

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. CLOUD HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

A meeting of the St. Cloud Heritage Preservation Commission was held on October 23, 2012, at 3:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room 1. Members present were Berg, Fischer, Bartlow and Chairman Lenaghan. Chirhart & Pack were absent.

**Discussion of Placemaking in Historic Districts:** Carla Chapman introduced Planning Director Matt Glaesman and Arts Coordinator Jennifer Penzkover. Matt Glaesman explained the idea of placemaking to create an identity for the City of St. Cloud. Placemaking projects have been prominent in the city's planning documents for many years. However, these projects have not been consolidated into a single initiative building greater momentum and support for their implementation. The focus of the community priorities process and recent coordination of city staff and commissions offer a unique opportunity to now advance community placemaking. In response to a Placemaking Plan RFQ, 13 national consultants were narrowed down to four potential consultants. The Arts Commission and the Planning Commission came to a decision on a consultant today. The consultant will be working with the City in the next six months to look at our opportunities and develop a plan. The HPC may take a formal role in placemaking through the Heritage Preservation Property alteration permit process. The HPC may lend its expertise, support and advocacy of placemaking initiatives. Glaesman and Penzkover cited several examples of placemaking ideas including light installations, temporary art pieces, and permanent structures. Glaesman asked that the Commission discuss placemaking in historic districts and the link between preservation and placemaking, along with some more immediate projects such as the NEWPNA Neighborhood Gateway Project and the Historic Architecture of Downtown Public Art Project.

Bartlow commented that the 'Granite Trio' on St. Germain Street has survived nearly 40 years. She suggested that whatever is done, we think about the future and the impression we want to leave.

Lenaghan stated that his family had recently visited Duluth, MN. He thought about the features that brought his family to Duluth including Lake Superior, the Aerial Lift Bridge and various

lighthouses. St. Cloud has the granite quarries but they are not in the downtown area so can be difficult to tie them in. He questioned whether the idea was to bring people to the St. Cloud area or to the downtown area. Lenaghan showed interest in the project and stated he believes it would be a great addition to the area. He suggested it may be possible to include surrounding cities, such as Sauk Rapids, Sartell and Waite Park. Berg commented that visual art projects is what keep visitors coming back and it gives the community something to be proud of. Lenaghan commented on the ease of access to the St. Cloud area with Interstate 94.

Glaesman discussed the need for animation and life in the downtown area. Several consultants commented that the city was lacking in these areas. Bartlow agreed and said the 'Granite Trio' is a very cold and static display. Penzkover suggested the projects are about finding places where people can interact. Bartlow said a big challenge is figuring out how to get people off the highway and into the city.

The discussion moved to the Historic Architecture of Downtown Public Art Project with Dan Mondloch and Pegg Gustafson. Mondloch explained that he will be creating eight paintings of historic downtown buildings as documentation and preservation of the building's history. Part of the project would be installing plaques on each of the buildings that would feature the painting and the building's historical information. Gustafson said that a grant was received from the Central MN Arts Board and suggested that future capitalization is a possibility.

Chapman listed the eight buildings that Mondloch is proposing to include in the project: 1) Stearns County Courthouse, 2) Paramount Theatre & Visual Arts Center, 3) Davidson Opera House, 4) St. Mary's Cathedral/School, 5) Pioneer Place on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6) Masonic Temple, 7) First National Bank (St. Germain Street) and 8) Daniel Building and Annex. Gustafson said the buildings were chosen because they are iconic. Mondloch noted his personal connection to the Daniel Building. Bartlow discussed how the locations fit on the map. Lenaghan stated he supports the list of proposed buildings and respects an artist's process and opinion. Mondloch discussed including historical and cultural representations into the paintings.

Chapman made stated that the HPC may be asked for approval to affix the plaques to the buildings that are in the historic districts. Lenaghan confirmed that the HPC understands the plaques are being attached to the buildings. Mondloch stated the grant that is in place will allow him to create the paintings, conduct research and development for the plaques and contact the property owners for permission. The paintings will be exhibited at five art shows to receive feedback from audiences and will be ranked. The top four paintings will be presented to the HPC for approval to create four larger paintings to be publicly installed in the city.

The committee members confirmed their agreement with the eight buildings proposed by Mondloch. Lenaghan expressed gratitude for allowing the HPC to have involvement. Fischer suggested the use of granite in the plaques.

**HPC Annual Report:** Carla Chapman, Senior Planner, presented the St. Cloud Heritage Preservation Commission Annual Report (October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012). Staff is requesting approval of the Annual Report. Fischer moved to approve the Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Berg and carried unanimously.

**Administrative Approvals:** Carla Chapman, Senior Planner, stated there has been one administrative HAP approval since the last HPC meeting.

**Adjournment:** Fischer moved to adjourn and was seconded by Berg. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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Tom Fischer, Secretary