



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

**Held at 5:00 p.m., August 16, 2016  
Committee Room, Anoka City Hall**

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

II. **Roll Call**

Members present: Peg Flaig, Tim Nigh, Cory Rahn, Barb Thurston,  
Members absent: Chairperson Bart Ward, Colleen Hansen, Jake Collin,  
Staff present: Clark Palmer, Associate Planner

III. **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER THURSTON, SECONDED BY  
COMMISSIONER FLAIG TO APPROVE THE JUNE 14, 2016, REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

IV. **Public Forum**

No public comment(s)

V. **Old Business**

A. **National Register Plaques Project (complete)**

Associate Planner Palmer provided a final update on the completed project.

Mr. Palmer reviewed what was done by staff to organize a dedication ceremony held at the Woodbury House on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the creation of an event flyer, press release, and walking tour packet. Mr. Palmer asked if anyone had any comments on the project.

Commissioner Thurston asked about the cost of hiring a contractor to place 2 wall mounted plaques on private property. Mr. Palmer advised the cost was over \$100 but less than \$200.

Commissioner Thurston asked who incurs the cost, the HPC or the City. Mr. Palmer advised that the HPC approved a motion at the last regular meeting in June to pay for the cost of the wall mounted plaques, but that commissioners did, at that time, entertain the idea of limiting that approval to a cost not to exceed \$200.

Commissioner Thurston asked how much money was in the HPC account. Mr. Palmer said he would check on that and update the Commission at the next regular meeting.

The Commission discussed the idea of adding project information and related documents on the city's website. Mr. Palmer said he would start working on that.

**B. Expansion of Historic Districts**

Associate Planner Palmer led a discussion regarding the possible expansion of historic districts in the City of Anoka. The Commission reviewed a map created by Mr. Palmer and discussed specific properties that surround the current districts. The focus of the discussion was on properties surrounding the Christian Hill Historic District.

Commissioner Thurston said she had talked to the owner of the Anoka Post Office building, Jim Abler, and that he was interested in becoming part of the Christian Hill Historic District.

The Commission discussed how they might gather interest in property owners becoming part of the historic district. Hosting a future neighborhood party with general information and talking points prepared was discussed.

How to address people's concerns over any additional regulations that might be imposed was discussed.

Trying to avoid including noncontributing structures and properties owned by individuals who do not want to be part of the historic district was discussed.

Commissioner Thurston asked if the HPC needed to obtain signatures of interested parties who want to be in the historic district. Mr. Palmer reviewed and read the criteria for the local designation of a historic district as it is written in City Code. Mr. Palmer advised that a report by staff should be written and provided to the HPC before the petitioning of residents. The focus of the report is to identify areas of interest, detailed information on properties, and a narrative on how these properties further contribute to the historic district.

Commissioner Thurston noted that background research had already been completed for the Anoka Post Office, Masonic Lodge, and Colonial Hall. She suggested starting with these properties and a few additional properties along Monroe St. Vice Chair Nigh thought the area Commissioner Thurston had suggested starting with was too small. Commissioner Flaig agreed.

The Commission asked Mr. Palmer to start researching properties at the north end of the Christian Hill neighborhood and provide an update at the next meeting.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Anoka Historic Pump House #1**

Associate Planner Palmer led a discussion on the item. Mr. Palmer summarized MnDOT's plan to research and analyze a possible grade separation for the at-grade railroad crossing along N Ferry St near the historic pump house. Mr. Palmer reported that there were no plans at this time to bring the wells at the site back online, and the project will likely affect the historic site.

Mr. Palmer said the City Manager had asked the HPC to provide comments on the proposal and think about what the pump house could be repurposed for. The Commission discussed different options for repurposing the building. Commissioner Flaig suggested maybe a wedding hall as a proposed use.

Mr. Palmer asked if the HPC was interested in touring the building. Commissioners said they were interested and requested that Mr. Palmer set up the tour at a time that works best for everyone. Mr. Palmer said he would work with the Public Services Superintendent to get the tour scheduled.

VII. **Committee Reports**

A. **Sandwich Board Committee**

The Commission reviewed and discussed the current list of persons who have expressed interest in receiving either a replacement or new sandwich board sign.

It was discussed that an order for multiple signs needs to be placed with the sign company in order to keep costs low.

B. **Home and Garden Tour Committee**

Commissioner Thurston and Commission Flaig led a discussion on the results of this year's Home and Garden Tour. The Commission summarized what was done by members. The proceeds gained from the project was discussed.

C. **Tourism Committee**

No report.

D. **Historic Vignette Committee**

No report.

VIII. **Miscellaneous**

Associate Planner Palmer said that Lisa LaCasse has asked to set up a joint meeting between the Park Board, HPC, and EDC to review and discuss the concept plan for the West Rum River Trail. He said the tentative date for the joint meeting is October 18 at 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Thurston proposed creating an Anoka City Register of historically significant properties in the City. Vice Chair Nigh agreed that this is a good idea.

Commissioner Rahn said the City's website should include documents and information on the National Registry properties in the City. He pointed out the "Anoka History" tab on the website under "About Anoka" as a good place to create the information page. Other commissioners agreed. Mr. Palmer said that was a good idea and would start working on that.

IX. **Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY RAHN AND SECONDED BY FLAIG. MEETING  
ADJOURNED AT 6:54 PM. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**