asked for discussion on changing the day to the last Wednesday of the month at 2:30. This would require the HPC to call for a special meeting until the By-Laws could be amended. Concusses by members on the. Will check with other HPC members as well. Changing the day of the week would trigger a change to meeting calendar and room reservation, as well as a call for a special meeting.

B. St. Peters Church

Discussion on landmark status of St. Peters Church. Public hearing is scheduled for January, 2012 to consider the church for local landmark status. Members will meet at the church to see current condition and if the church does meet the criteria on the landmark checklist.

C. Nettleton School

When will Nettleton School be closed, does it qualify of historic consideration, and what is the future of the building? Updates will be forth coming on school closures.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully,

Charles Froseth Secretary Pro-Tem