

Heritage Preservation Commission
March 14, 2022 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

President Ken Buehler called to order the meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022.

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

Attending: Ken Buehler, Stacey DeRoche, Jessica Fortney, Jess Mccullough, and Mike Poupore

Absent: Brandon Hartung, and Sarah Wisdorf

Staff Present: Steven Robertson, and Cindy Stafford

2) Public Hearings

PL 22-043 Historic Construction/Demolition Permit (Amendment) Spirit Lake Sediment Remediation

Staff: Steven Robertson gave an overview and introduced the applicant.

Applicant: Courtney Pacelli of the EPA addressed the commission. Their original plan was approved in 2020. They now bring back an amended application. As approved in the original permit, the bridge at Wire Mill Pond was slated to be demolished and replaced with a new bridge. The new plan calls for reinforcing the existing bridge. The excavation below the bridge will be reduced. Mike Poupore asked if the remediation of Wire Mill Pond is changing. Per Pacelli, the impacted material of the pond goes deeper than expected. Dredging it out would have been too extensive. Now they are proposing minor removal with the addition of a 2' protective cap. The area will be re-vegetated. This is considered to be a safer option. Chair Buehler asked if the city is disappointed they aren't getting a new bridge. Per Robertson, he thinks this is a great outcome. Poupore noted the bridge is not part of the original trestle. It is not as old as the rail itself. Chair Buehler noted it was also built after the fire.

Public Comment: No speakers.

MOTION/Second: Poupore/Fortney approved item PL 22-043 for the certificate of appropriateness

VOTE: (5-0)

3) Consideration of Minutes

February 14, 2022 Regular HPC Meeting

MOTION/Second: Poupore/Fortney approved the minutes

VOTE: (5-0)

4) Communications

Request to Comment, 106 Review, Cell Facilities at 3800 London Road and

Request to Comment, 106 Review, Cell Facilities at 130 W Superior Street – Per Robertson, staff has no concerns. These are rooftop sites and there will be no degradation of historic properties. The HPC also has no concerns.

Buildings on Main Conference, Faribault Apr 20-22 – Robertson stated there is a small budget to reimburse commissioners if someone wishes to attend. Commissioners should contact Robertson if interested.

5) Report of Final Disposition of Matters Previously Before the Commission –
No items.

6) Reports of Officers, Staff and Committees

Robertson noted the planning commission has been reviewing interim use permits for vacation dwellings and special use permits for new car washes. Last month the planning commission denied U-Haul's proposal to re-use the old K-Mart building in West Duluth. They didn't feel it was an appropriate fit.

7) Consideration of Matters Regarding Commission Action

PL21-161 Downtown Commercial Historic Design Guidelines – Robertson will send out a doodle poll for a brown bag in which the HPC and the planning commission can meet to compare notes.

2022 Preservation Conference – Robertson noted Eleanor Bacso has been working on pricing and venue availability. The grant was submitted last Friday.

8) Other Business

The Historic Tax Credit program is slated to expire in June. Chair Buehler suggested sending in the HPC's comments to voice their opinion to extend the program. Chair Buehler and Robertson will work on a letter and ask Mayor Larson to comment as well. Jessica Fortney will look for a letter she sent in the past to use as an example. Fortney wanted the HPC to be aware that there is a Rethos office opening in Duluth.

9) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully,

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