



**Minutes of the  
Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)**

**Held at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2021  
Committee Room, Anoka City Hall**

I. **Call to Order** Vice Chair Thurston called the regular meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

II. **Roll Call**

Members present: Chair Bart Ward (arrived at 5:08 p.m.), Commissioners Barb Thurston, Colleen Hansen, Elizabeth McFarland, Cory Rahn, Lisa Silberg-Jurek

Members absent: Commissioner Peg Flaig

Others present: None

Staff present: Clark Palmer, City Planner

City Planner Clark Palmer shared that Commissioner Flaig's oath of office would occur at the next meeting she attends prior to voting on any items.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Palmer noted minutes will be included in next month's packet.

IV. **Old Business**

A. **Sandwich Board Signs Program**

Commissioner Hansen shared her daughter could no longer do the sandwich board signs as originally planned and that based on the small quantities needed each year another vendor would likely not be interested as well. Mr. Palmer said staff has have checked with other vendors who cannot source these frames as well.

Commissioner Rahn suggested approaching Anoka High School or Anoka Technical Center to provide the frames. Board consensus was the original signs needed replacement and to work to source frames for replacement.

Mr. Palmer shared some recipients were interested in presenting their home projects to the Board. Chair Ward suggested holding another televised meeting in June to recognize these recipients. Commissioner Rahn also suggested sharing about the expansion of the City registry and other items at that additional televised meeting.

B. **2021 Goals**

Mr. Palmer said each year the Commission adopted their previous year's top five accomplishments and five goals for the upcoming year and that review of the adopted goals should be discussed at each meeting for progress checks. He reviewed the five

adopted goals and spoke specifically about how to begin work on the development of infill standards for residential neighborhoods, which would likely include a joint worksession with Planning Commission and asked for discussion regarding committee structure.

Commissioner Thurston said the HPC could come up with points of discussion to have the representative bring forward to the full committee.

Chair Ward said he spoke with Public Works Director Mark Anderson who felt they could move forward with the stone house very soon.

Mr. Palmer reviewed the remaining HPC goals, including the annual ceremony and potential recipients and sandwich board sign listing that predated 2006 and suggested conducting a visual inspection instead.

### C. **Expansion of City Register**

Mr. Palmer shared background regarding expanding the City Register including how it was established, nomination by commission and criteria for designation. He noted how the Stonehouse would likely meet the outlined criteria then reviewed properties for first expansion that included the Stonehouse and Anoka Water Works Electric Light and Power Company pump house #1 constructed in 1889. Mr. Palmer asked the Commission to consider identifying resources to help move this project forward as staff time is limited, adding consideration could include working with the Anoka County Historical Society or other consultants. He said he had contacted the Society and was awaiting their response but felt a lot of the work was already done. He said staff was suggesting reaching out to firms who could assist with the writing of the City Register who could do a concise report on the cultural significances of these structures.

Chair Ward suggested reaching out to former Anoka County Historical Society Director Vicki Wendell for input and possible contracting as she has the knowledge and could provide valuable input at hopefully a lower cost.

Mr. Palmer said while he had information on some of the sites but it was mostly secondary sources and stressed the importance of getting accurate information. He said he had reached out to six different consultants and was awaiting response.

Commissioner Thurston said the other Commissions were excited about this Registry possibility when she shared about it at the quarterly Chairperson meeting then commented how on a recent tour of the David Weekley townhome project the model featured a photograph of the stone house in one of the rooms.

V. **New Business**  
None.

VI. **Committee Reports**

Discussion was held on the different committee assignments. Commissioner Wilberg spoke about the importance of the Tourism Committee but the need to have a social media account and other tools to promote and suggested an event committee be formed instead.

**MOTION TO CHANGE TOURISM COMMITTEE TO BE AN EVENT COMMITTEE BY COMMISSIONER WILBERG, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER RAHN. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

Chair Ward shared how the Historical Society used to do significant events with silent auctions, etc. and could tie a similar event to the Fundraising Committee and volunteered. Commissioner Wilberg volunteered as well, stating these were good platforms to work on items such as recognizing Jim Nielson's photograph collection donation.

Commissioner Thurston said she would lead the Heritage Preservation Award Committee along with Commissioner Silberg-Jurek.

Commissioners Flaig and Hansen were assigned to the Fundraising Committee.

Mr. Palmer summarized the Committee assignments: Chair Ward and Commissioner Silberg-Jurek for Heritage Preservation Award Committee; Commissioners Flaig and Rahn for Fundraising Committee; and Chair Ward and Commissioners Hansen and McFarland for Event Committee.

**Windego Park Amphitheater**

Commissioner Thurston said she and Commissioner Hansen attended the joint Park Board meeting where they discussed the future of the Windego Park Amphitheater.

Commissioner Hansen said she shared her suggestion with staff to create a mini amphitheater that would seat 75 people instead of 750 and use it as a second stage for smaller events or theater use for the middle school. She said funding might be available for a smaller project that would include signage about what the full site used to be, adding the site was included in the Historic Registry in 1980.

Commissioner Thurston shared background about New History out of Minneapolis who had conducted a report about the theater's inclusion on the historic registry who confirmed it should have been included even though the site was in disrepair but the question is what to do with it now. She said general consensus was to remove the northern part and upgrade a portion of the site for an interpretive space or other use such as wedding photos and extending the boardwalk over the ruin to retain some of the original space. She shared the Windego Society was no longer active and discussion had been held about grant applications but a plan was needed first.

Mr. Palmer said the question is how much do you restore when it is no longer a historic property as well as funding, adding grant funding cannot be obtained until a plan is in place.

Commissioner Rahn asked if the group has approached businesses to assist. He said the goal should be to make it usable again in some form.

Commissioner Thurston said the nearby Gidding Garden would be a nice connection too and suggested Public Services Administrator Lisa LaCasse attend the next Commission meeting to provide an update and further discussion on this topic.

**A. Heritage Preservation Award Committee**

Mr. Palmer asked the Commission to identify potential recipients and bring forward, stating there were many last year but not many so far this year. Commissioner Wilberg suggested both speakeasys be included as the work was done very well.

Commissioner Thurston inquired about the Sport Shack. Mr. Palmer said the individual was the same owner as Perkins restaurant and with COVID-19 it had been a difficult year but noted his wife was now on the Economic Development Commission and hoped more updates could be shared soon.

Mr. Palmer suggested other potential recipients such as Mr. Nielson's photo collection and the home on Ferry Street. He also noted he responded to the property owners of the home on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue with the request for a photo of the original porch.

**B. Fundraising Committee**

1. Update on paver sample order

Mr. Palmer shared an update on the paver samples from Polar Engraving, stating he would have the sample packet by next meeting.

Commissioner Rahn referred to the City's faded Park Board signs and the need to replace. Mr. Palmer said he would follow up with Ms. LaCasse.

Commissioner Hansen referred to Anoka County's consideration of relocating the jail from the City. Chair Ward said there were discussions about building a modern facility and if so, there would not be enough room to retain the jail in the City. Discussion was held about the possibility of the Historical Society relocating to Cottage 8 but how that would not be practical due to the stairs.

Chair Ward shared about the passing of long-time Anoka resident Tom Hammer.

**C. Tourism Committee**

None.

**VII. Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY COMMISSIONER RAHN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILBERG, MOTION CARRIED 5-0 AT 6:11 P.M.**