HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: October 10, 2012

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mary Edel Beyer, Mark Peterson, Susan Briggs, Robert Sebo, Wes Hamilton and Shaune Burke

ABSENT: Bruno Borsari, Carolyn Larson and Lynn Englund

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 September 19, 2012 were reviewed and following motion by Commissioner Edel Beyer, and second by Commission Burke, were unanimously approved as submitted.

Meet with Greg Gaut regarding Nomination Form processes for 275 Harriet Street and Amtrak Depot

Chairman Sebo called on Mark Moeller, City Planner, to introduce the selected consultant for proposed nomination forms of 275 Harriet and the Amtrak Depot.

Mr. Moeller noted that given Council approval of October 1, 2012, Greg Gaut had been selected for the project. At this point, he introduced Mr. Gaut who noted that he greatly appreciated the City's support in granting him the opportunity to complete this project. As a former Commission member, the selection meant that he had to resign from the Commission.

Mr. Gaut stated that although this project is scheduled to be completed by March 1 of next year, given back log of work duties at SHPO, he was proposing to have draft forms completed prior to the Christmas holiday. He further noted that 275 Harriet was listed on the National Register in 1984. Following the Commission's creation in the early '90's, City files for this property indicated that an effort was made to begin local designation of the site. However, this was never completed. Mr. Gaut indicated that he has discussed the project with the Christianson family, who has owned the property since 1976, and they are excited that the project is moving forward. Further, in reviewing the National Register Form for this property, its listing was based upon both architectural style and the significance of individuals who had resided in it.

Mr. Gaut noted that although somewhat brief, information contained in the present National Register Nomination Form will need to be expanded in the development of the local form. Given this, the local form will include a bit more detail than what presently exists in the National Register Form.

In addressing the Amtrak Station, Mr. Gaut stated that a National Register Nomination had been prepared for the property in 1984. However, because of opposition from the land owner at the time, the process was never completed. He further explained that, given his

preliminary research, the Soo Line bought the building in 1986 and in 1989, the railroad held its centennial celebration supporting the depot in early railroad history. Presently, the depot is the only surviving rail depot in Winona.

Again, Mr. Gaut explained that the story of the depot is something that needs to be told. He further noted that the upper story of the structure may have been used for a worker residence.

Commissioner Peterson stated a need to reference the William Windom history in terms of defining 275 Harriet. Mr. Gaut assured Mr. Peterson that this would be part of the Nomination Form. Chairman Sebo thanked Mr. Gaut for attending this afternoon and stated that he looked forward to working with him in this project.

Discussion-Chad Ubl, Community Services Director, Regarding City Website Update

Chairman Sebo stated that in its recent goal setting session, the Commission had expressed a strong desire for a more enhanced presence on the City's website. Given discussion occurring at the last meeting, current access, to what little exists on the City's website, can be challenging. In addressing the issue, the Commission had entertained the concept of submitting a Legacy Grant for the purpose of hiring a consultant to prepare a more accessible, user friendly webpage, the Commission had recently been informed that the City was going to be upgrading its website. Following discussion between staff and Chad Ubl, Community Services Director, it was also his understanding that this process could include the development of a more accessible site. In this discussion, Mr. Ubl had been invited to attend this meeting to offer his thoughts and comments. At the same time, the Commission may want to offer preliminary ideas it has relative to an upgraded webpage.

Mr. Ubl stated that a core group of City staff is presently working with Vision Design Group in its website update. Given discussion occurring to date, he was very confident that this new site could include many new features and that possibilities were unlimited. At this point, he asked the Commission if it had ideas as to what they would like to see included in an updated site. Ideas to surface included:

- "Searchable" maps.
- Video streaming.
- Access to sister city information.
- Access to adopted Design Guidelines and remodeling resources (possibly to include contractors).
- Future sites that may highlight various property owner preservation efforts on a monthly basis.
- The possible inclusions of a City preservation site endangered list.

Mr. Gaut stated that, as a citizen of the City, he would also like to see maps that are not only searchable but interactive.

Commissioner Burke stated that it was important to include cultural, as well as historic, resources on the site.

Mr. Ubl stated that it was hoped that the new website could be launched by January 1st of next year. Obviously, an enhanced preservation site will not include everything that the Commission would like to see included on an immediate basis. However, it was conceivable that a system could be set up to easily promote expansion of the site in the future.

Chairman Sebo stated that the Commission did have a logo at one point in time. However, it was unclear as to what happened to this.

Chairman Sebo thanked Mr. Ubl for attending this afternoon's meeting.

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

Mark Moeller
City Planner