

Heritage Preservation Commission
January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Web-Ex Meeting Format

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the HPC members participated through video conference from home. The meeting was held as a Special Meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021 in response to the Covid-19 emergency.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting President Stacey DeRoche called to order the meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) at 12:02 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Attendance: (Via WebEx video conferencing – all votes conducted via roll call)

Attending: Ken Buehler, Stacey DeRoche, Brandon Hartung, Mike Poupore, and Sarah Wisdorf

Absent: Jessica Fortney

Staff Present: Steven Robertson and Cindy Stafford

2. Public Hearings

None at this time

3. Consideration of Minutes

December 14, 2020

MOTION/Second: Buehler/Hartung approve the minutes

VOTE: (5-0)

4. Communications

-Training Opportunity (Email 1-6-2021) – Steven Robertson noted there is limited funding available for training reimbursement if the commissioners are interested, and to contact him if interested.

-Minnesota's Historic Structure Rehabilitation State Tax Credit Ending in 2021 (Email 1-5-2021) Robertson will forward the list to the commissioners, and if they have ideas for other similar projects to that could benefit for the state tax credit, please feel free to add them.

5. Report of Final Disposition of Matters Previously Before the Commission

-Marten Trail Plan, Informational Meeting – Cliff Knettel, Senior Parks Planner, gave an overview. More details here: <https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-planning/progress-in-the-park/waabizheshikana-heritage-trail-interpretive-plan/>.

Informational sessions were held in mid-December. The interpretative plan originated from the mini-master plan from 2019. A consultant was hired, and a steering committee was created, and there will be different themes and stories along the trail. They plan to proceed with implementation as funding allows, which won't necessarily be in a contiguous manner. There will be a public workshop on 2/2/2021. A final draft will be created, which will be followed by a two-week comment period. The parks and recreation commission will discuss at their March meeting. The trail plan includes different themes throughout and will include nine story poles. Topics will include: the natural estuary, great migrations, and global connections. In focus will be plants and animals along with people, places and life ways (fishing, fur-trading, timber industry). Their overall goal is to identify and respect different layers and to build respect, awareness and reciprocity with the natural world. Trailheads will be identified for access points. Cairns – another trail – side excursions off of the main trail that might interest visitors. Knettel welcomed any HPC feedback. Mike Poupore noted they have done a great job with implementation. He asked about the railroad demarcation. Was the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad included in the planning? Knettel said they have reached out to the railroad.

He will speak with the consultant to make sure the railroad path is noted on all maps. Ken Buehler noted using the right-of-way for the railroads, and wanted to make sure there is safe separation, fencing, etc. Knettel noted they are focusing on the interpretation element and not trail development specifics. Chair DeRoche likes the look of the plan. She noted the attractive artwork. She looks forward to using the trail, and thanks Knettel for his presentation. Knettel will share the HPC's comments and provide them with a link to the plan draft.

6. Reports of Officers, Staff and Committees

Commissioner Sarah Wisdorf gave an overview. There is nothing pertaining to the HPC in this month's planning commission meeting. Robertson noted there is an increased conversation on the need to reuse empty big box retail businesses, and they city may want to consider being more flexible with land uses in downtown historic buildings in order to promote active use of the structures.

Chair DeRoche noted the League of Women Voters are putting together an overview of the Marten Trail, and they are concerned about the pollution control aspect. Robertson will share details with the commissioners.

7. Consideration of Matters Regarding Commission Action

-Preservation Plan, Duluth Public Library (Carnegie Building), 1-22-92 – Robertson suggested going through old preservation plans to see if they still make sense. Buehler looked it over, and noted it is not a quick read. Changes were made to the building, and he feels they adhered to the preservation plan. Chair DeRoche asked the commissioners if they would like to discuss the topic today, or defer until their next meeting. Poupore thought they could defer to next meeting. Poupore asked if they were looking to repair their ceilings. Per Robertson, they have not had contact with the owner for a year or two and is not aware of any building permits applied for to repair the ceilings, but he will double-check. Chair DeRoche asked the commissioners for their thoughts on reaching out to the owner. They want to be transparent, and convey it's not a scary thing. The owner is welcomed to attend the HPC meeting if they wish. Robertson will try to contact the owner to discuss their attendance at the February or March meeting.

8. Other Business

-Note on pending EAW, 319-333 E Superior Street Redevelopment – Working on draft for buildings near the Voyageur Hotel. Would the commissioners like to hold a special meeting to discuss? Chair DeRoche suggested they look over the document first to make a decision if a special meeting is warranted.

Brandon Hartung asked about the status of the Lincoln Park (park) renovation. Is funding questionable? Robertson noted about nine months ago, the process was pulled back, and the funding was at risk. He has no updated information. Chair DeRoche thought there were modifications made to the walking plan. Robertson will ask his supervisor for more details to share with the HPC.

9. Adjournment

Adjournment at 12:51 p.m. (Next meeting scheduled for Monday, 2/08/2021.) Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:
Adam W. Fulton
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Adam Fulton – Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Economic Development