

Heritage Preservation Commission
October 2, 2018 Brown Bag Meeting Minutes
Room 303 – Duluth City Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Michael Poupore called to order the meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) at 12:05 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2, 2018.

Attending: Zandy Zwiebel, Mike Poupore, Mike Malone, Stacey DeRoche

Absent: Ken Buehler, Jessica Fortney

Staff Present: Jenn Moses, Jim Filby Williams, Will Roche, Ben Van Tassel, Diane Desotelle

2. Brown Bag Topic

PL 18-007 Historic Nomination of Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad (LSMRR) by the Heritage Preservation Commission

Jenn Moses from the City of Duluth gave a presentation about the nomination of the railroad, various clean-up efforts in surrounding areas (including US Steel Site, Mud Lake, Spirit Lake, overall St. Louis River AOC).

Duke Skorich from Zenith Research Group gave a presentation about survey in western neighborhoods regarding the LSMRR and Western Waterfront Trail (WWT).

Mike Casey, member of the public, asked about date of clean-up maps shown. Jenn Moses answered they came from Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and are meant to illustrate variety of clean-up efforts in the overall areas, not specific clean-up plans and strategies – as these are still being developed.

Jim Filby Williams discussed the trade-offs between environmental issues, railroad, and waterfront access, and said that the City has endeavored to find win-wins as much as possible, and minimize the trade-offs. For example, at Stewart Creek the City has asked for a bridge over the river to accommodate the railroad, as well as at Wire Mill Pond. Sometimes they have prioritized the railroad over access and environmental benefits.

Diane Desotelle shared information about upcoming studies, including sampling along the Mud Lake causeway for physical and chemical make-up of the soils and sediment and doing an alternatives analysis of options for the causeway over Mud Lake. For Mud Lake, the habitat and the human service elements will be qualified for comparison purposes across the alternatives. These elements include using bathymetry to analyze historical, existing and proposed alternative water depths to discuss the places where fish can spawn or where turtles and other species may best be able to access the water, and other habitat considerations. Human services will include elements such opportunities to recreate and obtain access to the water for an array of activities.

Mike Poupore asked why no hydrology survey has been completed on Mud Lake. Diane Desotelle responded that the Corps has been using a model for estimates and will do a full survey once a plan has been developed. Diane is looking for much of the analysis on Mud Lake to be completed around February.

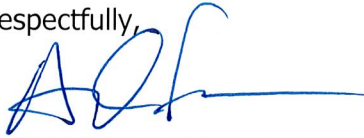
There were questions about wording of survey questions. Jim Filby Williams explained that every survey has weaknesses and that this was the most objective survey the City has ever done.

Dick Haney, member of the public, pointed out that LSMRR is used mostly by non-locals, but that the survey questioned only residents.

Jim Filby Williams said that the survey shows the community deeply values both the railroad and trail. The survey's value was in determining relative priority and preference in those areas where trade-offs are necessary.

3. Adjournment

Respectfully,



Adam Fulton - Manager
Community Planning