

HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: August 15, 2012

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mary Edel Beyer, Robert Sebo, Lynn Englund, Carolyn Larson, Mark Peterson, Bruno Borsari, Shaune Burke, Susan Briggs, and Greg Gaut

ABSENT: Wes Hamilton

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Moeller

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Sebo. The minutes from the Commission's meeting of June 13, 2012 was reviewed and upon a motion by Commissioner Edel Beyer, and second by Commission Gaut, were unanimously approved as submitted with the clarification to the bottom of page three that Deb Salyards had been a former member of the Preservation Commission.

Updates: CLG and Legacy Grant Activity

Chairman Sebo called on Mark Moeller, City Planner to provide comments to this item. Mr. Moeller noted that as referenced in previous meetings, the City had received both CLG and Legacy Grant monies to prepare a Local Nomination Form for 275 West Broadway and a National Register Nomination Form for the Amtrak Station. Given this, the next step in the process would be to solicit proposals from interested consultants. He noted that although he had drafted a request for proposal for this purpose, they would not be submitted to anyone for response until the City has secured executed grant documents from SHPO. Once that occurs, the request for proposal would be forwarded to 4 to 5 consultants for response. As referenced in recent communication with the SHPO office, it was anticipated that a consultant for both projects would be selected by October 1, 2012. Depending on when final grant certifications are received from SHPO, he envisioned that this deadline could be achieved. Given this scheduling, it was proposed that the project would be fully completed by the first of March of next year.

Update: HPC Website

Mr. Moeller noted that given recent Commission discussion pertaining to a number of various code amendments, the Commission had expressed a desire to create tools that provide a greater level of Commission visibility, including activities, requirements, etc. In achieving this, a recent goal setting session had established the idea of creating a Commission website. He emphasized that although the Commission does have a presence on the City's present website, this one is not as user friendly as the Commission would like it to be. At this point, he reviewed the number of steps that need to be made in accessing the present site. In this, the challenge that most citizens have is in determining where to start this access.

Mr. Moeller explained that in a recent communication with Chad Ubl, Community Services Director, he had been told that the Human Rights Commission is also very interested in establishing a website which is more accessible to the public. Additionally, he had also been informed that efforts were presently underway to reformat the City's present website.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2012
PAGE 2

As part of this, Mr. Ubl explained that efforts would be made to promote a higher level of accessibility to City's Boards and Commissions, if desired. Although all of these entities are a bit different, some may warrant a higher level of web presence than others. Given the previous discussion, Mr. Moeller suggested that an updated Commission website may be something that will evolve as part of the City website update efforts. As such, it may not be necessary to, as was previously thought, attempt to secure legacy or other funding sources to hire a consultant for this purpose. At this point, he suggested simply waiting to see what evolves with the City website update process. As part of that, it was hoped that those involved in that effort will seek to include Board/Commission input.

At this point, general discussion ensued as to what items could be included on a Commission's website.

Commissioner Borsari suggested that a greater emphasis be made to link Commission activities with tourism. He further suggested that a greater effort be made to promote Native American cultural heritage.

Chairman Sebo suggested that, with a more easily accessible website, the Commission could host various features each month. He further suggested that the concept of raising awareness to Native American cultures could be an issue of a CLG Grant.

Commissioner Borsari noted that prior to former settlement of Winona; there were very few trees on the "island". Given this, he suggested a pilot program that would serve to recreate physical environments that may have existed prior to mid 1850's development. He suggested that native landscapes have changed significantly in the last 200 years and that such a pilot program would promote a greater awareness of this change.

Commissioner Edel-Beyer noted that the City website could future celebrate Winona's Sister Cities and may even relate to their histories/cultures. Commissioner Gaut agreed with previous comments and emphasized that the Commission should do everything possible to promote a sense of place.

Mr. Moeller stated that early cultural issues had been defined through the City's historic context report prepared in the 90s. If any person is interested in this, he asked them to contact him.

Commissioner Borsari stated that he was not necessarily looking at a mass recreation of a specific type of environment. In his mind, a pilot project could create parcels as small as 10 X 10 feet for native restoration purposes. These could be located on individual parcels throughout the City.

Mr. Moeller invited the Commission to visit the City's Port website. Given past discussion, he thought this form of site was what was being proposed by the group. Additionally, it was his understanding that that site is easily modified (through the Community Development Department) on a regular basis, to include current issues and other matters.

Following further discussion, the consensus of the Commission was that the Commission would continue to wait and see what evolves with the City's website update project.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2012
PAGE 3

Additionally, if given the opportunity, staff was requested to permit the Commission to input the process where appropriate.

The next item on the agenda involved a discussion of potential ideas to promote a greater level of Commission visibility educational concepts outside of a formal website. Chairman Sebo noted that in reviewing this item it appeared that some of this discussion had already occurred. Therefore he asked if there was any other business to come before the Commission.

Other Business

It was noted that SHPO's Annual Conference this year would be held in Fergus Falls on September 13th & 14th. Mr. Moeller stated that any Commissioner who is interested in attending should contact him. Again, given that the City is a Certified Local Government Unit, conference participation, by at least one person, is expected. He emphasized that all cost for this would be covered by the City.

Discussion ensued relative to the bridge redesign project. Chairman Sebo noted that although he had heard that preservationist were "getting in the way" of the bridge design project, he reminded all that the use of federal money for such a project does require fairly comprehensive cultural studies. Given these, certain State agencies are granted authorities to protect and preserve identified cultural/historical assets that are identified. In short, these are requirements that must be met. Outside of that, it was his understanding that SHPO, MnDOT, and others, involved in the project, were involved in serious discussions about the development of bridge alternatives. Given this, he envisioned that these alternatives, along with those which are determined to be preferred, will surface within the next month or two.

In response to a question from Commissioner Burke, Mr. Moeller noted that he would check into a comment she had heard that Franklin Street is to be widened.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.



Mark Moeller
City Planner