

City of Duluth Planning Division

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City of Duluth
Heritage Preservation Commission
May 28, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Room 303 - Duluth City Hall

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Woodward called to order the meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, May 28, 2013.

II. Roll Call

Attending: Kristi Johnson, Nicole Smith, Tom Vaughn and David Woodward.

Absent: Ken Buehler (Excused) & Patricia Mullins (Excused)

Staff Present: Jenn Reed-Moses and Cindy Stafford

Visitors: Robin Mainella – Duluth Resident concerned about St. Peters Church.

III. Public Hearing

None

IV. Consideration of Minutes

March 26, 2013 and April 23, 2013, approved. **MOTION/Second:** Woodward/Johnson

V. Communications

- A. Update on Carter hotel. Chair David Woodward discusses the most recent correspondence, which is an invitation from the BIA to attend a formal consultation on Friday from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at their Fort Snelling Office. Woodward can't attend, but drafted a couple of paragraphs to forward to City Attorney Allison Lutterman on behalf of the HPC. He summarizes that while the structure itself is not historically significant, it is part of a Historic District that as a whole is historically significant. Kristi Johnson notes the wording on the agenda, and requests the removal of the word "demo."
- B. Update on Duluth area ethnographic study. Bruce White could not attend. Chair Woodward has not heard an update. Reed-Moses will ask Chuck Froseth for an update and will email the HPC.

VI. Old Business

A. CLG Grant was funded. \$24,000 going towards phase IV of the inventory. The inventory began in East Duluth (23rd Avenue East) and continues all the way to the historic district downtown. This is an architectural survey which will provide the first level of knowledge of properties, and will note which properties are eligible for the National Register and local landmark status. Johnson asks if this was the study that originally was deemed inaccurate. Per Chair Woodward yes, but it has now been resolved. He discusses the bidding process. Reed-Moses will confirm with Froseth

that the process will be the same as last time and will involve interviews. She will keep the HPC informed.

Chair Woodward announced he will not be present for the HPC July meeting. He hopes that Co-Chair Ken Buehler will attend. Reed-Moses shares with the HPC the staffing rotation by staff. Each staff member will host 3 HPC meetings. She will host in June, and Steven Robertson will host in July. She will let him know Chair Woodward can't attend in July.

Chair Woodward would like Steve Matthews become an HPC member, but he is not a Duluth resident. Another option would be a recommendation from St. Louis County as their appointee. Reed-Moses will check to see if you need to be a Duluth resident in order to be appointed by the County.

B. St. Peters Church – HPC was/is trying to designate it at as a local landmark, because it might be slated for demo. Various legal issues are involved. Robin Mainella (visitor) had some legal paperwork regarding church's past ownership. They may have taken over ownership illegally. Per Reed-Moses, this is a dispute between the two-parties, not the City. Chair Woodward shares the drafted letter about inviting the owner to the table to discuss landmark status. The letter will be signed by Chair Woodward and a City representative. The reality is the Diocese is the owner and they do not want landmark status. Chair Woodward feels the City Council will not allow landmark status without the owner's consent. HPC will submit the letter to the Diocese, and hopes at the very least that they will be open for a discussion. The discussion dialog will list the pros and cons of landmark status, and will be transparent. Chair Woodward hopes for a response from the Diocese before the next HPC meeting in June.

VII. Reports of Officers N/A.

VIII. New Business

- A. Discussion of the "Top Ten" sites to add to the preservation list. Chair Woodward shares the properties recommended for landmark designation list compiled with the assistance of Maryanne Norton who is a local historian at the library. She felt that the listed properties were a "slam dunk" because of their historical significance and because the owner's approval. Also, some are on the national register, which has some of the same criteria needed. Chair Woodward would like to see around 4 properties designated this year for local landmark status. Being both on the national register and local landmark statues gives the properties an extra level of protection. Local Landmark designation has more teeth. A Certificate of Appropriateness is needed to make any structural changes. The COA must be approved by the HPC. The bargaining chip is the preservation plan. It should be realistic to the owner's needs and also to historic preservation. The local The top sites prioritized are:
 - 1) Enger Tower
 - 2) Glensheen
 - 3) US Fisheries Station

- 4) Fire Station Glen Avon Station
- 5) Lakewood Pump Station
- 6) William A. Irvin
- 7) NorShor Theater Orpheum Theatre
- 8) Endion Depot (recently purchased)
- 9) Pastoret/Kozy
- 10) North Pierhead Lighthouse
- 11) Duluth Nat'l Guard Armory
- 12) Clayton Jackson Mcghee Memorial

Pre-nomination meeting request is needed for the top three entries and the 4th being the Diocese. Per visitor Mainella, due to the stone masonry work, the church and Enger Tower should be grouped together. Per Chair Woodward, the HPC needs good media coverage for positive PR.

IX. Other Business

- A. City proposed Fire hall at Snively and Woodland. No final location has been determined yet. The request for proposal was not included. This is outside of the area with funding. This is a different area than the hillside area.
- B. Nicole Smith notes the Morgan Park area, and its rich history. She's wondering if signs can be put up for the public explaining the history. Per Chair Woodward, it's not in the City budget, but the HPC could apply for a legacy grant. It's already on the National Register as a historic district. Moving forward Chair Woodward mentioned holding public forums, so the public is aware of the benefits ahead of time.
- X. <u>Adjournment</u>

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully,

Charles Froseth, Land Use Supervisor