

ACTION MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
Lower Level – Room 41, City Hall/Court House, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard
February 12, 2015

Present: Richard Dana, Barbara Bezat, Robert Ferguson, Matt Hill, Renee Hutter Barnes, Bill Lightner, Matt Mazanec, Amy Meller, Michael Justin, David Riehle, Steve Trimble, Diane Trout-Oertel,

Absent: David Wagner (excused)

Staff Present: Amy Spong, Christine Boulware, Bill Dermody, Allison Suhan, John Beaty

BUSINESS MEETING

I. Call to Order 5:03 pm

II. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Trout-Oertel moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bezat seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 11-0.**

III. Conflicts of Interest – None

IV. New Business

A. Gateway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) informational presentation by Gateway BRT project team led by Washington County Regional Rail Authority

Lyssa Leitner, planner for Washington County and staff for Gateway Corridor Project and Beth Bartz of SRF Consulting Group were present to speak and answered questions from Commissioners.

B. Gateway Station Area Planning – Mounds Station Area Plan informational presentation (Dermody, 266-6617)

Initial Commissioner feedback included a preference to the L-shaped stations and concern for how Maria residents feel about buses coming every 7-15 minutes on their street with this proposal. A more comprehensive plan will be coming before the HPC in April or May.

V. Pre-Application Review

A. 172 Fourth Street East - TPT, Lowertown Heritage Preservation District, by JoAnn Hawkins, Twin Cities Public Television, for preliminary review of exterior alterations including: new signage, windows, lighting, and mural with sculptural elements. (Spong, 266-6714)

Commissioner feedback summary was:

- Not supportive of the off-white color for the whole wall
- Not supportive of painting the public street lamps
- Colors on the building should complement the buildings adjacent to it (darker color) and possibly highlight the structural pattern that is present.
- Façade could be treated as two separate buildings- one being the mural with projection screen and the southern portion.
- Windows should enforce the verticality of the building. Review other fenestration patterns. HPC has not received details of window profiles.
- Wall signs lit from an external source would meet the guidelines

VI. New Business

A. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules Update informational presentation (Dermody, 266-6617)

PED staff, Bill Dermody, presented on the changes of the FCC Rules by the federal government. Noted need for clearer guidelines and can start with the Lowertown update and then expand to other districts specific to cell antennas. HPC needs to be thoughtful with future placement, attachment, and concealment conditions to set precedent as the new rules are enforced. Commissioner Mazanec questioned if HPC could condition the rhythm and pattern. Seems like a grey area that may fall under concealment. He also asked if HPC could condition the ratio of antennae to an architectural feature on the building. Commissioners would like to see drafted design guidelines addressing this.

B. Staff presentation on regulatory tools for preventing loss of historic resources (Spong, 266-6714)

Ms. Spong presented on what is in place now that addresses prevention of loss, what the comp plan states that guides next steps, and what are the next steps. Also provided an update on the ordinance work taking place.

VII. Approval of the action minutes

Commissioner Trout-Oertel moved to approve the meeting minutes with a minor correction made by Chair Dana to clarify his statement of his living in the Galtier towers complex, but having no ownership in the properties discussed related to new signage on Galteir.

*Commissioner Mazanec seconded the motion. **Motion passed 8-0.***

A. January 8, 2018 Annual Meeting

B. January 22, 2015 Public Hearing

VIII. Chair's Announcements- February 20th is the deadline for NPS scholarships to attend the National Main Street Conference in Atlanta in March. The Summit Hill Association hosted a meeting on Tuesday about what to do about demolition and neighborhood preservation. The main argument of the evening was that we need to have updated surveys.

Commissioner Lightner stated that Macalester College bought 1721 Princeton Avenue and is now looking for a new owner. Also, the DFL Ward 3 caucus passed a resolution for community focused development.

IX. Staff Announcements- Ms. Spong discussed the HPC condition for 321 Irvine Avenue's front fence/wall with DSI staff, Tom Beach. The applicant's revised proposal doesn't fully meet the HPC condition but DSI staff felt it was a gray area when applying the Zoning Code. The applicant has dropped the height of the retaining wall to the left of the garage to four feet and the screen wall by the stairs from six feet to now four feet. Reduced gate height to three and a half feet. Ms. Spong requested that the HPC consider the revisions, the adopted conditions and make a motion.

*Commissioner Ferguson moved to accept the applicant's revisions as submitted as they meet the conditions. Commissioner Meller seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-1-1 with Commissioner Mazanec voting nay and Commissioner Justin abstaining.***

X. Adjourn 9:11 pm

Submitted by A. Suhan