



City of Duluth
Planning Division

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Heritage Preservation Commission
April 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Room 303 – Duluth City Hall

I. Call to Order

Chairperson David Woodward called to order the meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) at 2:03 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

Roll Call

Attending: Ken Buehler, Terry Guggenbuehl, Michael Poupore, Thomas Vaughn and David Woodward

Absent: Laurie Boche and Kristi Johnson

Staff present: Kyle Deming and Cindy Stafford

II. Public Hearings

- A. PL15-054: Historic Construction Permit to install a fabric canopy over the sidewalk from the east building entrance up to Michigan St. and to install a monument sign at Michigan St. and 5th Avenue W., Duluth Union Depot, 506 W. Michigan St. (Chris Mathews)
- Chris Mathews – of the Depot addresses the commission and gives an overview of the project. The canopy is to provide a safe walkway during inclement weather. The proposed monument sign is not located on the historic building, but still is subject to the preservation plan. Chair Woodward recommends a front lit sign. Ken Buehler will participate in the discussion, but will recuse himself from the vote. He notes the other monument signs at the site are backlit and having a front lit sign will look out of place. The preservation plan states signs shall be compatible with the building. Backlit signs are not appropriate for the building. Terry Guggenbuehl states the Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve the concurrent use permit for the canopy. Chair Woodward asks if the backlit sign will muddle the historic nature of the building. Buehler states they need signage to direct newcomers to the east entrance to the building where the Underground theatre is as well as the scenic railroad. The sign is consistent with the other two signs that are there. Buehler states the underground events change constantly and the need is there to change the notice on the sign. Tom Whittaker from the Depot addresses the commission. He notes the importance of signage to draw people to the Underground. He appreciates their input, but a backlit sign is the only way it's going to work and is the best solution. Michael Poupore asks if it meets the sign regulations. Kyle Deming states yes. Chair Woodward notes future signs need to comply with the landmark status preservation plan. Poupore asks about the canopy and questions if it will be adequate to keep the walkway snow free. Whittaker states there are also handrails going up, which will help with safety. Guggenbuehl asks about the sign and does this body have final authority. Chair Woodward states they have the authority not to supply a certificate of appropriateness based on the lack of adherence to their preservation plan.

MOTION/Second: Woodward/Vaughn separate canopy and sign items in order to vote on them separately.

VOTE (4-0, Buehler recused himself)

MOTION/Second: Woodward/Guggenbuehl approve a certificate of appropriateness for the Depot's project to install a fabric canopy over the sidewalk from the east building entrance up to Michigan St.

VOTE (3-1, Poupore opposed, Buehler recused himself)

MOTION/Second: Woodward/Guggenbuehl approve a certificate of appropriateness for the Depot's project to install a monument sign at Michigan St. and 5th Avenue W.

VOTE (1-3, Woodward, Poupore, Vauhn opposed, Buehler recused himself): Motion Failed.

Chair Woodward advises the Depot to come back with the design for a front lit sign. Deming asked the commission to identify materials that would be appropriate per the preservation plan. They identified glass, stone, steel, ceramic, as examples. Chair Woodward will ask Michael Coop of SHPHO if he would allow for polycarbonate, a safer material than glass.

Buehler states he has to leave the meeting early. He notes a person who needs information on grants, which Chair Woodward will follow up on. Buehler states the deliberations by the commission were forthright and considered all aspects. He admits the landmark status preservation plan was not considered. Poupore asks Buehler to relay back to the board that the snow plow will be dumping material directly on the canopy and may compromise the material.

MOTION/Second: Woodward/Vaughn move Bruce White's topic forward in the agenda (From V. B. listed below)

VOTE: (4-0)

The commission agreed to move Old Business item B up on the agenda to accommodate Bruce White, who was in attendance to give an update on the Ethnographic Study.

Bruce White addresses the commission. He is an expert in regards to the fur trade industry. He updates the commission on the ethnographic study. They received a planning grant in 2013 which combines history, archaeology and ethnography. They began their research in September. They are listing sites they are relevant. There is a community meeting in June. The final report will be completed at the end of June. In general, native history is not present when referring to the history of Duluth. (i.e. Canal Park focuses on maritime history). The indigenous history should be better known. White notes a group in Toronto which has a phone app describing their history. Duluth providing something similar is a possibility. He notes his study is an open-ended project to suggest further activity. Topics can include Chief Buffalo and the land he once owned in Duluth. Chair Woodward states it would be helpful to have acknowledgement to the TCPs (traditional cultural properties), including Spirit Mountain. Per White, it might be too soon to tell in history if it's a TCP. Chair Woodward said the document can be an important planning tool. White interviewed someone who said we need to "lay the foundation," and notes the question of integrity is defined by the community. Bruce encourages future discussion. He suggests point of rocks could be nominated for other reasons. Chair Woodward asks White when a draft will be available for public viewing. White states possibly Mid-June. Woodward requests a rough draft be supplied to the HPC when it becomes available. White will do his best to accommodate. The commissioners thank White for attending.

III. Unfinished Business

- A. 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). Asked to keep on agenda.

IV. New Business

- A. Potential Nominations; discussion and review before starting official nomination process (Goal to nominate several this year) – N/A
- B. Select date for the Historic Preservation Open House – Workshops – Report back next month.
- C. Former church at 932 E 3rd St. – potentially historically significant. This building was purchased by St. Luke's. It was re-adapted in 70's or 80's as an apartment building.
- NE MN Historic coalition - Woodward notes an open house will be held at the Depot on 5/9/2015. Everyone is invited. Chair Woodward will be focusing on UMD's Museum Studies program. He asks if the HPC should have a presence. He suggests some sort of poster. Chair Woodward will work on a poster and will forward the announcement to the commissioners.
- Draft a letter to the city administration and Council requesting to be included in matters pertaining to the HPC. (i.e. St. Peters Church meetings, the HPC was not included in all happenings.) Poupore will attempt a draft.

V. Old Business

- A. Update on CLG Grant Application for 2015 – Historic resources survey of the Lincoln Park Business District – No word.
- B. Update on Duluth Ethnographic Study /Indigenous Commission (moved forward in the agenda).
- C. Update on Astor Park/Historical Park Phase I Archaeological Survey – Deming will ask Chuck.
- D. Update on Legacy Proposal for the Enger Park Phase I Survey – focus on Astor Park first.

VI. Communications and Other Business

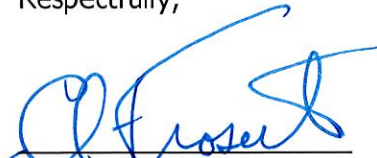
- A. Reports of Officers and Committees
- B. Planning Commission Update – Guggenbuehl reiterates the canopy for Depot was approved.
- C. Consideration of Minutes – March 24, 2015

MOTION/Second: Woodward/Vaughn approve the March 24, 2015 minutes.

VOTE: (4-0)

- D. Items for the Agenda for May 26, 2015 meeting – Deming goes through the agenda with the commissioners.
- E. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully,



Charles Froseth, Secretary