

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. CLOUD HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

A meeting of the St. Cloud Heritage Preservation Commission was held on February 28, 2012, at 3:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Members present were Bartlow, Berg, Chirhart, Fischer, Morgan, and Lenaghan. Ludwig was absent.

**Open Forum:** No one was present to speak at the open forum.

**Consent Agenda:** Fischer moved to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Approval of minutes from the October 25, 2011 meeting.

The motion was seconded by Morgan and carried unanimously.

**HPC Board Membership/Election of Officers:** Carla Chapman, Senior Planner, asked for discussion about current and future membership. The HPC currently has one opening in its membership. Relative to the ordinance requirement for an HRA ex-officio member, staff is suggesting that requirement be deleted from the ordinance. Chirhart noted that Steve Ludwig is retiring; therefore, his position as SCSU representative will need to be filled. Morgan said he does not wish to be reappointed when his term expires in April of this year, but there is a new employee at the Stearns History Museum that he would recommend to fill his position as the Historical Society HPC member if she is agreeable. Berg pointed out that Pegg Gustafson from the Downtown Council has expressed an interest in serving again on the Commission. Berg also suggested that someone contact Beth Cragle to see if she has an interest in serving again on the Commission. Lenaghan expressed interest in being reappointed when his term expires in April of this year.

Election of Officers: Bartlow said she cannot serve as Chair again because she has served in that capacity for two years. Morgan nominated Lenaghan for Chair, Fischer for Secretary, and Berg as Vice-Chair. The nominated slate of officers was approved unanimously.

**Discussion of 2012 HPC Work Program:** Chapman said she would like a discussion about the 2012 work program. Chapman explained that St. Cloud is a CLG and, therefore, is qualified to apply for SHPO grants. The two new projects are the historic photo gallery and interactive display

feature at the River's Edge Convention Center. The historic photo gallery will include a collection of 10 historic photos that will line the second story corridor near the new section of the Convention Center. The interactive display feature will include history videos (neighborhoods, downtown, the river, as well as the history of baseball in St. Cloud). The interactive display will also have an option to visually describe the elements of the wall mural going up the new stairwell. The intent is to have these projects implemented prior to the Mayor's State of the City address in April. Chapman said in April she would like to hold the HPC retreat and revisit the Community Education Marketing Plan. In June/July, the newsletter will be mailed, and the century homes and preservation awards will be reviewed/approved. August is Heritage Preservation Month which will include presentation of century home plaques and heritage preservation awards at a City Council meeting, the history hunt, and the realtor seminar. Morgan asked the source of the historic photos for the photo gallery at the Convention Center. Chapman answered that they will come from the History Museum. Bartlow asked where the interactive display will be located. Chapman responded that there will be two, one on each level of the Convention Center. Bartlow said she assumes that the new appointments to the HPC will be in place prior to the retreat. It was the consensus of the HPC that the retreat should be held on a weekday, preferably a Friday. Lenaghan stated that Bill Meissner from SCSU would be an excellent resource for the history of baseball. Chirhart inquired if there were projects that staff considered but decided not to do. Chapman responded that there are elements of the Community Education Marketing Plan that have not been implemented due to limited staff time. However, staff stated that some of the suggestions of the Marketing Plan that should be considered for implementation are HPC website expansion, strengthening the partnership with SCSU and its Community Development program, working with core neighborhoods, and exploring how to share the HPC's success stories. Berg questioned how results of the community survey that has been distributed will be handled. Chapman noted that there were no concrete questions about heritage preservation, but there may be some indirect responses/comments that relate to heritage preservation.

**Discussion on St. Cloud's Historic Downtown "History Hunt":** Chapman stated that she is drafting a CLG grant for the third annual history hunt. She asked if the HPC is committed to continuing this event. The history hunt is an interactive walking tour, and there have been 400-500 participants in the last two years. Chapman stated that the total event cost for 2012 is estimated at \$2,500 and asked the Commission if they wish to request that the Planning Commission authorize allocation of \$1,000 of Development Fund dollars for the history hunt. Morgan said he believes it is an important outreach project. Bartlow concurred and added that this may be an event that could involve SCSU students, e.g. writing scripts and storytelling by Community Development students. Chapman also pointed out that the Arts Commission is now part of the Community Development Department, and the Arts Coordinator would be involved with the event planning. Bartlow expressed support for ending the history hunt at the Paramount and showing the first film that played there. However, she was concerned that having a food stand with 1910 food prices could be in direct conflict with downtown restaurants. Chapman pointed out that the food selection would be limited to Coke, hot dogs and popcorn. She stated that last year some people commented that they weren't sure where the tour ended; therefore, staff had considered the Paramount as the final stop featuring the first movie that was shown at the Paramount as well as the 1910 Food Stand. Chirhart supports the idea of using the Paramount as the end point and showing a film there. Fischer moved that staff pursue funding from the Development Fund for the history hunt, and Morgan seconded the motion. Chirhart said he will abstain because he is a Planning Commission member. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0-1 (Chirhart abstaining).

**Administrative HAP Approvals:** Chapman stated that three heritage alteration permit applications have been submitted since the last meeting. One was for a 50' freestanding radio tower in a rear yard in the Pantown Neighborhood. The application was approved by staff and the HPC Chair with two conditions: 1) That the lower 16' be covered with a lattice fence in a neutral color; and, 2) The upper portion of the tower be painted gray to blend with the sky. Chapman stated that the second application in the Pantown Neighborhood was to remove a chimney on the side elevation of

the home. That request was approved by staff and the HPC Chair, and they asked the applicant to consider infill materials to be consistent and complementary to the existing home and encouraged applicant to contact staff prior to selecting the infill materials. The third application was for a reroof of the Islamic Center with materials that will be in-kind and consistent with the existing roof.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Morgan moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

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Bill Morgan, Secretary