

Heritage Preservation Commission
August 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers – Duluth City Hall

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Michael Poupore called to order the meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2017.

Attending: Ken Buehler, Stacey DeRoche, Terry Guggenbuehl, Michael Poupore, and David Woodward

Absent: Mike Malone

Staff Present: Jenn Moses and Cindy Stafford

II. Public Hearing

A. PL 17-133 Historic Resource Designation for Lincoln Park Pavilion, 501 N 25th Avenue W

Staff: Jenn Moses gives an overview. She notes the parks master plan which includes new sidewalks to the pavilion and the opening of the bathrooms. All improvements will include section 106 review. Today is just the pavilion historic resource designation. Chair Poupore asks about funding for the pavilion. Moses states SHPO has been in contact with the city. Moses states if the parks department starts on projects before nomination, then once nomination is in place they will need a certificate of appropriateness from the HPC. David Woodward comments they are voting on the designation now, in its current state. Are there original plans or landscaping plans that can be included with the application form? Moses states original plans were not found. Also volunteers are being accepted to write up the preservation plan. Woodward notes the Swedish midsummer festival, and there was more than just one event that occurred there. Moses states they can table it, if the HPC finds there isn't enough information gathered. Woodward wants to go forward with the application for SHPO's review.

Applicant: City of Duluth

Public: Gerald Schlafer, 26th Ave W. neighbor, addresses the commission. The street going up to Skyline Parkway is in rough shape. He notes the bluestone on the bridges is still in good shape. He feels all the parks are unique. He appreciates the HPC and would like to see the road improved as part of the project. Moses thinks the plan may eliminate cars from the road, but she suggests conversing with the parks department. Schlafer would like it to remain open for traffic. Dennis Hansen, Lincoln park neighbor, addresses the commission. He is in support of historical designation. He is concerned about negative activity in the neighborhood. He suggests the city may want to install cameras or monitoring of some sort. He is concerned about vandalism and wants to ensure the new projects have security measures in place. Chair Poupore notes lighting in the plan. He suggests Schlafer should contact the police department with his concerns. They might also be able to participate in a neighborhood crime watch. Woodward thinks the park will be used more by neighbors and lessen derelict behavior.

Commissioners: N/A

MOTION/Second: Guggenbuehl/Woodward recommend the historic nomination of the Lincoln Park Pavilion.

VOTE: (5-0)

B. PL 17-135 Historic Construction Permit for Reroofing of Lester Park Community Center, Former Lester Park Branch Library, 106 N 54th Avenue E

Staff: Moses gives an overview. There have been some serious leaks due to faulty roofing. They would like to act now to protect the building by having it reroofed.

Applicant: Jeff Cox, representing the community club, addresses the commission. The community club building holds many after school programs and events. They have thankful users who fondly remember the old library and are glad the building is still being used. Chair Poupore asks about funding. There will be no city funding, but may involve members' donations. Woodward asks if there is a preservation plan. This would list guidelines for construction. Moses states there is a preservation plan and roofing wasn't listed. Eyebrow windows are not noted in the application, so could be included in the motion.

Public: No Speakers.

Commissioners: N/A

MOTION/Second: Buehler/Guggenbuehl approve a certificate of appropriateness for reroofing at the former Lester Park Branch Library with condition that the eyebrow windows stay intact.

VOTE: (5-0)

III. New Business

- A. Enger Tower: Potential for Indian Burial Mounds – Moses, it was on their 2017 work plan. Woodward notes state legislation that protects mounds. 1920s literature mentions the mounds in regards to Enger Tower. He proposes going after a small legacy grant (\$10,000 or less) for intensive mapping of the park lands, including the gathering of subsurface samples. Getting this information prior to local designation would be helpful. He would like to see this happen by the end of the year. Moses asks for volunteers from the HPC and notes the person writing up the grant shouldn't benefit from it. Woodward could be a resource input for another volunteer. Chair Poupore requests a guideline to give to city staff to ask for volunteers going forward. Stacey Deroche is interested in volunteering and would like to learn the process. Moses thanks Woodward and DeRoche. Moses states she can share any grant writing instructions, also. Woodward will shoot for 9/15/17 as a deadline.
- B. Future Reconstruction of Stairs at St. Louis County Courthouse – Bill Scalzo, Scalzo Architects addresses the commission to get preliminary input from the commission. He gives an overview. They are working on the exterior stairs up to parking area off of 2nd Street. The other two options would be to remove and replace it with concrete, or remove it completely. He will eventually be back with a request for a certificate of appropriateness. Chair Poupore confirms the stairs are granite. He doesn't think removing the stairs would be a good option. Woodward states the need to maintain the historic character, and the removal of an architectural detail would not preserve historic character. Scalzo affirms that the entire civic center is on the historic register. Chair Poupore asks if there are options to make the stairs safe. Scalzo states a couple of the treads would need to be replaced. Guggenbuehl asks if they could be blocked off for safety reasons, if it was a cost issue. Scalzo affirms they are looking at options to present for/to the county board.

IV. Old Business

- A. Cultural Resources Policies – Imagine Duluth 2035 – Moses introduces the policies in the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. Chair Poupore asks for volunteers to work on the policies. Woodward volunteers to sit down with Chair Poupore to brainstorm and collect

other resources to share with entire HPC at a later date. Mike Malone is also mentioned as a possible resource.

B. Lincoln Park Historic Survey

- The final report is now online.

C. Morgan Park School – Moses shares the property owner’s application for a preliminary plat. There was a street removed due to cost. This will be presented to the planning commission at their September meeting. The plan includes demolishing the building.

D. ISD 709: Old Central, New Central, Nettleton – Moses has had contact with David Spooner, the new facilities manager. The school district is now working on various school projects. He would be willing to come to an HPC meeting (maybe in October). All of the above projects are on hold due to lack of funds. They might have to start closing off unsafe areas.

V. Communications and Other Business

A. Planning Commission Update – Terry Guggenbuehl gives an overview. The pc approved the special use permit for the restaurant on 18th Avenue East between 3rd and 4th Street.

B. Imagine Duluth 2035 (Comprehensive Plan) – Moses gives an overview. All focus groups are tasked with creating rough drafts by 9/8/17. Public meetings will be next.

C. Book: *Duluth’s Historic Parks* – Moses notes the book, and wants to make sure the HPC is aware of it. The mayor was at an event and a Duluth History day was named. Buehler states any encouragement the HPC can have towards future book sales or writing is encouraged. It’s not an impulse buy book for weekend tourists. Woodward notes the lack of historic interpretation in parks. Visitors don’t know the heritage significance and thinks a heritage/interpretive plan should be included in future nominations.

D. Consideration of Minutes – July 25, 2017

MOTION/Second: Buehler/Guggenbuehl approve July 25, 2017 minutes.

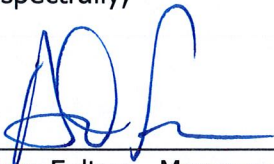
VOTE: (5-0)

E. Topics for September Meeting

- Enger Tower, Scalzo – St. Louis County Courthouse, Potential for Indian Burial Mounds.
- Buehler thanks staff for their time.

F. Adjournment at 3:30 p.m. (Next Meeting, Tuesday, September 26, 2017)

Respectfully,



Adam Fulton - Manager
Community Planning