

Heritage Preservation Commission
December 13, 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.

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Jessica Fortney called to order the meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) at 12:01 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2021.

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

Attending: Ken Buehler, Stacey DeRoche, Jessica Fortney, Brian Hartung, Jess McCullough, Mike Poupore (left before election vote), and Sarah Wisdorf

Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Steven Robertson and Cindy Stafford

Public Hearings

PL 21-103 Historic Construction/Demolition Permit for 506 W Michigan Street (The Depot).

Applicant: Shane Nies of Architecture Advantage gave an overview. The current roof is leaking and in need of replacement. There is structural deterioration of columns. They would like to keep the canopy design, and replace the footings and piers. The Depot will need a concurrent use permit since the canopy is in the right of way, which will be presented to the planning commission in January. Ken Buehler shared some history, noting the original use was for horse and buggy traffic. Mike Poupore asked the applicant about the column foundation. Poupore noted cutting off the bottom of the columns destroys the historical character. Nies noted they would raise the pier and add stronger material. Poupore thought 2-3' replacement was too much and keeping it at 6-8" would not change the historical character. Poupore asked about the roofing. Nies stated it will be a visual match of what exists now. Poupore thought it was originally copper. He would like to see more research into replacing it with what is historically correct. Chair Fortney noted the importance of keeping the shape of the bottom of the columns. Sand blasting may be too harsh of a method. Chair Fortney noted the wall flashing, stating connecting it to a brick wall is tricky. She suggested more of a mortar mixture would help. Nies noted the brick flashing detail was provided in their report.

Public: No speakers

Commissioners: Chair Fortney asked where the project was the SHPO. Nies stated they submitted the plans today. Chair Fortney would like to hold off to see the applicant's revisions, as well as comments from SHPO. Senior Planner Steven Robertson stated the planning commission meeting is on January 11th, so if the HPC decides to table this item today, they could revisit it at their next meeting on January 10th before the planning commission meeting. Commissioner Buehler asked if all of the proposed work is exterior. Nies affirmed. Poupore would also like to hold off on any action until plan revisions are made, and comments are made from SHPO. Nies noted it could take 30-45 days for comment from SHPO. He noted there is a possibility that it might get pushed back to February. He will come back to the HPC with revisions and comments. They hope to begin construction in the Spring.

MOTION/Second: Fortney/Poupore table for more information

VOTE: (7-0)

Consideration of Minutes

November 8, 2021 Regular HPC Meeting

MOTION/Second: Wisdorf/DeRoche approved the minutes

VOTE: (7-0)

Communications

MNDOT Letter Regarding Blatnik Bridge – Robertson had nothing to add, and there is no action needed.

Presentation: Waankam and St. Louis River Estuary – Libby Bent and Barb Akre gave an overview. They have three goals: 1) Connect the community, 2) Secure legal rights, and 3) Join a global movement. They would like to add an amendment to the city charter. The existing laws aren't enough to protect the environment. How can we get involved? Learn more, be a supporter, join the campaign, sign the petition, help gather signatures, vote for the amendment. Questions are welcomed. Robertson will share the website information with the commissioners.

(Commissioner Mike Poupore left the meeting.)

Report of Final Disposition of Matters Previously Before the Commission –

Election of Officers – Robertson noted commissioners DeRoche and Poupore have ending terms in March. Chair Fortney needs to have a one year break before becoming President again. Commissioner Wisdorf can't be an officer due to her representing the planning commission. Wisdorf nominated Commissioner Buehler for President. He is in agreement to hold office for one year buffer for Commissioner Fortney

MOTION/Second: Wisdorf/Hartung make motion for election of officers -

Ken Buehler for President and Jessica Fortney for Vice President

VOTE: (6-0)

Reports of Officers, Staff and Committees - N/A

Consideration of Matters Regarding Commission Action

PL21-161 Downtown Commercial Historic Design Guidelines – Being reviewed by SHPO.

2022 Preservation Conference – Robertson stated they are meeting tomorrow with Michael Coop of SHPO. DeRoche would like to firm up the dates, so she can check availability at the Depot.

Other Business – N/A

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully,

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