



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

**Held at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, 2023
Committee Room, Anoka City Hall**

I. **Call to Order** Vice Chair Barb Thurston called the regular meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. **Roll Call**
Members present: Vice Chair Barb Thurston, Commissioners James Collins, Colleen Hansen, Commissioner Elizabeth McFarland, Cory Rahn, Lisa Silberg-Jurek

Members absent: Chair Bart Ward

Others present: None

Staff present: Clark Palmer, Senior City Planner

III. **Approval of Minutes**
A. **February 14, 2023.**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 14, 2023, MINUTES AS PRESENTED BY COMMISSIONER MCFARLAND, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANSEN. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

IV. **Old Business**
A. **WPA Stone Fireplaces**

Senior City Planner Clark Palmer said that Chair Ward was going to update the Commission on possible work on the stone fireplaces with McGough but was absent then said he spoke with staff regarding the possibility of repairing them in the interim and while we could shore them up there was not much support for fully rehabbing them. He said the Park Board was interested in partnering to repair these and that we could work together to identify some matching funds for a possible grant. He spoke about how these were a regional asset and the importance of prevailing wage contractors for whoever does any work on the fireplaces and maybe there is a role for the State to assist.

Commissioner Collins shared the Living Deal has no grant funding but noted they were actually called stone stoves and the correct term may be helpful in finding other grant funds as they were designed for warmth instead of actually cooking. He spoke about how the past is being lost as other WPA structures were being lost to decay and to have two located in Anoka is important.

Mr. Palmer shared about one grant opportunity which is a detailed process and difficult to do with current staffing, adding he would not want to take a lot of time working on this when professional writers would be more successful.

Commissioner Thurston asked if we had a company to do the grant, we could use them towards one of our goals.

Commissioner McFarland said she liked the idea of shoring up but that we needed to do this work yet this year before winter.

Discussion was held on the importance of repairing this now, adding parts of stone are starting to flake away.

Commissioner Rahn said we have to decide what kind of City we want to be, such as Stillwater, and highlight what is important historically.

Mr. Palmer said we have to balance our work with the Park Board to ensure they believe this is an improvement too.

Discussion was held on possibly cleaning the stone and do some minor repair work to get them to last and the need to create talking points regarding the importance of the WPA program as outlined on the Living New Deal website.

Commissioner McFarland said this would place some additional value on our work and would research how to get Anoka added to the website.

Vice Chair Thurston asked if we could set a date to install the WPA sign and then have a Commission photo taken surrounding the sign.

Commissioner Collins said he would also look to see if Green Haven Golf Course can be added as part of the WPA program. After review of the website the Commission confirmed Green Haven Golf Course was already included.

Mr. Palmer cautioned that sometimes the WPA projects can turn into political topics.

V. **New Business**

A. **Joint Meeting with Anoka County Historical Society**

Mr. Palmer said the Anoka County Historical Society was looking to meet in historic places throughout the County and asked if the HPC was interested in meeting with them in Anoka.

Vice Chair Thurston asked if they wanted to learn about what our Commission does. Commissioner Collins suggested sharing historic photos of the stone stoves with the Society.

Commissioner McFarland suggested sharing our goals if a joint meeting was held. Discussion was held on moving the HPC's regular meeting date in July to coincide with the Society then meet briefly and learn about each other's work then adjourn to conclude separately.

MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO ARRANGE FOR JOINT MEETING WITH ANOKA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION ON JULY 13, 2023, BY COMMISSIONER MCFARLAND, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COLLINS, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

B. MnDOT Historic Bridges Study

Mr. Palmer shared that MnDOT was conducting research on historic bridges constructed between 1971 to 1995 and that while he has not reviewed Anoka's yet if the Commission knew of any to let him know. He said MnDOT is looking to share any important features, why the bridge was constructed, etc.

Vice Chair Thurston noted the bridge currently being replaced was constructed in 1964. Further discussion was held on bridge possibilities to include in the study.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Heritage Preservation Award Committee (Silberg-Jurek, Thurston)

Mr. Palmer spoke about including the East Main Street project then shared an update on the CARE program and that staff did not believe any projects would require review by the HPC.

Vice Chair Thurston shared about a home on 3rd Ave that could be included as it was part of last year's CARE program project.

B. Fundraising Committee (Rahn, Collins)

Commissioner McFarland noted RiverFest vendors was sold out and suggested the Commission sell pavers there and at the music in the park events. Mr. Palmer said Commissioners could also sell pavers at other events or on their own.

Discussion was held about other locations to sell, including suggesting donations by individuals through trusts. Commissioner McFarland shared trusts can be very difficult to manage as there was a need for a separate board to manage funds as they used them for Anoka Halloween and could be a complicated process.

Mr. Palmer the City can receive donations and that individuals could donate and just direct the funds to the HPC.

C. Event Committee (Ward, McFarland, Hansen)

No further update.

VII. Miscellaneous

Vice Chair Thurston suggested adding past projects such as plaques at the schools to be done on an annual basis then spoke about the need for their input in cost sharing.

VIII. **Adjournment**

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY COMMISSIONER MCFARLAND, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER RAHN, MOTION CARRIED 6-0 AT 5:55 P.M.