

HPC
Monday, April 25, 2011

Commission Members:

Linda Mann-Chair	Melody Gibson
Mary Flicek	Al Wharton
Ron Prescher	Bruce Wildes
(1) Vacancy	

City Representatives:

Molly Patterson-Lundgren, City Planner

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission was held on Monday, April 25, 2011 at City Hall and was called to order at 9:05 am by Linda Mann.

Roll found all members present.

Changes/Additions – Molly requested to add an introduction of Craig Hough who is possibly interested in joining the HPC.

Members Wharton and Gibson moved to approve the March 28, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. Adopted unanimously.

No announcements

Design Review – None

New business

Potential Changes to the sign ordinance were discussed:

Commissioner Mann asked how we would address the issue of the tabled decision on the T-Bone sign application. Molly mentioned the e-mail to Mr. Vavra extending our 60 day time limit to review his proposed signs so that the City may consider if changes should be made to the sign ordinance, which the HPC had received a copy. Commissioner Flicek indicated that three additional signs had since been installed. Molly suggested that the group move forward in discussion on whether or not to consider modifying the sign ordinance.

Discussion occurred on how to deal with both pre-existing and now new signs installed by T-Bones. Molly suggested the commission should decide if they want to discuss the T-Bone signs or the item as listed on the agenda to consider modifying the sign ordinance.

Commissioner Flicek asked about the time line and process to modify the ordinance. Molly indicated that a change to the ordinance would require a City Council decision. Commissioner Wharton suggested that the commission could approve the signs and then go back to follow the necessary process to modify the ordinance.

Molly indicated there were options regarding moving forward including that the applicant can allow the City out of the 60 day rule to have more time if needed. Commissioner Flicek asked about the notation on the photos of signs that had been provided as part of the packet. Commissioner Gibson indicated that the bigger issue is how do we make sure that business people have to follow the ordinance and not assume that we will just approve something.

Commissioner Flicek asked about who staff had conversations with regarding the requirements for sign permits. Molly indicated she had talked to both Tom (the owner) and Ralph (the manager) and provided application, guidelines, and information from the sign ordinance to them.

Commissioner Gibson asked if we are going to continue to allow people to ignore what the ordinances are and us figure out how we are going to make changes to let them have signs that are clearly outside of the ordinances.

Commissioner Wildes indicated that the council may think that the ordinance is being changed for one particular owner/issue. Molly indicated that it seems there are examples of signs that don't have the boarder or frame that the commission might want to approve and that is why we should have the discussion about if the requirement in the ordinance is what we want it to be. The fact that people are ignoring the ordinance is a separate issue. Commissioner Gibson indicated there are consequences for those that don't follow the ordinance. The signs are nice, but they have not followed the process. Molly reviewed the ordinance in terms of repercussions for not following the ordinance, citing section 310.04. Commissioner Wharton asked if the commission had ever fined anyone. Mary, Molly, and Linda indicated that some projects had been shut down for not following the requirements. Commissioner Wharton indicated that in a previous community he worked with, fining people got the word around to stop and then people started following them. Molly presented the idea of a continuum of options from least to most severe. Drawing on the chalkboard with jail and fines being most sever and ignoring someone's action that had not been approved as being the least.

Commissioner Wharton moved to approve the signs for T-Bones at 260 Main as indicated on the application dated March 22nd 2011 with the condition that a boarder of 1½ inches be added to the wall sign and provided the following findings of fact:

1. Up to 152 square feet of signage is allowed for this building and two signs of which are 30.7 square feet combined are proposed; and
2. The proposed locations of both signs meet location requirements of the ordinance in that they will not cause damage to historic materials and features, they do not compete with any historic architectural characteristics of the building or site, and they do not cause obstructions; and
3. The HPC finds that the materials proposed for the pylon sign duplicates the appearance of materials historically used in sign manufacturing, in particular the proposed sign is similar in appearance to painted or enameled metal signs; and
4. The proposed metal backlit cutout wall sign utilizes a lighting method that is specifically allowed for this district; and
5. The proposed metal backlit cutout wall sign will meet all design requirements of letter height ratio and frame if modified with an added frame of at least ½ inch wide

Commissioner Flicek made a motion to table the discussion on potential changes to the sign ordinance which was seconded by Commissioner Wharton and adopted unanimously.

Old Business

MN Home front Traveling Exhibit - Molly provided updates on advertising and partner projects. The MHS has created a poster to promote both Wabasha and Winona exhibits. Commissioner Flicek offered to distribute the posters downtown. The library has reserved kits through SELCO for using during the time the exhibit is in town. Comment cards were discussed and it was suggested to provide as many check boxes and limit the amount people are expected to write. A guest book was suggested to track attendance numbers and where people were from. Linda indicated that she spoke with Bill Jewson on the building where Shepherds Nook was recently located and he is willing to allow use of that or another space but is unable to commit to the use in case a potential renter comes up. The old public health building was mentioned as a potential location. Molly said she will contact SEMMCHRA.

Molly passed around a copy of the flyers sent to all building and business owners in the historic district.

Anderson House update - Molly indicated that the group from Northfield is continuing to work with the bank on acquiring the Anderson House

Announcements

Molly updated the commission on the 1851 on the River program that the Library and County Historical Society is holding. She is helping to arrange the living history component of the day

Other Business

Molly indicated that funds from the State Health Initiative Program (S.H.I.P.) would be used to purchase bike racks including some for Heritage Park and Durry (Popcorn) Park. The commission agreed that Commissioner Flicek will work with the Molly in approval of these racks to be located in the historic district.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2011 at 9am.

Commissioners Wharton and Flicek moved to adjourn at 10:55 am. Adopted unanimously.

Molly Patterson-Lundgren, City Planner

Patty Heraty, Administrative Assistant (transcribed
from Molly Patterson-Lundgren's notes)