

Heritage Preservation Commission

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

4:00 p.m.

St. Cloud City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sheila DeVine, Peter Fandel, Ann Marie Johnson, Mark Muniz (ex officio), Betsy Rakotz and Sam Ross

Members Absent: Eric Cheever

Staff Present: Jim Flaaen and Ashley Skaggs

NOVEMBER 27, 2018 MINUTES

ACTION TAKEN: Approved

SOUTHEAST ST. CLOUD LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

ACTION TAKEN: DeVine/Rakotz/Approved (4-0-1, Johnson abstained)

Flaaen explained the process that has taken place thus far in initiating discussions for the creation of a new local historic district on the southeast side of St. Cloud. The proposed district includes Riverside Park and Munsinger Gardens, Kilian Boulevard, Selke Field and George W. Friedrich Park. Private properties will not be impacted by the potential designation.

Fandel opened the public hearing and invited testimony. The following persons testified:

Jay Vora, 1114 Riverside Dr SE – Government leadership and policies change but once something is designated as historic, they do not change as quickly. There is no question that these sites are historic, and they need to be protected.

Juliana Elchert, 513 7th Ave S – She helped write the original preservation ordinance for the city. She thanked the HPC for taking the opportunity to study the southeast side of St. Cloud to determine which properties were appropriate for this designation. While she understands the properties are publicly owned, an overlay district gives direction for those in control to review historic documents. She noted that Munsinger Gardens used to be a sawmill, which was not included in the study.

Heidi Harlander, 1200 Riverside Dr SE – She has lived in the southeast neighborhood for 27 years. The vision of these New Era Deal properties speaks to the common good and focus on the health of our citizens. She spoke about the importance of honoring our history and leveraging it to keep connecting our citizens to interesting, healthy, historical environments.

Lowell Olson, 23 Pandolfo Pl – He is the chair of the Natural Parks and Trails Coalition. One of the main goals of the organization is the preservation of public land. Recently some public land has been lost to private concerns, and we do not want that to happen again. All the properties are currently publicly owned. The conversion to a historic district would be a very good way to make sure this loss of public property does not continue. He urged the HPC to continue the quest to preserve the properties.

Jill Blair, 1116 Kilian Blvd SE – She thanked the HPC for pursuing the designation and hopefully adopting some protections for the properties. These features are one of the reasons her family moved to the area. There is a charm and character to all these features that are hard to put a price tag on and would be extremely hard to recreate if they were let go.

Kurt Franke, 1700 Polaris Ct – He is in favor of creating the historic district. He is concerned about the Kilian Blvd designation getting lost in the district. He does not want to see the boulevard lose its purpose. It has been a challenge getting on-road bike facilities in the southeast side, and the population would really benefit from it on Kilian Blvd and/or Riverside Dr.

Carol Agnes, 1538 8th Ave SE – She moved to the southeast side for its character, large trees and parks. There are not currently any designated bike lanes, and she would like to see those considered. There is a designated Minnesota River Trail, but it is just signs along the way.

Joe Shovan, 2000 15th Ave SE – He spoke in favor of maintaining the history of these properties.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed. Fandel asked for members of the public to raise their hand if they were in favor of establishing the district. Approximately 35 people were present for the meeting and all raised their hands in favor of the request.

Johnson noted that Clemens Gardens was not included in the district because it is too young for the designation. The mill was in an earlier study but should be included in the paperwork requesting the designation. The character defining feature of Kilian Blvd is its linear design, so that would be something that would go through the alteration permit process to make sure that the common use is still made available.

DeVine asked about the staff comment to update the Community Education Plan. Flaaen explained that coming out of an attempt to create a historic district in the St. John's Cantius neighborhood, a need was felt to create a document explaining who the HPC is and what their goals are. The marketing plan was created for that purpose but has not been updated in several years. DeVine commented she would like to see the marketing plan updated in the future.

Flaaen noted that the recommendation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review, comment and recommendation to City Council. A public hearing will be held at the City Council level for final approval or denial. DeVine made a motion to recommend approval of the creation of the historic district. The motion was seconded by Rakotz and carried (4-0-1, Johnson abstained).

ADMINISTRATIVE HAP APPROVALS / PRESERVATION UPDATE

ACTION TAKEN: None

Flaaen reviewed a list of recent administrative approvals.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.